50x30 Team 2021 Annual Report

Steve and Pat Miller, Co-Leaders

The “50x30 Team” mission is to educate individuals, and advocate officials at local, state, and national levels to urgently work toward 50% GHG reduction by 2030, and NetZero by 2050. Climate Reality Leaders and all others are welcome to join us. Meets 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 PM. The 50x30 Team was created as a CRP GNJG Chapter subcommittee in August 2021.

On September 30 we delivered a letter to Gov. Murphy with our recommendations on steps to take to reduce GHG emissions in the state by 50% by 2030. Among the recommendations, we agreed with a legal petition sent by the so-called Empower Coalition of environmental organizations requiring that the state codify detailed steps to achieve 50% GHG reduction by 2030. We emphasized that reducing emissions in 3 sectors was key to achieving the goal: 1) switch to clean electricity generation, 2) electrify transportation, and 3) electrify building heat. On Nov 10, 2021, Gov Murphy signed Executive Order 274 setting a goal for carbon emissions reduction of 50% by 2030.

At our October meeting, our guest, Michael Winka, former BPU staff member and a principal author of NJ’s Energy Master Plan, spoke on “Getting to Zero.” His conclusion is that the goal is quite reachable. At other times, we organized and/or joined other groups in several webinars: “Designing and Building a Passive House,” “The Sacrifice Zone” (about environmental injustice in Newark’s Ironbound), and “Christiana Figueres and the Promise of COP 26.” Some of us made statements at a BOEM public hearing in favor of the planned Atlantic Shores offshore wind installation.

At our November 18 meeting we joined a Sierra Club webinar "Overview of Fixed Bottom Offshore Wind," produced by Wind Exchange US Dept of Energy. We also invited members to view (at their convenience) a film “The Condor and the Eagle,” about the spoiling of 4 different Indigenous peoples’ land in North and South America by oil and gas producers and the resultant ravaging of people’s health and the environment. Steve and Pat then led a discussion of the film on Nov 21.

Our December 16 meeting was called “The 3rd Lever to Reach Zero Emissions: Building Heat Electrification”. A panel of experts addressed building efficiency and heating via electric heat pump to reach zero emissions and pronounced it is doable. A panelist addressed the issue of a need for gas companies to diversify or die. An HVAC contractor and 2 homeowners described their heat pump solutions.