



**NJEDA**



# RGGG

Regional  
Greenhouse  
Gas Initiative

## Your Climate Solution Ideas **Results**

*August 2022*

# YOUR CLIMATE SOLUTION IDEAS RESULTS

## Purpose

Every three years, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, and New Jersey Board of Public Utilities develop a [Strategic Funding Plan](#). This plan outlines how funds from the state's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) will be distributed towards projects and programs designed to help meet its climate, clean energy, and equity goals. In preparation for the next Strategic Funding Plan (covering the investment period of 2023-2025), the agencies invited the public to participate in an online voting platform, called "Your Climate Solution Ideas". Input collected via this voting platform will be play a role to help inform the agencies on public priorities for RGGI funding. Along with the input from the public, the agencies will need to consider broader technology capabilities, total carbon impact, speed to implementation, long term ecosystem development, to name a few, when determining the final draft funding initiatives.

From June 9th through July 11th, the public voted on their priority climate change solutions. Through the "Your Climate Solution Ideas" voting period, over 241,000 votes were collected from approximately 6,000 New Jerseyans across the state.

## How the Tool Works

The "Your Climate Solution Ideas" tool presented users with two randomly selected climate change solution ideas from a broad list initially developed by the agencies. Users then selected the option that was more important to them or submitted their own idea. User submitted ideas were added into the list of climate change solutions for other voters to consider (over 150 ideas in total). The tool ranked all the ideas in the system based on the likelihood that a given solution will be favored over any other randomly selected solution in the list [using an algorithm](#).

## How Scoring Works

### How The Results are Categorized

The statements voted on in the tool were classified into the following categories:

#### Buildings

- Energy efficiency
- Heating solutions
- Building materials
- Thermostats
- Training programs

#### Carbon Sequestration

- Trees/forests
- Seagrass
- Tidal wetlands
- Native plants
- Green infrastructure

#### Energy Grid

- Clean energy
- Nuclear power
- Solar on landfills
- Offshore wind
- Energy storage

#### Organic Waste

- Recycling
- Composting
- Food donation
- Waste tracking
- Carbon labels

#### Transportation

- Electric vehicles
- Port equipment
- Rideshare
- Public transit
- Work from Home
- Walkability/biking

Score is the **probability** that a statement will be chosen or preferred by a user over any other randomly selected statement.

## How to Read the Results

Climate Solution Statement

Statement Score (probability that the statement will be chosen over any other paired statement)

**Statement**

**Score**

**Author**

1	Fund projects that improve city blocks by adding trees, improving energy efficiency, and bringing properties up to code	68	Agency
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How the statement was submitted. A statement was either written by NJDEP, NJEDA, NJBPU (Agency), or is a public submission (User)

