

# Truth Matters NP

Lookingleftnj.com

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Special Climate Edition

## Ending Fossil Fuel Energy in New Jersey.

Guest Contributor

On Friday, September 6 the Beacon UU Congregation of Summit hosted a meeting on Climate Change, focused on Governor Murphy's Energy Master Plan for New Jersey. On June 10, the state of New Jersey released a draft of the Energy Master Plan (EMP), which provides an initial blueprint for the total conversion of New Jersey's energy profile to 100 percent clean energy by 2050, as directed by Governor Murphy's Executive Order 28. Governor Murphy's plan defines clean energy as carbon-neutral electricity generation and maximum electrification of the transportation and building sectors to meet or exceed the Global Warming Response Act greenhouse emissions reductions of 80 percent relative to 2006 levels by 2050.

We stand with the Governor in the goals that he has set for New Jersey, but even now we continue to go in the wrong direction.

Leading the meeting were representatives of EmpowerNJ, a group that is working to end the use of Fossil Fuel energy plants that are polluting the environment and contributing to Global Warming here in New Jersey. As described in their website "Climate change is an immediate and real threat to the state. Yet 12 new/ongoing frack gas projects and one completed in 2018 stand in stark contrast to Governor Murphy's stated commitment and legal requirements to combat global warming, produce clean energy and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions."

New Jersey has been impacted by climate change more than many states. This includes sea level rise; increased storm runoff; salt-water incursion into fresh water supplies; more frequent severe storms; worse air pollution including ground-level ozone.

### Urging a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects

Over 50 environmental, citizen, faith, and progressive groups in New Jersey are calling on Governor Murphy to enact a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects in New Jersey until there are rules in place to achieve our 100% clean energy goals.

For more information go to [www.empowernewjersey.com](http://www.empowernewjersey.com)

### Signs of hope on the horizon?

State senators Bob Smith D-Middlesex, the head of the Senate's environment committee, and Christopher "Kip" Bateman, R-Somerset have introduced a resolution to amend the state constitution to include a ban on construction of any new fossil-fuel power plants. The purpose of the amendment is to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced in New Jersey. If approved by state lawmakers, the following question would be placed on a statewide ballot during a general election for voters to consider:

"Do you approve amending the State Constitution to prohibit the construction of new fossil fuel power plants in the State? Fossil fuel power plants produce electricity by burning coal, oil, natural gas, or petroleum products."



## Morristown Hit with Climate Strike

September 20, 2019

Today at the steps of the Morristown Town Hall a group of 200 + gathered to express their demand for action by our leaders to address the current climate crisis. The event was one of thousands taking place across the nation and world inspired by the 16-year old activist Greta Thunberg of Sweden. Locally, the event was organized by the Sunrise Movement Morris County. The national Sunrise Movement began in 2017 by young people concerned about their future in the face of increasing climate disruptions. Their motto is to “change this country and the world, sure as the sun rises each morning.” Samantha DeFalco of Denville, a graduate of Ithaca College, is the leader of the local group which got its start in July of this year. Multiple speakers affirmed their demands for action by our government leaders or they should be replaced. Christine Clark, Assembly candidate 26<sup>th</sup> district, told the crowd to “rise up and replace incumbents who won’t act on climate.” Others affirmed similar themes, one student from Newark Academy pointed out that: “Adults are acting like children and children are acting like adults.” and “we need leaders who are not just motivated by personal ambition.”

Numerous groups were represented at the gathering including the Sierra Club, Clean Water Action, local religious groups and more. The fledgling Sunrise group appears to be a group we will hear more from in the future.

More info: [www.sunrisemovement.org](http://www.sunrisemovement.org)

### Sierra Club host Assembly Candidate

On September 11<sup>th</sup> Christine Clark, Democratic Candidate for the state assembly from the 26<sup>th</sup> district, spoke to the Loantaka Group of the Sierra Club NJ at the library of the Chatham’s. The 26<sup>th</sup> district is comprised of portions of Essex, Morris and Passaic Counties. Christine was at the right spot. She is running in her words an “environmentally focused campaign.” She describes herself as an “unabashed progressive” and that she is an “activist and always has been.” It makes sense that the Sierra Club of NJ has endorsed her campaign. Her activism has extended across many areas but as she says she is a “true environmentalist.” The district has not elected a Democrat since 1982 which means Clark has a tough challenge. The wild card in all assembly races this year is that it is the top of the ticket which means turn out is going to be the most important factor in many races. The Democratic candidates from the 21<sup>st</sup> district, Lisa Mandelblatt and Stacey Gunderman will be at the October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting at the library of the Chatham’s at 7:30PM. The meeting is open to all.



### The “Facts Matter” Guy Spreads the Facts at the Climate Strike



Do you recognize this man? This is Jack Gavin of West Caldwell. Jack likes to be referred to as the “Facts Matter” guy. You will find Jack at most large gatherings occurring across our region. Jack’s mission is to distribute as many “Facts Matter” buttons, pocket constitutions and other material as possible. Jack was present at Friday’s Climate Strike event at the steps of the Morristown Town Hall. Jack says he got his start on his mission to fight for facts when Trump took office. He like many at these events express their frustration with a government that they believe does not want to speak or hear the facts. Look for Jack at the next protest event occurring in your area.

Truth Matters NP is edited by Allen Swanson. All content unless otherwise indicated was written by Allen Swanson. The newsletter is associated with the web site [lookingleftnj.com](http://lookingleftnj.com). Email comments, questions, suggestions to: [lookingleftnj@gmail.com](mailto:lookingleftnj@gmail.com).