

From: [Philippa Solomon](#)
To: [comments_EMP](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 2019 Draft Energy Master Plan
Date: Monday, June 24, 2019 4:15:30 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

It's encouraging to see release of the NJ Draft 2019 Energy Master Plan whose aim is the transformation of NJ energy use to 100% renewable energy by 2050. The plan appears to incorporate action on a number of fronts simultaneously, which makes sense.

One area that seems to be lacking is the recognition that we should not be expanding any of our fossil fuel infrastructure. To do so simply works against the stated objective of the Master Plan. Requiring gas companies to eliminate leakage of methane from their existing pipelines and facilities is crucial and presents an opportunity to reduce the global warming potential of New Jersey's energy sector, since methane leakage from natural gas extraction and transport is the largest contributor to atmospheric methane. Over a 100-year period methane has 30 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide, but in the near-term, over the next 20 years, methane has 80–90 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide. If we can quickly cut emissions of methane, which could easily be done by reducing methane leakage, methane levels in the atmosphere would fall rapidly because methane decomposes in the atmosphere much more quickly than carbon dioxide and stays in the atmosphere for about 12 years, rather than the hundreds of years that carbon dioxide persists.

I urge that NJ implement a complete moratorium on new fossil fuel infrastructure, most critically any that involve distributing natural gas, such as pipelines and pumping stations.

Philippa Solomon

9 Marshall Drive

Edison, NJ