



# Environmental Protection



## A Commitment to Department of Environmental Protection Priorities *Protecting the Environment and Keeping New Jersey's Parks Open*

### A Commitment to the Mission of the Department of Environmental Protection

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is committed to protecting our water, air, ocean, natural resources, and beaches, as well as rapidly cleaning up contaminated sites and ensuring we have plenty of open space for future generations.

DEP is aggressively remediating the more than 20,000 contaminated sites in New Jersey; ensuring the protection of air, water, beach and ocean quality; changing the culture at DEP and improving the regulatory process; keeping all State parks and historic sites maintained and open, and ensuring that permits get reviewed, inspections performed and enforcement actions are taken to protect the environment and keep the economy going.

### Protecting Priorities in the Face of an Economic and Fiscal Crisis

The Department's priorities reflected in the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget:

- Ongoing support for implementation of the Licensed Site Remediation Professionals program;
- Maintaining all environmental permitting programs (which will be streamlined);
- Keeping all State parks and historic sites open to the public;
- Preserving funding to support information technology enhancements to attain program efficiencies across the agency;
- Preserves funding for beach restoration.

### Making Tough Decisions

The Department's leadership understands the need to share in the burden of overall budget-cutting, and has identified areas where reductions can occur.

- The Fiscal Year 2011 Budget plan calls for the consolidation of management of State parks, modifying some operating hours and prioritizing amenities based on demand;
- Realign staff to address needed capital repairs affecting the facilities that we offer the public. Maintenance staff during the off-season will be dedicated to carrying out deferred maintenance projects;
- Phase out payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) aid to municipalities for preservation of open space by the State or by nonprofit organizations;
- Redirect proceeds from the auction of greenhouse gas emission allowances to the General Fund for Budget relief.

## Making the Department of Environmental Protection Work Better for New Jersey

The Department needs to make permitting and inspection of individuals and businesses both timely and predictable. Regulations need to be based on science, data, facts and cost-benefit analysis, while individuals and businesses coming to the DEP for permits must be treated like customers.