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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] EMP draft - Comments from the Glen Rock Environmental Commission  
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Dear Chair Fiordaliso and EMP Committee,

The Glen Rock Environmental Commission would like to congratulate Governor Murphy's efforts to address the climate change crisis by launching impactful initiatives and, importantly, by developing a new Energy Master Plan. We are looking forward to a plan that puts in place policies that can help substantially and quickly reduce GHG emissions and revamp the use of renewable energy with the objective to make New Jersey carbon free by 2050.

Here below please find a few suggestions for revisions/additions for your consideration:

- 1.** To help NJ reach the 100% clean energy targets we would urge you to include in the next revisions short-term targets - every 5 years or so between now and 2050. This can help assure steady progress towards a carbon free economy by hopefully earlier than 2050.
- 2.** We feel strongly that the state must aim for a carbon FREE future, rather than just aiming to achieve carbon neutrality, as proposed in the EMP draft. It is understandable that during the transition to carbon free, on-demand gas power plants will be needed to generate electricity during peak demand. But the goal should be to completely eliminate the use of fossil fuels by phasing out any power plant using gas/oil/coal by 2050 and banning any passage of oil/gas pipelines as a deterrent to further fossil fuel use.
- 3.** In a state that offers a lot of the pertinent resources of sun and extensive coastline, we must maximize the use of renewable energy (wind and solar farms). We do commend the recent push to developing the Community solar program, and the support for the development of off-shore wind farms and hope that we can do a lot more to reach 100% clean energy for electricity generation before 2050.

A few specific recommendations to help us achieve the 2050 goals and that we hope will be considered are listed here:

- **Transportation:** Because 50% of greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation, the EMP must direct substantial resources toward transitioning away from gasoline engines. Accessibility to EV charging is the number 1 hinderance for wider-spread public adoption of electric cars, and the state-wide dearth of fast charging stations is particularly problematic for EV owners who need to travel long distance or who cannot charge at home.
  - Installation of DC fast charging stations along the GSP and NJ Turnpike must be accelerated beyond what is outlined in the EMP,
  - Building codes need to be amended to require pre-installed electrical wiring for electrical outlets in in all new or renovated parking structures.
  - Public and private vendors must be able to charge EV drivers per kilowatt-hour rather than time spent charging.
  - Demand charges should be eliminated, at a minimum for charger stations that are operated by not-for-profit or municipal entities
- **Energy efficiency:** to encourage energy efficiency, the state should consider developing

tax/financial incentives for residential energy efficiency upgrades.

- Solar energy: we should eliminate restrictions on the size of home rooftop solar installations and develop reliable systems that permit electric car batteries to store excess electricity during sunny days.
- Wind energy: we know that the federal BOEM recently announced a “cumulative impacts analysis” for Vineyard Wind that would include projects off the New Jersey coast; we hope that New Jersey can do everything it can to help any federal analysis be completed quickly, and to urge BOEM to do so, so that hopefully these efforts to increase renewable energy generation in New Jersey can move forward in a timely way.

We as Environmental Commission of a small town of 11,000 residents are doing the best we can to reduce our community carbon footprint. Thanks to the policies made available by the state, and the excellent resources guiding many of our efforts – particularly Sustainable Jersey and ANJEC – we recently launched our first renewable energy aggregation program which allows our residents to be on a 100% renewably generated electricity plan at below market prices. We also installed two EV charging stations on municipal property, which are available to residents and visitors. Glen Rock’s municipal buildings are benefitting from the significant state incentives (Direct Install) to increase energy efficiency and save tax-payers money. We are also promoting increased energy efficiency by the residents. We are very grateful for the past regulatory changes that allowed for these green energy plans, but we need to do more, and soon. There should be no comparison to the scope of regulatory changes made in the 1990s; the scope of changes envisioned in the EMP needs to be transformational in order to meet the challenges of climate change. We are very hopeful that the state will continue to set strong policies that will put our state in the path to a carbon free community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sylvia Rabacchi

Glen Rock Environmental Commission

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