

**From:** [Kathryn Riss](#)  
**To:** [comments, EMP](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Draft Energy Master Plan  
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The latest scientific research tells us that we must quicken our pace and increase our efforts in order to prevent global climate catastrophe. They give us only ten years to act.

The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] report and the latest US National Climate Assessment call for rapid and immediate reductions in greenhouse gases: 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and net zero emissions around 2050. To meet these critical targets, our clean energy goals must be 100% renewable energy for electricity by 2035 and 100% renewable energy economy wide by 2050.

Unfortunately, the draft Energy Master Plan fails to address the urgency of the situation that scientists tell us New Jersey and the country faces. The Administration must strengthen and aggressively implement the final master plan as follows:

- \* The EMP must include a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects until greenhouse gasses are effectively regulated. However, the 12 projects currently planned would increase greenhouse gas emissions by more than 30%. We cannot afford the environmental degradation such an increase would cause. If we are to achieve 100% clean energy economy wide by 2050, as Governor Murphy has stated, new fossil fuel projects would need to be abandoned before the end of their useful life. That would waste public funds that would be much better spent invested in green, renewable energy production, storage and distribution. The EMP ignores the impacts that these fossil fuel infrastructure projects, if implemented, would have. This needs to be addressed.
- \* The goal of "100% carbon neutral energy" by 2050 is insufficient. It includes fossil fuel power plants and ineffective, market-based schemes such as carbon offsets, pollution credits, garbage incineration, nuclear power plants, and more fossil fuel power plants with carbon capture and storage, an expensive technology that has never shown any commercial or practical viability. These schemes disproportionately impact low income communities and communities of color. They would block progress towards achieving the 100% renewable energy economy we urgently need. Instead of "carbon neutral energy," our goal should be "100% clean renewable energy" by 2050.
- \* Greenhouse gasses must be regulated to achieve IPCC's 2030 target and GWRA's 2050 mandate. These pollutants are literally destroying the planet. Although the authority to regulate them in NJ currently exists, the EMP only proposes to "study" this issue. Further study is not necessary or appropriate. Rather, NJDEP must immediately regulate greenhouse gasses to meet these targets.
- \* All short and long term economic, social, health and total life cycle costs of burning fossil fuels must be calculated, disclosed and utilized by the EMP in setting policies. Money is not the only factor; health and safety risks from power plant pollution, soot, compressor stations and pipelines must also be taken into account. However, the EMP takes no notice of them.
- \* Methane emissions are a very serious threat to the future of our planet that must be addressed. Over a 20-year period, methane is 86 times more potent than CO2 as a greenhouse gas. However the EMP drastically understates the global warming impact of methane released by the extraction, distribution and burning of natural gas. While the EMP plans for policies over the next 30 years, it only considers the impact of methane over a 100-year horizon. This drastically obscures methane's actual effect on climate change in the near term by a factor of at least two-thirds. It also dramatically understates the amount of methane emissions occurring today and the reductions required by 2030 and 2050 in order to meet climate targets. NJ cannot afford to underestimate the danger of this major environmental risk factor in planning our energy future.
- \* The EMP lacks interim targets necessary to assess progress and readjust plans appropriately. As the final EMP is developed, please provide enough detailed plans to allow the public full participation in developing an adequate EMP that will not gloss over risks, dangers and challenges but will instead do the job of protecting New Jersey's future from flooding, fires, deforestation, and more devastating, extreme storms such as Superstorm Sandy. Half

measures and loose goals are not enough. We cannot afford to coddle the fossil fuel industry, whose pollution has contributed so much to the challenges we face. Rather, we must face up to the situation realistically, accurately assess the dangers we face, and do what must be done to prevent the climate catastrophe that scientists tell us is coming if we do not rapidly and effectively change course.

Thank you for your consideration of these very serious matters. Our future is in your hands.

Sincerely,

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