

The Next Generation of Environmental Management **“Working with Communities to Address their Greatest Environmental Concerns”**

The Department of Environmental Protection has made great strides in protecting and preserving our natural resources over the past four decades. The environmental and public health issues we face today are not the same as they were when the agency first began. Our response to challenges in the past afforded us large environmental gains. Using these same responses today may not provide similar results. The Department must adapt to ensure that the rate of environmental improvements keeps pace with current and future conditions. The five goals will ensure the Department looks across all programs and media in a comprehensive regional approach to achieve results valued by the residents and shaped by the characteristics of each region of the state.

Our path forward requires that we expand on our successes, learn from past challenges and evolve to the next generation of environmental protection. We will focus on outcomes which will improve the quality of life for all New Jersey residents and visitors.

Goal 1 – Comprehensive Regional Environmental Management

Alignment of planning, regulatory, enforcement, and property acquisition programs to ensure the Department successfully implements a more comprehensive environmental approach that supports our environmental mission, the State Strategic Plan, community concerns and recognizes a commitment to vibrant regions.

- Develop a new comprehensive regional approach for addressing environmental and public health conditions and issues that are most pertinent today.
- Focus on improving the quality of life for all communities within New Jersey, prioritizing those most burdened.
- Establish a unified DEP implementation strategy that successfully achieves the intentions of the New Jersey State Strategic Plan, which includes land procurements, protecting water quality, providing high quality parks, and advancing our environmental mission.
- Ensure financial programs and incentives are aligned with the objectives of this goal.
- Ensure regulations work in concert with each other and eliminate cross program conflicts that undermine the DEP’s ability to achieve the greatest net-environmental gain or the least possible negative impact.
- Ensure preservation, mitigation and compensation reflects the relative resource values.
- Pilot regional comprehensive management approaches that contribute to developing our overall goal strategy.

Goal 2 – Utilize Barnegat Bay Restoration Project as a model to establish watershed based protection and enhancement of all New Jersey’s surface water bodies

Implement Governor’s Ten Point Comprehensive Plan of Action for Barnegat Bay; expand this plan as we discover new issues and solutions so as to address water quality concerns specific to impacted surface water bodies throughout the State.

- Clarify how key programs interact to ensure successful implementation.
- Identify and implement program specific and cross program opportunities to build upon the Governor’s Ten Point Plan.
- Expand model to other water sheds/ water bodies.

Goal 3 – Restoration and Enhanced Protection in Environmentally Overburdened Communities

Develop a new paradigm for the protection of communities overburdened by environmental stresses through a multimedia approach focusing on human health and the environmental impacts; ensure that we work in concert to address issues related to air, water, preservation, acquisition, and affordable access to parks.

- Continued development and utilization of the Cumulative Impact Method.
- Ensure cross program coordination to achieve the greatest net-environmental gain or the least possible negative effect impacting the public’s quality of life.
- Expand the number of DEP staff dedicated to working in and with communities to ensure a thorough understanding of issues and potential solutions.

Goal 4 – Sustainable Parks

Establish a financially viable and stable system with dedicated funding sources that sustain our Parks with minimal General Fund reliance.

- Expand mission appropriate amenities to enhance visitor experience and generate additional revenue.
- Partner with organizations and entities to improve programming and enhance public services.
- Establish new directions in strategy, funding and revenue to ensure all parks remain open.
- Implement operational excellence strategy to ensure the highest quality experience.
- Ensure affordable access to maximize the enjoyment of our public lands and water resources.

Goal 5 – A Clean and Renewable Energy Strategy for Public Health, Environmental Protection and Economic Vitality

Accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy.

- Promote a diverse portfolio of new, clean, in-State generation.
- Capitalize on emerging technologies for transportation and power production; encourage the creation and expansion of clean energy solutions.
- Speed deployment of solar, wind, sustainable biomass, geothermal, alternative fuels and vehicles, and innovative technologies like energy storage, fuel cells and wave/tidal energy.
- Adopt siting policies that minimize impacts to land, water, wildlife and sensitive habitats. Align state incentives to those siting policies.
- Address technological, market and policy barriers to rapid scale-up of renewable energy, such as immature energy storage technology, aging electrical grid infrastructure, and the need for energy load balancing.
- Establish policies to support sustainable renewable energy goals for the state including but not limited to siting, incentives, barriers, and economic impact.
- Identify methods for quantifying and communicating the benefits of renewable energy, including environmental, health, and economic benefits and avoided costs.
- Coordinate with other state agencies to ensure consistent renewable energy policies throughout state government, including alignment with the Energy Master Plan and the State Strategic Plan.