

PROPOSED FINAL DRAFT

STATE STRATEGIC PLAN:

**NEW JERSEY'S STATE DEVELOPMENT &
REDEVELOPMENT PLAN**



NEW JERSEY STATE PLANNING COMMISSION – Draft Date 10/11/11

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Executive Summary

New Jersey is at a crossroads. While rich in assets by way of its people, location and natural resources, New Jersey's process of planning for and regulating physical and economic development hampers its ability to compete for and capitalize on growth opportunities. The existing statewide planning framework positions the State on the defensive, fighting to retain a high quality of life being diminished by New Jersey's own outdated approach and resulting policies. This paradigm is not sustainable and requires a proactive, aggressive and strategic approach to planning for the State's future. An approach that aligns clear goals with sound decision making and coordination among government entities will better position New Jersey for growth opportunities and allow New Jersey to once again compete for and capitalize on growth opportunities.

This State Strategic Plan is New Jersey's revised and readopted State Development and Redevelopment Plan, designed to meet the statutory charge of representing "a balance of development and conservation objectives best suited to meet the needs of the state." It provides a blueprint for change and compliments the Christie-Guadagno Administration's firm commitment to sustainable economic growth; economic prosperity properly balanced with natural resource preservation and personal satisfaction with one's physical surroundings. Moving forward, New Jersey ***will focus its policies and investments on vibrant regions by fostering targeted job growth, supporting effective regional planning and preserving the State's critical resources.*** Coupling this "mission" with sound decision making and stated values for economic growth will move New Jersey toward its "vision" to be the ***national leader in coordinated private and public investment which supports sustainable communities that attract and provide strong economic opportunities, preserve our State's natural resources, and create healthier communities to work, reside and recreate.***

Achievement of the following goals through strategies that incorporate administrative actions, legislative and regulatory reforms, and public investment prioritization, will enable the State to deliver on this Plan's Vision and Mission. These goals must work in tandem as their interrelationship represents a critical piece of the State's blueprint for success.

Goal 1: Targeted Economic Growth: Enhance opportunities for attraction and growth of industries of statewide and regional importance.

Goal 2: Effective Planning for Vibrant Regions: Guide and inform regional planning so that each region of the State can experience appropriate growth according to the desires and assets of that region.

Goal 3: Preservation and Enhancement of Critical State Resources: Ensure that strategies for growth include preservation of our State's critical natural, agricultural, scenic, recreation, and historic resources, recognizing the role they

