

From: [Christopher Leone](#)
To: [comments, EMP](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The NJ Master Energy Plan
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I want to voice my concern with the BPU Energy Master Plan because it does not go far enough. It does not curtail the fossil fuel projects pending in the state, including pipelines and two natural gas power plants that continue to make our society sick with cancer and respiratory illnesses. A moratorium on fossil fuel projects and accelerated cuts in greenhouse gas emissions must be part of the plan.

You do not have to look further than our neighbor New York for a good model. New York recently set a goal of 100% **renewable** energy, like wind and solar power, within 30 years, instead of the “clean” energy cited in the EMP.

Clean energy encompasses “carbon-neutral” electricity generation, opening up the possibility that natural gas plants equipped with carbon capturing technology would be allowed under the plan.

Scientists say New Jersey is particularly vulnerable to the effects of global warming. *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis’s encyclical on Caring for Our Common Home teaches that there is an “urgent need to develop policies to limit emissions and substitute for fossil fuels” precisely because of the unequal suffering of the poor and vulnerable under climate change.

In Paragraph 165, Pope Francis is realistic about the current use of fossil fuels. “Until greater progress is made in developing widely accessible sources of renewable energy, it is legitimate to choose the less harmful alternative or to find short term solutions.”

We need a moratorium on fossil fuel projects and accelerated cuts in greenhouse gas emissions to be part of the energy master plan. Additionally, the focus should be on renewable energy, not clean energy.

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