# BUILDINGS

Statement	Score	Author
1 Fund projects that improve city blocks by adding trees, improving energy efficiency, and bringing properties up to code	68	Agency
2 Build and install solar panel canopies with energy storage systems on top of parking lots	68	Agency
3 Install solar rooftops on all public housing	66	Agency
4 Increase funding for installing electric heating and cooling systems that don't rely on fossil fuels (air/ground source heat pumps)	65	Agency
5 Replace streetlights with modern, high efficiency, LED bulbs that use less electricity	65	Agency
6 Fund the use of passive solar design techniques in all new residential and commercial buildings	64	User
7 Give homeowners incentives for investing in energy efficiency improvements (e.g., weatherization)	64	Agency
8 Fund cold climate air source electric heat pumps in order to transition to 100% clean electric by 2035	63	User
9 Fund programs that replace dark, heat absorbing surfaces with cool roofs or white pavement in urban areas to reduce urban heat	60	Agency
10 Offer households incentives for installing rooftop solar	59	Agency
11 Fund health and safety upgrades in homes and rental properties to allow for improved energy efficiency	58	Agency
12 Provide low interest, no-money-down, long term loans for renewable energy projects at peoples' homes	58	Agency
13 Provide money to completely repair, modernize and electrify housing for people in need	58	Agency
14 Use money to encourage companies to recapture highly warming greenhouse gases (HFCs) in air conditioning and refrigeration systems	56	Agency
15 Offer money or rebates to electrify home heating systems and appliances to improve indoor air quality and public health	54	Agency
16 Incentivize and support converting all commercial, fossil fuel-powered lawn maintenance tools and lawnmowers to all-electric by 2028	54	User
17 Provide money for residential solar battery storage systems	54	Agency
18 Provide financing for clean, localized electric power generation for commercial or industrial facilities	52	Agency
19 Provide money to help electric utilities plant trees near homes and buildings to conserve energy and reduce utility costs	52	Agency
20 Provide money to residents who switch their electricity to renewable energy sources (e.g., third party energy supplier)	51	Agency
21 Provide funding for geothermal heating systems	51	Agency
22 Create training programs to help educate people on clean energy to secure jobs or start businesses in clean energy	50	Agency
23 Fund training in energy efficiency and clean energy for builders and trades	48	User
24 Provide business loans to help businesses start or grow into clean energy work like solar installation and vehicle charger repair	48	Agency
25 Fund large-scale battery storage for commercial buildings and large multi-family housing buildings	46	Agency
26 Fund increased attic insulation for older homes	46	User
27 Provide low interest, no-money-down, long-term loans for renewable energy projects at businesses	46	Agency
28 Start a program that allows households and other buildings to directly buy or sell surplus renewable energy with each other	46	Agency
29 Fund research into zero-emission building materials	45	Agency
30 Fund replacement of backup diesel generators with cleaner options	45	Agency
31 Provide rebates for electric lawn mowers or electric farm equipment	44	Agency
32 Provide money to install smart meters that help customers track, understand, and reduce their electricity use	36	Agency
33 Offer incentives for residential kitchens to install modern electric stoves (induction cooktops)	34	Agency
34 Provide funding for businesses, offices, and stores to install programable lighting	32	User
35 Offer money for commercial kitchens to install modern electric stoves (induction cooktops)	29	Agency
36 Fund a building energy efficiency rating system (Home Energy Score)	28	User
37 Provide funding for grid connected thermostats	27	User

# CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Statement	Score	Author
1 Reforest degraded agricultural lands to restore the land's productivity and associated environmental and community benefits	75	Agency
2 Fund wetland and forest restoration in areas where NJDEP has bought out homes damaged or destroyed in major flood events	73	Agency
3 Fund tidal wetland restoration projects to sequester carbon, protect coastal communities, and improve fish/wildlife health	72	Agency
4 Fund green infrastructure projects which use trees to address stormwater issues and provide public benefit	71	Agency
5 Support community tree planting in urban areas to reduce heat, conserve energy, and sequester carbon dioxide	71	Agency
6 Support the restoration of forest health and function in degraded public and private forests	70	Agency
7 Fund sea grass restoration projects which can store carbon below ground for hundreds of years	69	Agency
8 Provide money or land to farmers who pursue sustainable farming techniques that can capture carbon	68	Agency
9 Fund the creation of "mini-forests" in municipalities and cities to address climate and biodiversity	67	User
10 Fund the restoration of Atlantic white cedar (a historically widespread species that improves water quality)	64	Agency
11 Funding to help municipal tree commissions increase tree canopy on public lands (parks, fields, green space, etc.)	63	User
12 Support management activities to protect and enhance the integrity and resiliency of existing forests	63	Agency
13 Inventory and prioritize tidal wetlands and marsh migration areas for land conservation through purchase and/or easement	62	Agency
14 Protect undeveloped upland areas (land lying higher than where tidal flooding occurs) that will become salt marshes as sea level rises	62	Agency
15 Provide money to enhance public benefit of private forests for water quality, climate, forest health, resiliency, and habitat	60	Agency
16 Encourage coastal habitat conservation and restoration through formal carbon sequestration incentives or carbon permit program	59	Agency
17 Identify and reduce causes of degradation and destruction of high-carbon coastal systems	55	Agency
18 Fund monitoring of coastal and wetland habitats to be able to better estimate and protect their carbon sequestration value	54	Agency
19 Provide money to counties, cities and towns to create ordinances that encourage maintaining/increasing tree canopy on all properties	53	Agency
20 Funding to support long-term urban street tree maintenance	51	User
21 Fund the development of best management practices for increasing carbon sequestration in natural and working lands	51	Agency
22 Fund living shoreline projects on private property which protect, restore, and enhance habitats using natural materials	50	Agency
23 Provide money for tree plantings on school and university properties for environmental and educational purposes	49	Agency
24 Provide money or tax breaks for the reuse of urban wood to decrease reliance on forests and stimulate economic development	49	Agency
25 Sell carbon credits from habitat restoration projects and use the proceeds to fund conservation and restoration that stores carbon	46	Agency
26 Create or fund training programs that help people gain skills necessary to properly care for and manage forests	45	Agency
27 Fund the maintenance and monitoring of carbon sequestering projects by creating a voluntary wetland stewards program	44	Agency
28 Support participation in existing forest carbon markets in New Jersey	43	Agency
29 Create a voluntary wetland stewardship program that encourages wetland restoration on private lands by offering money	43	Agency
30 Provide money or tax breaks for commercial, and industrial properties to plant/maintain trees	43	Agency
31 Calculate the carbon sequestration provided by projects funded by the Natural Climate Solutions grants to improve decision making	36	Agency

