



New Jersey
Work Environment Council
Safe, secure jobs and a healthy, sustainable environment

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Energy Master Plan Session 3 – Clean & Reliable Transportation

Thursday, September 20

Good morning. I'm Norah Langweiler, campaign organizer for Jersey Renew's at the New Jersey Work Environment Council. Jersey Renew's is a coalition of 60 organizations committed to state-based action on climate change that was launched in January, 2017 in recognition of the urgency of our climate crisis, and partially in response to a lack of leadership at the federal level. We are a broad coalition of more than 60 organizations that includes labor, faith, environment, community, and health organizations pushing for increased investment in clean energy infrastructure, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and good, family-sustaining jobs. More than 1,200 people have signed our petition supporting those goals and we are just getting started.

As we know, climate change is the pivotal issue of our time. What we do today, and what we haven't done in the past, will impact us for generations. Climate change isn't just a future hazard. It has real consequences – today in massive storms, fever heat, and ever-present allergens wreaking havoc across New Jersey.

Nearly 50% of greenhouse gas emissions in New Jersey come from the transportation sector; light-duty automobiles, like a standard family car, are the dominant source of transportation emissions, but heavy-duty vehicles, like diesel trucks for industrial or commercial use and buses for public transportation, are also a significant source of emissions. Particulate matter from the transportation sector contributes to poor air quality and negatively impacts residents' health.

To address these issues, we need to invest, significantly in the electrification of transportation.

Every traveled mile converted to electric is 70% cleaner than a gas-powered mile.

Increasing the number of electric vehicles on the road is a crucial step to meeting the state's emissions reduction goals. We need to formally endorse the Zero Emissions Vehicle program and ensure at least 330,000 plug-in vehicles in New Jersey by 2025 and 2 million electric vehicles by 2035. By 2040, we'd like to see 90% of new car sales be zero emissions.

Along with increasing the sales of electric vehicles, the state needs to invest in charging infrastructure to have a total of 300 fast charging locations with at least 100 in high-traffic corridors for commuters and freight by 2025 on the way to 500 by 2025.

New Jersey residents, particularly those in urban areas like Newark and Camden, are subject to high concentrations of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, resulting in higher rates of asthma and other respiratory illnesses. **In New Jersey, one in 13 people have asthma.** So we

must recognize that we have a problem, from both a climate perspective, and with regard to public health.

According to the American Lung Association's *2017 State of the Air Report*, eleven counties in NJ received a failing grade on air quality. Out of the most polluted cities, Newark, was rated number 10 and Camden was rated number 20 for ozone pollution. Camden was also rated #12 for year round particle pollution.

Buses, particularly older ones, drive at low speeds in highly populated areas all day, pushing diesel emissions and particulate matter directly into our communities. Transitioning our public fleet of buses and cars will improve the air quality of urban areas where these vehicles are most put to use.

The state needs to lead by example and convert public transportation and the public fleet to electric which can help to meet emissions reduction goals and improve air quality, achieving multiple goals at once.

The Port Authority of NY & NJ are some of the most polluted in the state – predominately harming the low-income communities that reside nearby. Reinstating the truck ban from the early aughts that would require clean trucks (as long as the cost is not translated to the workers) would help to significantly reduce the air pollution that plagues these vulnerable communities.

Finally, New Jersey needs to invest in multiple modes of transportation by prioritizing investments to public transportation, repairing critical infrastructure, and developing walkable and bike-able communities where jobs, housing and amenities are within easy reach of each other while maintaining transparency, accountability and equity.