DRAFT FOR COMMENT (v4.5)

DATE:

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.

Since most GHG emissions originate within cities, achieving State-wide goals requires each community to do their fair share to reach corresponding goals. How are State agencies supporting local communities in achieving environmental goals consistent with the State-wide goals? Does the State require cities 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 communities in achieving emission reduction results?

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

* 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 cities 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) ; the endnotes link 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 city and county to create an emission reduction plan to meet 50% by 2030 and near-net-zero by 2050.
* Enact a Carbon fee (The “NJ Student Climate Advocates” have proposed NJ carbon pricing policy and legislation).
* Provide Grants & incentives to motivate towns, individuals, and businesses.
* Initiate an extensive and persistent educational/PR campaign.
* Build societal commitment within NJ stakeholders (see page 337 of the “NetZeroAmerica” report “Priorities for the 2020’s: Behaviors, Institutions, Markets” [[3]](#endnote-3).

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

* Transportation (40%) – Need clearly defined incremental goals to increase electrification to 100%
* Natural gas (30%) – Need clearly defined incremental goals to eliminate 100% of gas (except for a portion of hard-to-convert industrial)
* for all-electric new construction
* for retrofitting existing structures
* Electric 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 cities. A channel for NJ state efforts are "Green teams", created by the ruling Council/Committee in most NJ cities 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 the major GHG sources within cities (the origin of most of the NJ GHG). 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 cities) has completed the “Gold Star in Energy” during the 4 years in which Gold Star in Energy” has been available to all cities.
* Reduction of GHG by switching from natural gas to electrical heat pumps for space and water heating is NOT currently included as a possible city “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 was answered in the above letter.

Signed by: **[to be listed]**

Climate Reality Project "50 x 30" team

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)