# ENERGY GRID

Statement	Score	Author
1 Fund the improvement and upgrading of the electricity grid to successfully and efficiently transfer renewable energy	76	User
2 Build solar parks on top of landfills and brownfield sites in the state to create green energy	75	User
3 Build solar at a housing complex, school, or library in overburdened communities that provides energy to the neighborhood	75	Agency
4 Provide money to build systems that store the energy created by renewables like solar and wind power	72	Agency
5 Fund research and development of tidal power to generate renewable electricity along New Jersey's coast	67	User
6 Use funding to help senior and assisted living communities install on-site renewable energy systems	58	User
7 Fund the construction of more onshore wind turbines as well as offshore	58	User
8 Fund district heating systems that provide multiple buildings clean energy from a centralized source in urban areas	57	Agency
9 Support testing and innovation on clean energy generation and storage technologies, to improve safety and efficiency	56	Agency
10 Provide free training to volunteer firefighters & first responders on how to safely work with clean energy technologies in emergencies	44	Agency
11 Offer money or tax breaks to add new, pre-built structures and technologies on the outside of existing buildings to conserve energy	44	Agency
12 Invest in small scale nuclear reactors to back the electric grid while using renewable energy to meet additional needs	38	User
13 Create a support office that can streamline the process to launch a market for localized renewable energy sources	36	Agency
14 Use funds to support development of more electricity generated through nuclear power	32	User

# ORGANIC WASTE REDUCTION

Statement	Score	Author
1 Offer money for anaerobic digester systems that turn waste into renewable energy at wastewater treatment plants, landfills and colleges	71	Agency
2 Provide money for increasing cold storage and transportation of excess food for farmers and organizations that feed the hungry	62	Agency
3 Use money to prevent food waste and rescue food through community grants	56	Agency
4 Offer money to support on-site composting at facilities that generate large amounts of food waste	55	Agency
5 Support zero waste initiatives	51	User
6 Use money to expand food donation programs across the state	50	Agency
7 Fund a grant program to support municipal food waste collection (curbside composting)	49	User
8 Fund more public and private receptacles for compost, glass/metal, and plastics	49	User
9 Fund development of a food waste tracking app that alerts drivers to recover excess food and deliver it to community non-profits	47	Agency
10 Offer money to create food composting programs at schools	46	Agency
11 Fund education and support for at-home composting programs that redirect household food waste from going to landfills	45	User
12 Offer money to develop community composting programs	45	Agency
13 Fund carbon labeling for food products, which allows consumers to make educated decisions on the carbon impact of their food choices	35	Agency
14 Fund the creation of regional manure management facilities	30	Agency

