

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
Office of Policy and Planning
Attention: Draft EMP Comments
Two Gateway Center
Newark, New Jersey 07102



July 25, 2008

137 West Hanover St.
Trenton, NJ 08618

Dear Jeanne Fox,

New Jersey Future would like to commend the Board of Public Utilities for their work in creating the Energy Master Plan. Governor Corzine has set a bold target for the reduction of energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in the state, and the completion of the Energy Master Plan is a significant first step. DEP's forthcoming greenhouse gas report will be an important second step. As you know, compact land use patterns are essential for reducing *both* energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, and as such, will be addressed in both reports. We recommend that the BPU find ways to work with the Governor's Office and DEP to integrate the land use components of the Energy Master Plan and DEP's forthcoming Greenhouse Gas Report (once available) to ensure coordinated implementation.

Compact land use patterns reduce energy use in a number of ways: higher density development can be heated and cooled more efficiently; infrastructure and utility costs are lessened, and transportation needs are simplified. Potential savings from the transportation sector are especially dramatic: transportation accounts for over 70% of gasoline use in New Jersey and over one-third of the state's greenhouse gas emissions, comprising the largest single sector in New Jersey's carbon footprint. Moreover, emissions from the transportation sector are projected by the DEP to continue to be the fastest growing sector in the state.

Reaching the Governor's 2020 and 2050 greenhouse gas reduction goals will be impossible without substantial reductions in emissions from the transportation sector. While there are efficiencies to be gained through measures such as increased fuel economy standards and reducing the carbon content of fuel, reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) must necessarily be part of that effort as well. Reversing the long-term trend of VMT growth in New Jersey will require a fundamental shift in the way we approach land use and development, shifting away from an auto-centric development pattern to one that provides a range of mobility options. Fortunately, the framework for such a transformation already exists in the state in the form of the State Development and Redevelopment Plan. New Jersey Future has been working with the DEP on their plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through land use strategies, and look forward seeing their report. This report should incorporate the same rigorous goals and targets that characterize the Energy Master Plan, as well as frequent public review and updates, and demonstrate measurable yearly progress toward its goals.

Because land use patterns will be addressed in two separate state-level documents – the Energy Master Plan and DEP’s forthcoming Greenhouse Gas Report – these reports should ultimately be integrated in some fashion. This will raise the visibility of the land use planning solutions and help ensure the high-level coordination of multiple agencies needed for implementation. It will also help facilitate a holistic, ongoing process of measurement, public input and review.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Energy Master Plan. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Peter Kasabach
Executive Director, NJ Future

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PK' followed by a stylized flourish.

cc:

Lisa Jackson, Commissioner, DEP
Adam Zellner, Governor’s Chief of Policy
Edward McKenna, Chairman, State Planning Commission