

The proposed N.J. Energy Master Plan is being developed during a critical moment when the environment is threatened as never before. The Draft 2019 Energy Plan can be commended for recommitting to the specific targets and legal requirements of the Global Response Act. However, the plan as presented will fail to meet those goals.

We need a strong plan focused on making important changes to protect our environment and we must make them now and put them into effect as soon as possible. Scientists have warned us that we have less than ten years to change our current course of inaction. After that the global climate crisis cannot be reversed or the damage undone. *The Washington Post* has stated that NJ is ground zero for climate change. Due to warming temperatures, N.J. has received double the amount of annual rainfall causing more flooding. The rising seas are washing away vast amounts of shore line annually. New Jersey ranks sixth among the states in the annual rise in temperature. Pollution and cancer rates are on the rise. To reverse this course, it is necessary to move quickly to revise the EMP and add the goals of abandoning fossil fuels and using only 100% renewable energies by 2050.

- The N.J. EMP must include a moratorium on fossil fuel projects and refuse to extend any current fossil fuel pipelines. Fracking must be banned.
- The N.J. EMP must set ambitious goals and be committed to using 100% energy from renewable fuels, particularly off-shore wind power and solar power. The use of fossil fuels must end. The inclusion of carbon neutral energy plans must be abandoned since they do not reduce the amount of carbon pollution in the atmosphere. Also they permit many dirty energy sources such as incineration. Carbon neutral arrangements do not reduce carbon pollution or protect EJ communities from continuing exposure to higher rates of pollution than found in neighboring areas.
- The N.J. EMP must reject nuclear power as source of energy. Nuclear power is not clean, renewable, cheap or safe. Decommissioning ageing nuclear plants is costly, and produces radioactive materials that threaten the environment and human health.
- The EMP should Electrify NJ's transportation sector to set the stage for fossil fuel-free transportation and develop and support public transportation.

In the current draft plan, the EMP establishes inadequate goals to prevent the emergencies climate collapse will inflict, including inadequate water supplies, crop failures, starvation, and health crises. It is important to take immediate action to shape a different future. Thus current plan needs serious revision and N.J. deserves a better plan to protect its environment and the health of its inhabitants.

The revised EMP must include measures to ensure that the EMP is proceeding in a timely way and making good progress. The EMP must include interim (perhaps annual) milestones that make sure the plan is making good progress in meeting the goals and mandate of the Global Warming Response Act. There must be continuous and careful monitoring to confirm that stated goals and deadlines are being met.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Rye  
N.J. Constituent and Resident