



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Office of Planning Advocacy

Acting Executive Director Message, Walter C. Lane, PP, AICP

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Office of Planning Advocacy's "News You Can Use." We plan to send these e-news updates quarterly to keep you abreast of the latest planning and development news.

I also want to take this opportunity to say how honored I am to lead the Office of Planning Advocacy where we have the opportunity to engage with and assist our planning partners as they work to advance their local planning priorities. The launch of this e-new update comes at a critical juncture in the history of planning in New Jersey. During the course of this year, our office will collaborate with State, County and municipal agencies, along with the citizens of this great state, to successfully complete and adopt a new State Development and Redevelopment Plan. The Office of Planning Advocacy's dedicated team has conducted amazing work over these past few months to advance the new State Plan through the Cross Acceptance process. Our Office stands ready to serve as a resource to all the residents of New Jersey. I look forward to working with all of our partners.

Office of Planning Advocacy Initiatives

Update to the State Development and Redevelopment Plan

The New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan (SDRP), or State Plan, is in the process of being updated. The update is overseen by the Office of Planning Advocacy (OPA) staff and the State Planning Commission (SPC). The SPC approved the Preliminary State Development and Redevelopment Plan, or Preliminary State Plan, on December 4, 2024 and was released on December 6, 2024. Explore the [Preliminary State Development and Redevelopment Plan](#).

Citizen's Guide

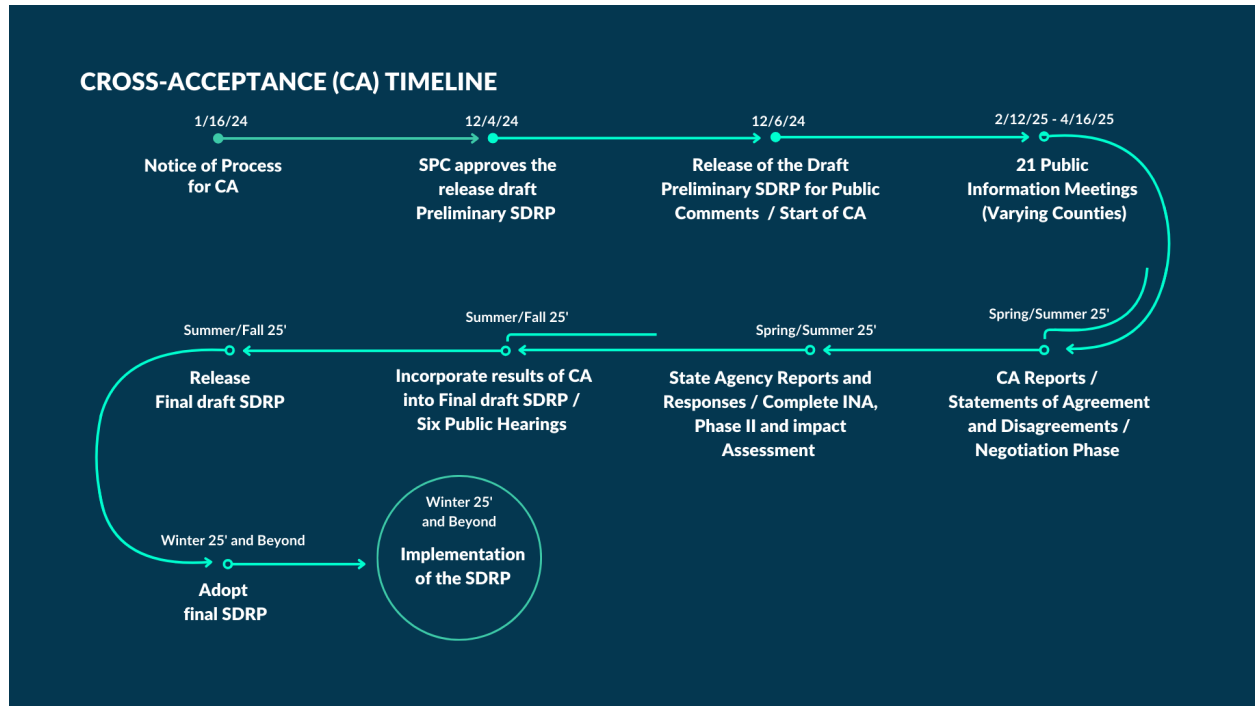
OPA has also released a [Citizen's Guide](#)! We have designed the Citizen's Guide to ensure that all members of the public can engage with the Plan, explore its goals and objectives, and understand how it will impact the future of New Jersey's communities. Our intention is to make the information accessible to everyone, providing a transparent overview of the State Plan and its benefits to the residents of our state.

