

**From:** [Gary Frederick](#)  
**To:** [comments, EMP](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment to NJ Master Energy Plan 2019  
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As chair of the Raritan Valley Group of the New Jersey Sierra Club, I am writing to express our dissatisfaction with the draft master energy plan that was presented for comment. While broad in its scope, the plan does not set out a moratorium on fossil-fuel projects, and it allows for natural gas projects (a major source of methane gas) to continue. Under this structure, it will be impossible for the state to achieve its renewable goals.

There are numerous oil and gas projects already on the books or planned for our state. Their continuation makes no sense if we are to achieve energy independence and confront what is an existential threat from climate change. Among some of the deficiencies of the EMP are:

- No regulation of carbon dioxide emissions, a proven greenhouse gas
- No moratorium on fossil-fuel projects. In fact, 15 proposed projects are in some stage of development
- No mention of the state's two remaining coal-fired plants
- No mention of the nuclear subsidy, which will crowd out funding for renewables by requiring that 32% of our energy come indefinitely from nuclear
- No emphasis on targeting reductions of pollution in environmental justice communities. Policies must ensure these communities share equally in the benefits of reducing pollution, community solar programs, EV charging networks, as well as the economic benefits from more green jobs
- No emphasis on transitioning buses to electric, nor on NJ Transit's woeful performance. A better NJ Transit would help move people out of their cars and into clean transportation alternatives

New Jersey needs to be bold in its climate actions. We are running out of time. Our geography places us squarely in the sights of climate change, from erosion of our coast, flooding across communities, hotter summers and more precipitation. Let's move forward with an Energy Master Plan that establishes goals of 100% renewable energy by 2035 and zero carbon by 2050 economy-wide. We should also have 12,000 MW of offshore wind in place by 2035, and 3,500 MW by 2025. And we should have at least an additional 15 gigawatts of solar by 2035.

Thank you,

Gary Frederick  
Chair, Raritan Valley Group  
New Jersey Chapter, Sierra Club