

From: [Allison Molinaro](#)
To: [comments_EMP](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on Energy Master Plan
Date: Monday, September 09, 2019 7:49:12 PM

Good Morning,

My name is Allie Molinaro from Parsippany, New Jersey, and I am writing to submit my comment on the Energy Master Plan. I am 25 and I hold a B.S. in Environmental Science and an M.S. in Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management.

First off, I would like to say thank you for creating such a detailed roadmap for transitioning NJ into a clean energy future; I am proud of our state for doing so. There are a few edits I would like to suggest:

1. Eliminate the use of source separated organic waste for energy production and anaerobic digestion for electricity production or natural gas pipeline injections from the list of recommended solutions (pg. 10).

- Most expensive way to produce electricity. Expensive to build and maintain—more so than solar, wind, and nuclear
- Promotes throwing away food that took land, water, pesticides, labor, transportation, etc. to produce
- Highly inefficient as incinerators consume more energy than they produce. Incinerators generally are only 19-27% efficient.
- Creates a “demand” for waste instead of trying to reduce it. More than 90% of waste in incinerators can be composted, reused, or recycled.
- Literally burns up valuable resources—organic waste can instead be composted to provide nutrient-rich soil.
- Fails to address the life-cycle impact of goods
- Emits harmful pollutants into air, soil, and water, including carbon dioxide, mercury, dioxin, and fine particulates.
- Contributes to environmental justice issues

*For source and more info see GAIA's website, www.no-burn.org

2. Reset 80% emissions reduction target from 2050 to 2035 and include interim targets and indicators every 3-5 years (Section IV).

- IPCC states we only have 12 years to prevent major climate change effects--2050 is too long a horizon
- Interim targets encourage swift action and help prevent procrastination

3. Calculate the impacts of methane using a 20-year horizon instead of 100-year horizon.

- Methane (CH₄) is more potent but dissolves more quickly than CO₂, making 100-year calculations inaccurate. CH₄ is 86 times more potent than CO₂ in the first 30 years as a greenhouse gas.
- The current Master Energy Plan underestimates greenhouse gas emissions by 27% as a result of using the 100-year CH₄ value.
- Please use the adjusted calculations to RECALCULATE AND READJUST the current targets.

4. Include the establishment of a moratorium on all fossil fuel projects.

- Existing Master Plan goals cannot be achieved with the continuation of fossil fuel use.
- If the state's 15 currently proposed fossil fuel projects become operational, New Jersey's greenhouse gas emissions will increase by 30%
- Pipelines destroy critical habitats and lower property value
- Fracking byproducts contaminate local waterways--harming wildlife, recreation, and drinking water

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to reading the revised Energy Master Plan.

Best,

Allie Molinaro