Cross Acceptance

The release of the Preliminary State Plan starts Cross Acceptance, which is a process of comparing statewide planning policies at government levels with the purpose of attaining a high level of consistency among municipal, county, regional, and State plans and the State Plan. Through this process, various stakeholders are able to partner to create a more meaningful and viable State Plan. To accomplish this,

municipal, county, and regional master plans must be coordinated regionally with each “local vision” of growth and the community taken into consideration during the process. To learn more about Cross Acceptance, please visit OPA’s [Cross Acceptance website](#).

The image below illustrates a generalized Cross Acceptance timeline.



PUBLIC MEETING

On the Draft Preliminary State Development & Redevelopment Plan



April 9, 2025
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Snow Date:

Apr. 10, 2025 - 5-6:30 pm

Hudson County Dept. of Aging &
Veterans Affairs, Conference Room
830 Bergen Ave. 3rd fl.
Jersey City, NJ 07306

- Join us and Hudson County to learn about the draft preliminary State Development and Redevelopment Plan and the Cross-Acceptance process.
- Attendees will have the opportunity to comment on, and provide feedback on the draft Preliminary State Plan.



To review the draft Preliminary State Plan, visit here:

[https://www.nj.gov/state/bac/planning/documents/update-to-state-plan/Draft%20Preliminary%20SDRP%20\(SPC%20Approved%2012.4.2024\).pdf](https://www.nj.gov/state/bac/planning/documents/update-to-state-plan/Draft%20Preliminary%20SDRP%20(SPC%20Approved%2012.4.2024).pdf)

For more information on the Office of Planning Advocacy (OPA) visit:
<https://nj.gov/state/planning/index.shtml>.

For any questions contact OPA at stateplan.comments@sos.nj.gov.

For inquiries contact Byron Nicholas at bnicholas@hcnj.us.



For more details on the State Planning Commission Public Information Meetings, please view the [2025 Meeting Schedule](#).

Public Comments

OPA wants to hear from you regarding the Preliminary State Plan.

Share your comments and input on the Update by:

- Completing [this survey](#),
- Emailing us at stateplan.comments@sos.nj.gov, or
- Leaving a voicemail message at 1-855-924-2801, passcode 2813.

Online Tools

[Interactive Locator Map](#)

View spatial information about locations in New Jersey using this tool geared towards regional planning efforts in the state. The mapping of the NJ State Development and Redevelopment Plan, Smart Growth Areas, and many other general planning related information is available in the tool.

[NJ Smart Growth Explorer BETA](#)

The Smart Growth Explorer is an interactive map that provides a digitally accessible visualization for all NJ residents and decision-makers to understand factors of development, redevelopment, and environmental sensitivity across NJ's 564 municipalities. Developed by OPA and the NJ Map team in Rowan University's Geospatial Research Lab, the website, map, and associated tools are designed to be freely available, publicly accessible and easy-to-use for county and local governments. Please note that the Explorer, while supported by OPA, is not part of the official State Plan Policy Map. Maps and datasets found on this site are for planning activities only and cannot and should not be used for any regulatory purposes – this applies to both parcel and state-wide levels. The information on this website should be used only as a guide; an on-site investigation is the only true way to know which feature exist on the ground.

