

**From:** [L.Ste](#)  
**To:** [comments\\_EMP](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments on the Draft Energy Management Plan for NJ (due 9/16/19)  
**Date:** Sunday, September 15, 2019 11:26:55 PM

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9/15/2019

To the Board of Public Utilities:

I am a former AT&T Vice President, and currently teach graduate students in the discipline of Systems Engineering at Stevens Institute of Technology. I am a volunteer Climate Reality Leader.

I am a Climate Voter.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft New Jersey Energy Management Plan. First I'd like to acknowledge the leadership of Governor Murphy and the NJ BPU for the June announcement of the large 3.5 GW offshore wind farm to be completed by 2030. This is a bold initial step by NJ to move the state towards deploying renewables, and reducing GHG. We need more bold steps to achieve the 50% reduction of GHG emissions by 2030, and even bolder actions to get NJ to 0 GHG emissions by 2050. We must make all our steps big and bold.

In Basking Ridge, we love our children and we want the best for them. We want them to grow-up in a world with a future. Not a world that looks like storm surges, flooding, wildfires, food shortages, climate crises.

Right now, the NJ BPU and the State have the keys to make a reasonable future for our children. We all need to do our share, but you must set a high bar to prevent climate catastrophe in NJ. *Time is of the essence! This is a Climate Emergency and NJ is at the front line of warming!*

I have 3 topics:

**1. Fossil Fuels versus Renewables:**

NJ needs a **full STOP** on new fossil fuel projects.

To be clear: No more fossil fuel growth, no more fracking infrastructure. (Includes: halt and decommission work relating to 8 pipelines, 4 gas power plants). Coal needs to be phased out on an accelerated basis. The BPU and NJ State agencies need to set aggressive goals for each utility to phase out fossil fuels and to rapidly increase renewable deployment.

We need specific targets, goals, and incentives for visionary **onshore** wind (which has a payback less than 1 year), and Community solar projects, such as NY, CA have through Community Choice Aggregation (CCA).

NJBPU should **seriously consider a carbon tax** on all fossil fuels, with tax revenues being used to help lower-income communities, retrain workers and to incentivize private solar and wind.

## **2. Consumption.**

NJ Government and the utilities **need to do a much better job** educating the public about what they can do and why **to reduce gas and electric consumption.**

The draft EMP contains consumption goals (-2.0% electric, only -.75% gas). First, these should be more aggressive. Second be clear that **they are annual goals starting now**, or 2020 at the latest. Third *to get off fossil fuels, the gas consumption goal must be more aggressive than the electric.* These consumption goals currently make no sense.

Best practice to **reduce consumption** includes smart meters: individual residence and business metering, with community sharing (setting up friendly competition). **Smart meters are less than 1% in NJ but 47% across the US. We are behind.**

I am an educated climate person, and I cannot easily find ways to reduce consumption, or how to get decent rebates on low GHG products. **The NJ Clean Energy Program is pretty invisible.** It should be prominently shown on our electric and gas bills, and the BPU should be working with the NJ utilities to set up aggressive incentives to switch to renewables all over NJ.

I have switched my energy supplier to a wind farm via Clean Choice Energy, but the suppliers on the "list" include many with fossil fuels profiles, and it is difficult to try and compare each one.

## **3. Process and measurements.**

Peter Drucker, the management guru, said, "You can't manage what you can't measure."

Overarching "goals" as listed in the EMP, are aspirational statements, not meaningful goals. Few of them are measurable. This will hinder NJ's progress towards 0% GHG emissions by 2050.

At a minimum, NJ's EMP needs to have good, well-defined goals, with measurable, annual objectives to meet the IPCC and National Climate Assessment's overarching goals (of 50% reduction in GHG by 2030 and 100% reduction in GHG by 2050).

**We need to be sure we are staying below NJ's GHG share of the 1.5 degrees C**

**warming.**

The EMP goals and annual objectives also need to be clear as to who (which entity: private, utility or government) is held accountable for meeting those goals.

Every goal in the EMP needs to clearly trace and sum up to the top-level goal of the IPCC to keep warming under 1.5 degrees C. Most importantly, these EMP goals may have to be adjusted (to become more stringent) as climate science data demands.

Every New Jersey'ian remembers the effects of Super Storm Sandy.

*We have an obligation to act quickly and decisively to prevent future storms and life impacts due to the Climate Crisis.*

The time is NOW for more **bold action** to Combat the Climate Crisis!

Please, members of the BPU and the Government, create a bold, aggressive Energy Management Plan.

*Act like your child's life depends on it.*

*Because it does!*

Thank you.

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