

Comments on NJ 2019 Energy Master Plan

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Our organization, Middletown for Clean Energy, has a mission to leave a legacy of a livable town, state and world for our children, grandchildren and future generations. The number one requirement is clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, and a clean and sustainable food supply. The number one threat to this future is climate change caused by human-driven fossil fuel emissions. According to the UN's IPCC, we must begin IMMEDIATELY to lower emissions, getting to 100% clean energy as soon as possible – no later than 2050, and halfway there by 2030.

The current EMP draft is a start on this goal, but it won't get us there. Some of the shortcomings:

1. To begin IMMEDIATELY to lower fossil fuel emission logically implies we cannot ADD to the world's supply of fossil fuels. We must have a COMPLETE MORATORIUM on all new fossil fuel infrastructure beginning TODAY, even projects that are already started.
2. The moratorium applies whether the fossil fuels are meant for NJ's in-state use or to ship out of state.
3. We must schedule a MOVE OFF ALL existing natural gas with all deliberate speed. We must schedule decommission of light water nuclear with all deliberate speed.
4. The EMP's current definition of carbon neutral is not the same as 100% clean energy. Likewise, 80x50 is NOT 100% clean. The goal must be 100% clean by 2050 and 50% by 2030.
5. GHG emissions must be regulated to meet 2030 and 2050 targets. Methane leaks must not be tolerated at all and are a cause for immediate shut-down of a facility.
6. We need more ambitious goals for Wind, Solar and Electric Vehicles.
7. We must mandate more reliable electric distribution. We are told that JCP&L has made no concerted effort to upgrade its distribution since the catastrophic failure of 2012 Sandy. A smart grid and much increased electric traffic will depend on a reliable distribution system, which we currently lack.
8. New Jersey should adopt a state carbon fee and dividend program to put a price on carbon (similar to federal bill HR763) until there is a federal carbon price.
9. We need increased support for research in alternative clean fuels such as Princeton's fusion research and in carbon sequestration.

We do this work for our grandchildren. They are depending on us if they are to have a future. Thank you.