

TOXINS & WASTE MANAGEMENT

New Jersey must take bold action to protect our families, workers, and environment from hazardous materials and rising waste threats. As the federal government threatens rollbacks to environmental protections, New Jersey must lead with strong, forward-looking policies. From reducing toxic exposures to closing the loop on waste, our state has the tools—and the responsibility—to safeguard public health and ensure environmental justice.



OUR PRIORITIES

Prevent Hazardous Chemical Disasters: New Jersey has a long history of regulating dangerous facilities through the Worker and Community Right to Know Act and the Toxic Catastrophe Prevention Act. But with 90+ facilities using hazardous chemicals, we must modernize safeguards and expand community protections—especially in vulnerable areas.

Close the Loop on Plastic, Textile & Electronic Waste: New Jersey made history with the strongest plastic bag ban in the nation.

Eliminate Childhood Lead Poisoning: No child should begin life poisoned by their home. Lead exposure from paint, soil, and water still harms children—especially in cities like Trenton, where blood lead levels are more than 4x the state average. Lead-safe homes, universal testing, and strong enforcement must be priorities.

Guarantee **first responders and communities** have access to real-time chemical risk data. Now, we must go further: reduce toxic plastic packaging, prevent microplastics in our waterways, and build a circular economy for electronics and textiles that reduces climate impacts and landfill waste.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Plastic & Packaging

- Fully implement and expand the Plastic Pollution Reduction Act.
- **Pass Extended Producer Responsibility** legislation for packaging and paper products.
- Promote reusable, refillable, non-plastic alternatives across sectors.

Lead Poisoning Prevention

- Expand the **Whole House** approach for lead, health, and weatherization improvements.
- Spend down remaining **ARPA funds** by the 2026 deadline and secure long-term state funding.
- Require **lead risk assessments** in all home sales, as with radon.

Electronics & E-Waste

- Collaborate regionally to develop a standard, EPR-based e-waste recycling system.
- Support device leasing models to reduce consumption and waste.

Textile Waste

- Incentivize textile waste recovery and EPR for clothing and home goods.
- Promote circular economy markets to reduce waste and spur new green industries.
- Educate consumers on microplastic pollution from synthetic fibers.

Hazardous Materials & Facility Safety

- Strengthen the Toxic Catastrophe Prevention Act and expand the Right to Know Act

Increase childhood lead testing reimbursements and local health department capacity.

- Launch a **statewide lead education campaign** focused on housing, water, and soil safety..

