

**From:** [Leland Beaumont](#)  
**To:** [comments, EMP](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Clarify Aspirations, Goals, and Commitments in the 2019 Draft NJ Energy Master Plan  
**Date:** Sunday, September 15, 2019 3:34:31 PM

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Energy Planners,

When creating and communicating plans it is useful (and intellectually honest) to distinguish clearly among *aspirations*, *goals*, and *commitments*. These are described as follows:

- Aspirations are what you hope will happen. This is your bold vision for the future.
- Goals are what is most likely to happen, given your best efforts.
- Commitments are what you are willing to agree to contractually. It is fair to impose penalties if the commitments are not met.

Please clarify, throughout the NJ Energy Master plan, which statements represent aspirations, which represent goals, and what statements represent firm commitments.

For example, the present statement: “The EMP defines ‘100% clean energy by 2050’ to mean 100% carbon-neutral electricity generation...” can be clarified by restating it to “When the EMP uses the phrase ‘100% clean energy’ this refers to an aspiration of 100% clean renewable energy, however we recognize we may only reach a goal of carbon neutral energy in some sectors... In any case, we are committed to achieving steady progress toward attaining 100% carbon neutral energy across all sectors by 2050. Actual progress and current projections will be reported annually to the public. This commitment is enforceable by the following statutes ...”.

It will be useful to include additional aspirations and goals regarding a moratorium on new fossil fuels, regulation of black carbon, pure carbon, and other forms of soot, and regulation of methane emissions from extraction of natural gas and other sources.

Similar statements of aspirations, goals, and commitments can extend to each of the identified strategies, targets, and mandates.

Thank you for carefully considering these comments on the 2019 Draft NJ Energy Master Plan,

Leland Beaumont  
3 Heath Parkway  
Middletown, NJ.