

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to address you and to express our concerns as to the seriousness of our situation.

From an article written by [Jonathan Franzen](#) Published in The New Yorker on September 8, 2019.

“New research, described last month in [Scientific American](#), demonstrates that climate scientists, far from exaggerating the threat of climate change, have underestimated its pace and severity.”

“Today, the scientific evidence verges on irrefutable. If you’re younger than sixty, you have a good chance of witnessing the radical [destabilization of life on earth](#)—massive crop failures, apocalyptic fires, imploding economies, epic flooding, hundreds of millions of refugees fleeing regions made uninhabitable by extreme heat or permanent drought”.

We do not have to wait for these events to occur. These catastrophic events are a happening now.

From an article by [Scott Fallon and Andrew Ford](#), in the **North Jersey Record**
Published 5:30 a.m. ET Aug. 23, 2019 | Updated 3:57 p.m. ET Aug. 24, 2019

“The overwhelming majority of scientists, peer-reviewed studies, and [government agencies](#) have shown that the planet is warming due in large part to human activity, such as burning fossil fuels like coal, natural gas and gasoline, which has increased the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, preventing heat from escaping into space.

New Jersey is fast becoming ground zero for climate change. Sea level rise is happening so fast in the state that it's [double](#) the global average”...

“Temperatures in the Garden State are also rising faster than the national average” and continues “The projections for New Jersey are not good — unless the global release of greenhouse gases is curbed significantly, along with efforts to remove carbon dioxide already in the atmosphere.”

We are here today to try to convince you to do whatever must be done to change those horrendous projections.

The Murphy Administration's Draft 2019 Energy Master Plan recognizes that we are far off track in meeting our clean energy goals. The EMP does recommit the Administration to the specific targets and legal requirements of the Global Warming Response Act, and has targets for offshore wind, solar, energy efficiency, and electric vehicles and states that **“New Jersey must reduce its greenhouse gas emissions immediately and aggressively”**.

To accomplish this goal, we cannot be maintaining the status quo and we certainly cannot be moving backwards in the opposite direction. We need clear measurable steps to **reduce GHGs and other polluting emissions**, which are especially dense in our cities in Environmental Justice communities.

The increased reliance on fracked natural gas, and the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure not only hinders the transition to clean renewable energy; it makes no sense. New fossil fuel projects make no sense either economically or for the health and safety of the environment or the residents of New Jersey. We who have been fighting for the health and safety of the people and the environment have been waiting for this EMP to address the now 15 or more fossil fuel projects in New Jersey. You need to address this in your plan and prevent the spread of these toxic outdated energy sources. You need to lift limitations on solar and promote solar and other clean renewable sources like wind and geothermal energy. The EMP needs to have a clear plan for the necessary high-quality jobs in a new green economy; a plan which includes job training and the workers' rights to organize.

And from Empower NJ website I quote: **“The latest overwhelming scientific consensus dictates that much more needs to be done much sooner than previously realized – we have until 2030, not 2050, to drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions by transforming our energy production and use.”**

If you and Governor Murphy want to halt and reverse the greenhouse gas pollution that's driving us towards irreversible climate catastrophe, the choice is clear. We are well beyond the point where we can let corporate greed stand in the way of clean renewable energy. We can no longer let corporate greed prevent the possibility of a future.

Respectfully submitted,

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