***CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT***

## Join the 50 x 30 Team to Meet New Jersey’s 2030 Climate Goals

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| From the start of 2021 through October, 18 weather-related disasters in the United States had caused 538 deaths and $105 billion in damages. This has been among the most active and costly years for such events, which are becoming more frequent.  Do you remember the climate disasters during the first half of 2021? Here are some of the things that happened:   * • Severe heat waves in the US Pacific Northwest, British Columbia, and Siberia * Searing wildfires in Oregon, California, Montana, and other parts of the West * New York City, Philadelphia, and the Nation’s Capital and other parts of the Eastern Seaboard shrouded in Western wildfire smoke * Historic flooding in Germany and other parts of Western Europe * Rising concerns of a “megadrought” across several Western states   (The above examples are from Yale Climate Connections, 8/4/2021.)  The evidence is clear: Our current extreme weather is the tip of the iceberg. President Biden has often stated—and the Paris Agreement, the August report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and thousands of scientists all agree—we must achieve a 50% greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction by 2030, on the way to net-zero GHG emissions by 2050. [(https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/09/ world/global-climate-change-report-un-ipcc](https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/09/world/global-climate-change-report-un-ipcc))  “On a business-as-usual course [implementing all Gov. Murphy’s initiatives through Dec 31, 2019, results in NJ] 2050 GHG [emissions] higher than they are today,” states an October 15, 2020, report by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. The report recommends strategies for policymakers to achieve GHG goals. See the executive summary at | the beginning of [https://www.nj.gov/ dep/climatechange/mitigation.html](https://www.nj.gov/dep/climatechange/mitigation.html)  Take actionable steps now to influence future policies: join the 50 x 30 Team to help reduce GHG emissions 50% by 2030. Focus on GHG from New Jersey’s three biggest sources: transportation, buildings (residential/commercial use of natural gas), and electricity generation from fossil fuels, while supporting environmental justice for low- and moderate-income NJ residents.  New Jersey’s 50 x 30 team educates and advocates that households, municipalities, and the state and federal governments set aggressive goals and track progress to reduce the three primary sources of GHG. We ask NJ towns to start GHG reductions by instructing their Green Teams to achieve “Gold Star in Energy” sustainability and GHG reduction under [www.SustainableJersey. com](http://www.SustainableJersey.com/) programs.  An action example: On September 30, the 50 x 30 Team released a letter to Gov. Murphy.. This letter reinforced and added detail to a July 21 petition from Empower NJ to the NJ DEP requesting rulemaking on a 50% GHG reduction target by 2030. The NJ Sierra Club is one of seven key leaders of Empower NJ. [https://www.cleanwateraction.org/](https://www.cleanwateraction.org/sites/default/files/Final%20petition%207-21-21.pdf)  [sites/default/files/Final%20petition%207-21-21.pdf](https://www.cleanwateraction.org/sites/default/files/Final%20petition%207-21-21.pdf) On November 11, 2021, Gov. Murphy responded to our letters by signing Executive Order 274, which created a NJ Goal to achieve 50% GHG reduction by 2030. Intensive work now begins to reach that goal!  Sign up now for the 50 x 30 Team at <http://eepurl.com/dpWC1n>. You will receive reports, agendas, and calls to action. Typical Zoom meetings are at 7 p.m., on the third Thursday of each month and as needed for those members working on high-intensity projects. For more information, please contact me at the address in the byline above. |

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