DRAFT FOR COMMENT (v4.5) \*NEED A SMALL TEAM TO FINALIZE: incorporate comments, add footnotes: i.e. “Empower NJ DEP rule-making; and NJ Student Climate Advocates,… \*

DATE: 11:15PM July 15

Honorable Governor Murphy:

The signers represent 3 NJ environmental organizations concerned about NJ efforts to combat climate change. We thank you for the leadership you continue to demonstrate in addressing climate change. We believe NJ must use every available tool to reduce GHG emissions 50% by 2030, through a combination of legislation, regulation, and incentives.

Since most GHG emissions originate within municipalities, achieving State-wide goals requires each municipality to do their fair share to reach corresponding goals. How are State agencies supporting local municipalities in achieving environmental goals consistent with the State-wide goals? Does the State require municipalities to establish, share, execute and monitor emission reduction plans? Does the State have in place systems to review emission reduction plans, monitor progress toward established goals, report on results, and assist local municipalities in achieving emission reduction results?

RECOMMENDATIONS to move NJ counties, municipalities, individuals, and businesses to GHG reduction goals:

* [ADD PRESS RELEASE] Ask the NJ DEP to work quickly to satisfy the formal Petition for Rulemaking request by the Empower NJ Coalition and Allies: New Jersey must adopt rules and detailed requirements to achieve a 50% greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target by 2030 from 2005 levels.
* Adopt the principle that Federal, state, and local synergistic “all-of-society” strategy is required to reduce U.S. GHG emissions 50% below 2005 levels by 2030. Thousands of U.S. organizations and municipalities under the “America Is All In” movement have adopted this principle. Key Messages are defined on page 2 of [“An All-In climate strategy can cut U.S. emissions by 50% by 2030”](https://www.americaisallin.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/all-in-climate-strategy-report2021rd3-3.pdf) [[1]](#endnote-1) ; see endnotes for links to “America’s Pledge” GHG reduction analyses for 2018, 2019, and 2020. Current recommendations are based upon the “[Working Paper](https://www.americaisallin.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/all-in-national-climate-strategy.pdf)” [[2]](#endnote-2) .
* Implement laws or regulations that require each municipality and county to create an emission reduction plan to meet 50% by 2030 and near-net-zero by 2050.
* Provide Grants & incentives to motivate towns, individuals, and businesses.
* Initiate an extensive and persistent educational/PR campaign. Initiate state recognition of NJ sustainable companies.
* Build societal commitment within NJ stakeholders (see page 337 of the “NetZeroAmerica” report “Priorities for the 2020’s: Behaviors, Institutions, Markets” [[3]](#endnote-3). **Add this to appendix!!!**

THE TOP 3 GHG SOURCES IN NJ: All must be simultaneously tackled (percentages are rounded):

* Transportation (40%) – Need clearly defined and enforced incremental goals to increase EVs to 100%. The NJ Integrated Energy Plan (NJ Energy Master Plan) finds the Least Cost scenario with 100% EVs in 2035.
  + For new car sales
  + For phasing out existing vehicles with internal combustion engines
* Natural gas (30%) – Need clearly defined incremental goals to eventually eliminate 100% of natural gas (with the exception of a possible portion of hard-to-convert industrial)
* for all-electric new construction
* for retrofits of existing structures
* Electricity generation (20%) – Tighten RPS to achieve 100% as quickly as possible. The NJ BPU is considering a clean energy acceleration, via ICCM (Integrated Clean Capacity Market) proposed by the Brattle Group, and documented 6/2021 in “Alternative Resource Adequacy Structures for New Jersey” [[4]](#endnote-4).

EXAMPLES OF ACTION PLANS:

1. Most NJ GHG originates within municipalities. A channel for NJ state efforts are "Green teams", created by the ruling Council/Committee in most NJ municipalities and guided by SustainableJersey.com.  Paths to 50% cuts by 2030 can be achieved by aggressive annual application of Sustainable Jersey “Actions”. The Sustainable Jersey "Gold Star in Energy" fully documents Green Team "Actions" to reduce major GHG sources within municipalities.   
We have two concerns about relying on Sustainable Jersey. Because Green Team are a promising channel, we recommend the Governor explore these issues with Randall Solomon, Exec. Director of Sustainable Jersey.

* Only Woodbridge (of the 458 participating NJ municipalities) has completed the “Gold Star in Energy” during the 4 years in which “Gold Star in Energy” has been available.
* Reduction of GHG by switching from natural gas to electrical heat pumps for space and water heating is NOT currently included as a possible municipality “Action”. (The natural gas industry supplies funding and significant direct support to Sustainable Jersey and may apply this leverage.)  Sustainable Jersey may welcome additional funding to add a focus on deploying heat pumps to replace natural gas space and water heating.

2. Emission reduction scenarios are documented in the (8/8/2020) “Middletown Energy Plan” [[5]](#endnote-5) .

3. Exhaustive emission reduction actions are described in the Princeton University (12/15/2020) “NetZero America” report (page 335, “A blueprint for Action in the 2020s”, and page 336 “Eight Key Priorities for the 2020s”) [[6]](#endnote-6).

Thank you for your ongoing clean energy transformation leadership.

We also thank Hannah Thonet for her thoughtful 7/2/2021 email response to an “Ask the Governor” question submitted by Jeffrey Davis, of our group. Hannah requested our thoughts on options to facilitate local action. This request was answered in the above letter.

Signed by: **[to be listed]** "50 x 30" team, with members from:

Climate Reality Project NJ Gateway Chapter (add footnote/explanation)

Middletown for Clean Energy

NJ Sierra Club Jersey Shore Group

CC: Hannah Thonet, Policy Advisor | Energy + Environment, Office of the Governor; Hannah.Thonet@nj.gov

1. <https://www.americaisallin.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/all-in-climate-strategy-report2021rd3-3.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.americaisallin.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/all-in-national-climate-strategy.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. <https://netzeroamerica.princeton.edu/img/Princeton_NZA_Interim_Report_15_Dec_2020_FINAL.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. <https://nj.gov/bpu/pdf/reports/NJ%20BPU%20RA%20Investigation%20%28Final%29.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. <http://climate.smiller.org/energy-plan/Middletown-2020-Energy-Plan/MiddletownEnergyPlan-V2-2020-8-8.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. <https://netzeroamerica.princeton.edu/the-report> [↑](#endnote-ref-6)