

From: [Rona Cohen](#)
To: [comments_EMP](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments for NJ Energy Master Plan
Date: Saturday, September 14, 2019 5:19:24 PM

Dear Governor Murphy:

I am writing to urge you to include a moratorium on new fossil fuel projects in the New Jersey Energy Master Plan.

During your tenure as Governor, you have been a leader in working to address the climate crisis, through policies including rejoining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and efforts to advance a new offshore wind energy economy. I applaud your leadership, and urge you to continue your important work to protect the environment and promote a clean energy economy by banning all new fossil fuel infrastructure.

As you know, scientists tell us we have ten years to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to avoid climate catastrophe. We cannot possibly do that if we add more fossil fuel plants and pipelines. We need a moratorium now on new fossil fuel projects.

The technology exists today to enable states like New Jersey to move away from fossil fuels and continue to thrive economically. Many clean energy options, including onshore wind, solar, and energy efficiency, are consistently cheaper than new fossil fossil construction. They are also the largest source of jobs in the U.S. energy sector. As you know, New Jersey has long been a leader in solar installations and jobs, thanks to good public policies that helped to attract a thriving solar industry to the state.

In the absence of federal leadership on climate change, the actions of forward-looking states like New Jersey will be critical to determining whether we will avoid climate catastrophe. The global community is paying attention, because the livelihood of future generations, and the health of the planet, will depend in part on decisions made here in New Jersey, and in other states.

You have the power to make a difference, and to set an example to the world that the time to act is now. A moratorium on new fossil fuel projects will make it clear that New Jersey is ready to lead us into the future clean energy economy. I urge you to include a ban on new fossil fuel plants and pipelines in the New Jersey Energy Master Plan.

Thank you for considering these comments.

With sincere appreciation,

Rona Cohen
Montclair, New Jersey