

From: [Luke Greeley](#)
To: [comments_EMP](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on the Energy Master Plan
Date: Monday, September 09, 2019 3:48:15 PM

To whom it may concern,

As a concerned citizen and resident of New Jersey, I'm writing to express disappointment in the proposed Energy Master Plan.

- 1) If the goal of the EMP is to address climate change and move NJ toward a sustainable energy future, a moratorium on new fossil fuel projects in the state is needed. If the state allows for projects, such as the many proposed natural gas pipelines, we will be supporting and contributing to an industry which pollutes the air with carbon and methane and pollutes the ground and water with toxic chemicals.
- 2) The goal of 100% carbon neutral energy by 2050 must be replaced with the goal of achieving 100% clean *renewable* energy by 2050. Carbon neutral includes energy from fossil fuel power plants with ineffective market-based schemes like carbon offsets, pollution credits and other pay to pollute schemes. Carbon neutral also includes garbage incineration, aging and new nuclear power plants, and more fossil fuel power plants with carbon capture and storage, an expensive technology that has never shown any commercial or practical viability. These dirty and dangerous energy sources and pollution trading schemes disproportionately impact low income communities and communities of color and block progress towards achieving the 100% renewable energy economy we urgently need.
- 3) The EMP's goals are inadequate to address the immediate emergency we are facing. While the EMP recommits to the mandate established in the Global Warming Response Act (GWRA) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050, it provides no interim milestones thus enabling reductions to be delayed. Meanwhile the consequences of climate change are occurring earlier and more rapidly than expected. We only have ten years to act. The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] report and the latest US National Climate Assessment call for rapid and immediate reductions in GHG's: 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and net zero emissions around 2050. To meet these critical targets, our clean energy goals must be 100% renewable energy for electricity by 2035 and 100% renewable energy economy wide by 2050. These are readily attainable goals whose obstacles are mainly political, not technological or financial, when all costs and benefits are considered.
- 4) Total short and long term economic, social, health and total life cycle costs of burning fossil fuels must be calculated, disclosed and utilized by the EMP in setting policies. The draft document is silent on these costs.
- 5) The State must regulate black carbon, pure carbon particulates, aka soot. This by-product of burning fossil fuels is a major contributor to climate change (orders of magnitude more potent as a climate pollutant than CO2) and an ongoing threat to our respiratory health. It particularly affects our most vulnerable communities.
- 6) The EMP drastically understates the global warming impact of methane released by the extraction, distribution and burning of natural gas. Over a 20-year period, methane is 86 times more potent than CO2 as a GHG. Yet the EMP (a plan for policies over the next 30 years)

only considers the impact of methane over a 100-year horizon. This drastically obscures its real effect on climate change in the near term by a factor of at least two-thirds and dramatically understates the amount of methane emissions occurring today and the volume of reductions required by 2030 and 2050.

7) The EMP admittedly lacks detailed plans and adequate public input to accomplish its goals. It largely lacks any interim goals and milestones when there should be annual milestones for every goal in the report. While more details are expected in the final plan, this process prevents the public from having meaningful input and allows special interests to have undue influence. There must be a substantial opportunity for the public to have input on these details, especially the modeling results from the Integrated Energy Plan, in time to influence the final plan.

Thank you for considering my input into this matter. For the future of our state and our planet I urge you to undertake the steps needed to bring our state to a renewable energy future.

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