

From: [Marian Glenn](#)
To: [comments, EMP](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] comments on draft of NJ EMP
Date: Friday, September 06, 2019 12:17:32 PM

Dear Governor Murphy,

NJ's Energy Master Plan addresses both local and global issues. In designing NJ's response to the climate emergency, the plan should prioritize actions that have local benefits, both in terms of healthier environment and sustainable economy. At the same time, the plan needs to provide interim goals toward achieving the mid-century, world-wide goals for stabilizing Earth's climate.

Currently, NJ's electric energy is produced with one of the smaller C footprints among the states, due to our aging and heavily-subsidized nuclear power plants and "cheap" natural gas, which is turning out to be more environmentally harmful than originally thought. A more rapid transition to renewable energy such as solar and wind is also becoming more feasible, economically.

The EMP should consider reducing the construction of new natural gas infrastructure, and meeting the energy needs through renewables, grid enhancements, and more aggressive energy conservation. For NJ, our nuclear power is a better bridge to renewables, since the plants are already built and nearing the end of their service.

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.

Transportation is a major contributor to unhealthy air and GHG emissions and an accelerated transition away from diesel engines would address both of these issues.

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.

Finally, a sustainable economy rests upon work that pays a living wage. Labor leaders and Green Businesses are important stakeholders.

Labor's buy-in is essential, practically and politically, to meet the EMP's goals. This means including a realistic plan to ensure that the tens of thousands of new jobs in the green economy will be high quality jobs with workers having the right to organize. The EMP is completely silent on this issue.

Sincerely yours,
Marian

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