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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Statements and Comments submitted to BPU Regarding Energy and Green Infrastructure Principles  
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Good Afternoon BPU and Everyone,

Specific to *energy and green infrastructure principles*, I hereby submit two critical steps that need to be included beyond the design, mechanics, and assumed advantageous economics of clean sustainable energy. **BPU** stating commitment to same in the *NJ State Energy Master Plan* is the backbone.

1. Local commitment to advancing “*100 percent renewable energy efforts*” should be included in municipal Master Plan goals and objectives. Local land use plays a very critical role here, not to be ignored. We all know NJ is a *Quasi-Home Rule State*, so don’t expect the top-down approach to happen easily. Lots of examples of protracted and failed NJ State attempts to dictate policy and procedure from the pulpit.

Examples: COAH and the recent “Micro-brewery new rules” fiasco. Early local *buy-in* is clutch.

2. The clean energy conversion process requires *Local Resiliency Planning* to occur in tandem. Yes, energy production facilities and infrastructure delivery systems must be resilient to whatever nature delivers. Resiliency Planning is not only about hardware design and identifying vulnerabilities; a “must have” is local engagement by groups and individuals recognizing the value of working together toward the mutually beneficial “resilient community” outcome. This community cohesion plays a critical role in creating a resilient community. I see time, and time again, that “*an active and on-board visionary Mayor with good municipal staff*” makes or breaks community cohesion and engagement. This level of engagement delivers successful local resiliency outcomes; it’s now or never.

Thank you – good direction for the green energy movement!

Joe Augustyn, PP, AICP

Best Regards,

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