Available Funding

Renewable Energy

[Community Energy Solar Program \(CESP\)](#) – (Incentive)

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' CSEP opened with a capacity block of 225 Megawatts (MW), fully subscribed, and later expanded by an additional 275 MW due to the Board Order. This expansion funnels to four Electrical Distribution Company (EDC) territories with specific megawatt allocations for each company: Atlantic City Electric (ACE), Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP&L), Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G), and Rockland Electric Company (RECO).

Registrants must submit a complete CSEP Initial Registration package through the [online portal](#), including all required documents as listed on the CSEP Initial [Registration Checklist](#).

The CSEP provides administrative set incentives to facilities supporting community solar installed in rooftops, floating solar, carports and canopies, contaminated sites (defined at NJSA 58:10B-1), landfills (defined at NJSA 14:8-1.2), and mining sites.

New registrations are on a first-come, first-served basis until the megawatt block for an EDC market segment is subscribed entirely or until the deadline of June 1, 2025.

- **The remaining EDC territory for capacity subscribers is Rockland Orange (RECO) at 4.8 MW out of 9 MW.**

Community Solar for Subscribers

The CSEP provides accessible solar energy for utility customers distant from their properties.

Use the [Community Solar Project Finder](#) to connect with community solar projects in your area.

Environmental Justice and Climate Resilience

Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking

Fordham University's Center for Community Engagement Learning is leading the Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program by EPA. The grant coordinators are working on facilitating the application approach to assist candidates who may not have the staff that supports grant applications.

Visit the [Regional TCTACs](#) for more grant updates and deadlines. [View application details.](#)

Applications will remain open while funding is available. The following cycle will review submissions received by March 31, 2025.

The grant applies to Region 2, which covers New York, New Jersey, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

In New Jersey, there is a primary focus on candidates from coastal communities that do not require financial hardship and environmental justice communities, as referred to in the NJDEP [listing](#) of overburdened communities.

State Actions

Transportation Retrofits

The Meadowland Bus Garage in Secaucus will undergo [expansion of electrical bus infrastructure due to the \\$99.5 million](#) grant by the FTA for NJ Transit. The construction has several phases, starting with charging equipment for 67 buses. Future phases include installing the infrastructure to expand the sites of 130 buses. The accommodation of electrical buses aligns with the [Zero-Emission Bus Transition Plan](#). This initiative also aligns with the [NJ Transit 10-year strategic plan](#), which includes a comprehensive transition and investment plan to convert its bus fleet to zero-emission to elevate clean energy options with a focus on urban dense communities.

Urban Agriculture

The [Urban Agriculture Strategies for the State of New Jersey](#) report focuses on statewide challenges and opportunities to develop and sustain urban agriculture in conjunction with improving legislation. The report provides imperative recommendations based on the NJDEP EJAC white paper. It also contains recent information through outreach efforts from NJ urban agriculture experts and nationwide case studies to benefit local planning, nonprofits, entrepreneurs, and urban growers.

The report features enhancing the urban agriculture mapping tool ([NJ Urban Agriculture Portal](#)) and expanding the urban farming sites outside the eight primary cities: Jersey City, Newark, Elizabeth, Paterson, Trenton, Camden, Bridgeton, and Atlantic City. It also explains the selected data that promotes building food security, composting, and growing produce and vegetation.

The [Newark Science and Sustainability](#) and [Urban Agriculture Cooperative](#) (UAC) are incredible NJ case studies that support fresh food initiatives such as their Farm-to-Table Co-op program and educational programming with health and wellness workshops and year-round kitchen workshops. To learn more, go to page 49 of the [report](#).

Climate Resilience

The [Climate Resilience Funding Tool](#) can assist and facilitate searching state and federal funding sources focusing on climate resilience, including brownfield remediation and redevelopment.