

Environmental Policy and Advocacy Highlights
Oct 2018

	Issue and source	Who you can contact
1	ELECTION DAY, TUESDAY NOVEMBER 6 2018	VOTE!
2	The NJ Senate has advanced a bill (S678) that would ban fracking in New Jersey. The bill is now with the Assembly. If passed, New Jersey would become the second state to impose a ban, and the first in the Delaware River Basin. Similar bills were voted by former Gov. Christie. (source: Press of Atlantic City)	LD-6 Assemblypersons Louis Greenwald and Pamela Lampitt (856-435-1247) LD-7 Assemblypersons Herb Conaway (856-461-3997) and Carol Murphy (856-735-5334) LD-8 Assemblymen Joe Howarth and Ryan Peters (609-654-1498)
3	The NJ Senate has advanced a bill (S2776/A4330) that is the most comprehensive plan in the country to ban single-use plastic bags, straws and polystyrene. (source: NJ LCV, Gloucester City News, northjersey.com)	Senator James Beach, LD-6 (856-429-1572, http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/BIO.asp?Leg=310) Senator Troy Singleton, LD-7 (856-234-2790, www.senatorsingleton.com/contact) Senator Dawn Marie Addiego, LD-8 (609-654-1498, http://addiego.senatenj.com/contact.php)
4	A bill sponsored by Senator Troy Singleton (S1486/A909) that would ban styrofoam food containers at public schools and institutions UPDATE: Bill has passed the Senate, is now in the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee (source: Senator Singleton's website; www.njleg.state.nj.us)	LD-6 Assemblypersons Louis Greenwald and Pamela Lampitt (856-435-1247) LD-7 Assemblypersons Herb Conaway (856-461-3997) and Carol Murphy (856-735-5334) LD-8 Assemblymen Joe Howarth and Ryan Peters (609-654-1498)
5	The NJ Sierra Club and the Pinelands Preservation Alliance are urging Gov. Murphy to make changes to the Pinelands Commission, including nominations to replace existing Commissioners and removing Sean Earlen as the Chairperson. (source: Burlington County Times)	Governor Phil Murphy (609-292-6000, www.state.nj.us/governor/contact/)
6	The US EPA has issued a proposed rule that would weaken regulation of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), a greenhouse gas and ozone depleting chemical. The proposed rule removes previous language that described disproportionate impacts on children, the elderly, and poor. (source: The Hill)	http://www.regulations.gov EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0629 ***Comments Due by November 15, 2018***
7	The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued its latest report, generated by 91 authors and review editors from 40 countries and including over 6,000 references, indicating that already we have increased global temperatures by approximately 1 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the effects of which are already being seen. The report further indicates we are on track to see mean temperatures exceed 1.5 degrees, with extreme effects anticipated by as early as	http://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/

	2040. (source: New York Times; IPCC website)	
8	The Living Planet Report by the World indicates that human activity has reduced species counts by an average of 60% over the past 4 decades. The rates of species extinction have accelerated by 100-1000 times as compared to before human pressures became a factor. (source: Time)	https://www.worldwildlife.org/press-releases/wwf-report-reveals-staggering-extent-of-human-impact-on-planet
9	A study by Princeton University published in Nature indicates that the earth's oceans are retaining 60% more heat per year than previously thought, thus potentially accelerating the pace of climate change. The oceans absorb more than 90 percent of the excess energy trapped within the world's atmosphere. (source: Washington Post)	https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-018-0651-8
10	NJ BPU News: A \$300k contract was awarded to Rudgers for an analysis of the state's energy storage needs; PSE&G has submitted the Clean Energy Future plan, a \$4B proposal aimed to help drive energy efficiency, EV infrastructure, energy storage, and "smart metering"; a number of public hearings are planned for the evolution of NJ's solar market. (source: NJ Spotlight; BPU website)	NJ Board of Public Utilities (http://www.bpu.state.nj.us/bpu/about/contact/)
11	A NJ Senate bill (S1073) that would provide for stormwater utilities and give municipalities the ability to impose fees on impervious surfaces (eg, parking lots), in order to fix \$15B in aging stormwater infrastructure. (source: NJ Spotlight)	LD-6 Assemblypersons Louis Greenwald and Pamela Lampitt (856-435-1247) LD-7 Assemblypersons Herb Conaway (856-461-3997) and Carol Murphy (856-735-5334) LD-8 Assemblymen Joe Howarth and Ryan Peters (609-654-1498)
12	The EPA plans to issue a proposed rule relaxing standards on methane emissions from oil and gas companies. Methane is ~25-30 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas. The rollback could allow 380,000 tons of additional methane released by 2025 (source: New York Times, Washington Post)	EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler (202-564-4700, Wheeler.andrew@Epa.gov)
13	The New Jersey Conservation Foundation purchased 442 acres of forest and wetlands in the pinelands (a former cranberry farm in Southampton) for preservation as open space. (Source: Burlington County Times)	http://www.njconservation.org/
14	The US EPA has taken steps to reduce scientific advisors, including disbanding to air pollution advisory boards and consolidating them under one Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, and putting Dr. Ruth Etzel, the 35-year director of the Office of Children's Health Protection on administrative leave (source: CBS news, Washington Post)	EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler (202-564-4700, Wheeler.andrew@Epa.gov) Senator Cory Booker (202-224-3224, https://www.booker.senate.gov/?p=contact) Senator Robert Menendez (202-224-4744, https://www.menendez.senate.gov/contact)
15	A US Senate committee approved S.569, a bill that would provide permanent mandatory funding of \$900M for the Land Water	Senator Cory Booker (202-224-3224, https://www.booker.senate.gov/?p=contact)

	Conservation Fund. (source: www.creationcare.org)	Senator Robert Menendez (202-224-4744, https://www.menendez.senate.gov/contact)
16	The Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management approved a plan by Hilcorp Energy Corp. to drill in protected protected federal waters in the Arctic Ocean off of the coast of Alaska, the first time oil would be produced from federal waters in the Arctic. (source: The Hill)	
17	New York has sued Exxon Mobil, claiming that the company defrauded shareholders by downplaying the expected risks of climate change to its business. (source: New York Times)	
18	The Supreme Court refused to block a lawsuit against the Federal Government by 21 young people, arguing that failure of the government to combat climate change violates their constitutional right to a clean environment. The case was referred back to the 9 th Circuit Court of Appeals. (source: Washington Post)	