

NJ PACT: Protecting Against Climate Threats

The Murphy Administration has embarked on a targeted regulatory reform effort that will modernize environmental laws to Protect Against Climate Threats (PACT). NJ PACT will usher critically needed changes to our air emissions and environmental land use regulations, to enable government, businesses, and residents to effectively respond to current climate threats, and reduce future climate damages.

NJ PACT charts a course of *immediate* and *comprehensive* action, taking steps that both:

- (1) **Cut emissions** of greenhouse gases and short-lived climate pollutants; and,
- (2) **Tailor land use and planning policies to adapt to unavoidable impacts**, such as sea-level rise, extreme weather, and chronic flooding.

These reforms represent a **PACT with the residents** of New Jersey to help them adapt to the reality of climate change in a manner that protects property, infrastructure and quality of life, while supporting new economic development and smart growth. This is also a **PACT across generations** -- with our children and grandchildren -- to reduce further climate change damage so that they too may thrive and enjoy our great state.

While the **federal government fails to act** on climate change and rolls back environmental protections across the board, **New Jersey will take the lead** to make our state healthier and safer. As a national leader in environmental protection, over the next two years, the Department of Environmental Protection will create a regulatory roadmap for other states to reduce emissions, build resilience, and adapt to a changing climate. The Department of Environmental Protection will:

- Complete a **comprehensive accounting of greenhouse gas emissions** that will enable New Jersey to focus on priority pollutants and limit them aggressively to meet our goals of reducing emissions to 80 percent below 2006 levels by 2050.
- Enact **new air pollution regulations that achieve critically needed reductions in carbon dioxide and short-lived climate pollutants** (methane, hydrofluorocarbons, and black carbon) – technology forcing measures that **pave the way for a new clean energy economy**.
- Reform our environmental **land use rules** to help New Jerseyans **better plan and build resilient communities** by avoiding flood-prone areas, reestablishing chronically inundated wetlands, revegetating riparian areas, and encouraging green building and green infrastructure.
- **Lead by example** by ensuring that projects built with public funds integrate climate resilience measures so that taxpayer dollars are put to good use and that infrastructure we build or fund provides lasting value in a changing world.

This PACT will *strengthen* New Jersey's long-term ability to withstand impacts of climate change and will make New Jersey *fairer* by putting vulnerable communities and future generations at the forefront of new policies.