# TRANSPORTATION

Statement	Score	Author
1 Fund projects that improve and expand commuter trains, electric buses, and ferry services to reach more New Jersey communities	67	Agency
2 Deliver grants to schools so they can electrify their school bus fleets, which could provide back-up power to the school when needed	65	Agency
3 Provide funding to electrify transit buses and create high-power recharging systems	62	Agency
4 Purchase the development rights of abandoned and unused railways to repurpose for bike paths or light rail routes	61	User
5 Provide funding for electrification of school buses	58	Agency
6 Expand incentives for New Jersey consumers to buy electric vehicles	57	Agency
7 Make public transit more accessible by expanding service	57	Agency
8 Provide better public transportation, car & ride-sharing options in rural New Jersey, including low-income help for Uber/Lyft-type transport	55	User
9 Provide funding for electrification of medium and heavy-duty vehicles such as delivery trucks	55	Agency
10 Provide money or incentives to local governments to make changes to zoning that support more walking, biking, and less driving	52	Agency
11 Fund infrastructure projects that support bicycling and walking in cities and towns	51	Agency
12 Fund bike lanes, bike shares and safe walking paths that connect people to bus stops and train stations	51	Agency
13 Provide funding to create a universal, statewide vehicle electrification incentive program for local governments	50	Agency
14 Fund fare-free public transportation pilot programs (eliminate fares on buses and trains) in urban areas	50	Agency
15 Incentivize innovative reuse of electric vehicle batteries for renewable energy solutions	50	Agency
16 Adopt "Cash for Clunkers 2.0" to replace older, inefficient vehicles with electric vehicles	49	Agency
17 Provide money to gas stations to install solar canopies and charging stations	49	User
18 Fund areas in downtowns where electric vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians are supported and prioritized (zero-emission zones)	49	Agency
19 Establish a seed and bulb distribution and education program for native plants and trees in the state	48	User
20 Use funds to lower public transportation costs	47	User
21 Fund electric vehicles and charging stations for local government fleets and/or visitors	46	Agency
22 Make public transit more accessible to those with disabilities	46	Agency
23 Create training programs that help people gain skills to get jobs in the electric vehicle industry	46	Agency
24 Fund electric equipment at ports, rail yards, and warehouses	45	Agency
25 Provide funding to test innovative clean transportation technologies, like using electric vehicles as back-up generators	45	Agency
26 Provide funding for clean transportation direct to workplaces	45	Agency
27 Provide financing (like a lease) to help local businesses purchase electric vans, trucks, or buses	44	Agency
28 Provide tax incentives and/or funding for multi-dwelling units to install electric vehicle charging stations	42	User
29 Fund hydrogen-powered local electric generation for recharging high-power electric vehicles	42	Agency
30 Offer municipalities funding for expanding bike lanes and bike paths	41	Agency
31 Provide money to local governments to provide free or discounted transit fares/cards to residents	41	Agency
32 Give funding to families to install EV charging stations in their single-family homes	41	User
33 Use money to support electric vehicle ride sharing programs especially in under-resourced communities	40	Agency
34 Use money to support electric vehicle ride hailing programs especially under-resourced communities	40	Agency
35 Provide incentives to promote high density housing development and walkable communities	39	User
36 Provide money to businesses and other organizations that allow employees to work from home or work remotely	39	Agency
37 Use funds to promote work-from-home	37	User
38 Provide money for businesses and other organizations to provide free or discounted transit fares/cards to employees	36	Agency

<b>Statement</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Author</b>
39 Provide financing for companies that want to create electric vehicle charger hubs	36	Agency
40 Provide free education and support to people or businesses looking to purchase electric vehicles or trucks	35	Agency
41 Provide incentives to businesses that offer ridesharing, bicycling sharing or carsharing programs to employees	34	Agency
42 Fund hydrogen fueled vehicle pilot projects	33	Agency
43 Offer money to businesses that provide electric vehicle charging stations for employees	31	Agency
44 Give consumers money to purchase electric bikes, bicycles, and scooters	30	Agency
45 Provide funding or financing support to people who want to start or grow businesses in the electric vehicle industry	29	Agency
46 Increase funding for vehicle idling enforcement to reduce unnecessary emissions from vehicles	28	User
47 Offer money to businesses that get their employees to drive less	27	Agency
48 Increase funding to ferry service	23	User
49 Fund electric bike share programs	22	Agency
50 Fund parking validation for electric vehicles parked in downtowns	22	Agency
51 Increase the number of and signage for "no-idling" zones for vehicles	22	User
52 Provide money or incentives to cities and towns that reduce or eliminate minimum parking space requirements	20	Agency
53 Offer money to businesses to pay employees for not using a business parking spot	11	Agency