50x30 Team November 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.

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 also asked that the state mandate that each municipality create a 10-year energy and emissions reduction plan, while providing municipalities with resources to do this and to monitor progress via an agency such as Sustainable Jersey. 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 buildings. We are waiting for a response now that the election is over.

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 in the 50x30 Team and the Advocacy Committee made statements at a BOEM public hearing on the planned Atlantic Shores offshore wind installation. Pat and Steve have been doing outreach with some of our other environmental groups to recruit new members to the 50x30 Team and the Chapter. This is an especially critical time for both COP 26 and bold climate provisions being included in the Build Back Better Act now in Congress.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, November 18, at 6:45 PM. (Note this is 15 minutes earlier than usual.) The link for only this 1st 15 minutes: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89480202446?pwd=aXNFOEUwU0hNQm9jeXNQQzNQYVpXUT09> Meeting ID: 894 8020 2446, Passcode: 416524, +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

For the first 15 minutes we will assess our status and plan next steps. At 7 PM, we will each join a Sierra Club Zoom webinar presentation "Overview of Fixed Bottom Offshore Wind," produced by Wind Exchange US Dept of Energy. Some of the topics covered will be: Why pursue offshore wind energy? How does a turbine work and what is the energy process? Operations, Maintenance and Turbine Spacing. Cost breakdown and how large will turbines get? Q&A will follow the presentation. Each person must register separately a day in advance at <https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000002FwmSAAS>

We are starting to plan our December meeting, which will be Thursday, December 16 at 7 PM. A panel of experts will address “Building Electrification and Energy Efficiency.” Details TBA.