

CLEAN ENERGY



Despite rising investments in clean energy, global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions continue to increase. To prevent the worst impacts of climate change, global CO₂ emissions must decline by **50% by 2030**. Decarbonization—cutting carbon emissions by transitioning to low-carbon power—is essential.

New Jersey's communities, especially environmental justice communities, are already feeling the severe effects of the climate crisis. Our 2019 **Energy Master Plan** calls for a **Clean Energy Standard (CES)** to accelerate decarbonization beyond the current **Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)**.

After years of expert consultation and stakeholder engagement, it's time to mandate a CES, requiring **100% clean electricity by 2035**.



THE CLEAN ENERGY STANDARD: CHEAPER, HEALTHIER, CLEANER, AND LOCAL

- Reduces GHG emissions statewide and regionally
- Supports **affordable electricity**—critical for low- and moderate-income households
- Expands clean-energy **job opportunities** across NJ
- Promotes a **diverse and reliable energy mix**, including solar, wind, and storage
- Strengthens NJ's **resilience** against climate-driven blackouts and extreme weather

THE GRID OF THE FUTURE

Our 100-year-old electric grid must be modernized. Without upgrades, NJ faces higher costs, unreliable service, and stalled clean-energy progress. Grid modernization is critical to:

- Reduce outages
- Integrate distributed energy like solar + storage
- Enable climate-resilient infrastructure
- Support EVs and building electrification

OFFSHORE WIND AND SOLAR: NJ'S COMPETITIVE EDGE

NJ could once again be a national leader in offshore wind, a clean energy solution that saves lives, reduces emissions, creates jobs, and boosts local economies. As of 2024, NJ ranks 10th in the U.S. for solar capacity, with 5+ GW installed from over 210,000 systems. Community solar projects expand access to clean energy for renters and low-income residents, delivering savings and cleaner air.

PJM QUEUE DELAYS ARE COSTING US

New Jersey is part of a regional transmission organization (RTO) known as PJM, which manages the electric grid across 13 states and D.C. According to a report from NRDC, PJM's interconnection queue is a major barrier to clean energy. If just 30% of the renewable projects stuck in the queue for over five years were operational, 7 GW of new capacity could have entered the market, potentially reducing prices by up to 63%. These delays are stalling progress and raising costs for consumers.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Pass legislation for a Clean Energy Standard:** 100% clean electricity by 2035.
- **Prioritize equity:** Reduce emissions in overburdened communities and ensure affordable rates.
- **Establish New Jersey as the Leader in Offshore Wind:** Advance ambitious goals for responsibly developed offshore wind.
- **Support electrification:** Buildings, vehicles, and infrastructure must transition off oil and gas. End subsidies for gas appliances.
- **Create an Office of Just Transition:** Ensure no community is left behind in the shift to clean energy.
- **Invest in workforce development:** Support training for offshore wind and other clean-energy jobs.
- **Modernize the grid:** Prioritize cost-effective upgrades, integrate storage, and increase resilience.
- **Expand community solar:** Focus incentives on rooftops, brownfields, landfills—not on farmland or forests – and responsibly expand in state solar generation.
- **Require clean AI:** Require new data centers to use renewable energy + storage without diverting public clean energy.
- **Reform regional grid (PJM):** Speed up clean-energy interconnection timelines and support multi-state clean goals.
- **Protect clean energy:** Fight any attempts to ban clean energy projects at the state level.

