

Comments on NJDEP September 3, 2020 presentation on “Reducing CO2 Emissions from Stationary Sources:

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the stakeholder group for addressing CO2 emissions from stationary sources. Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, shares the Department’s goal of reducing CO2 emissions as an important piece of addressing climate change. To this end, Rutgers has established the Rutgers Climate Institute, as a University-wide effort to address one of the most important issues of our time through research, education, and outreach and recently created a University Task Force on Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience. The charge of the Task Force is to develop a comprehensive Climate Action Plan for the university, identifying both pathways to achieving carbon neutrality and ways to reduce the university’s vulnerability to climate impacts.

While Rutgers agrees that reducing our reliance on fossil fuels is crucial to reducing CO2 emissions, we would hope that the Department considers the complexity and costs involved in transitioning our current infrastructure to an all-electric campus as you craft new regulations. Rutgers has fuel burning equipment in hundreds of buildings throughout the state and operates multiple central heating, cooling, and cogeneration plants. Many of these buildings were constructed decades ago, some dating back centuries, and may require extensive upgrades to their electric systems, which in turn would lead to required upgrades of our high voltage power distribution systems. A conservative cost estimate of these efforts could well exceed \$500 million for our institution.

Rutgers believes that by working collaboratively together, we can reach the common goal of reducing CO2 in New Jersey and meeting the targets spelled out in the New Jersey Energy Master Plan.

Sincerely,

Richard Bankowski
Manager Health and Safety
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey