

## **CLEAN AIR COUNCIL 2013 HEARING**

The Clean Air Council of New Jersey invites you to participate in its annual public hearing on Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. in the Public Hearing Room at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in Trenton.

Based on testimony offered during the hearing, the Council will be making recommendations to the NJDEP regarding the adverse effects of climate change on air quality.

### **The Challenge**

Because of recent events that have seriously impacted New Jersey, at this year's public hearing, the Clean Air Council (CAC) has elected to address the effects of climate change on air quality within the state. This is a long-term challenge for New Jersey, and the CAC believes it will require significant on-going effort to anticipate, evaluate and prepare for present and future impacts.

Although New Jersey has made great strides in achieving both national and state clean air standards, the effects of a changing climate can potentially reverse some of this progress. We are experiencing higher temperature trends and changing weather patterns that can complicate the state's ability to maintain clean air standards. As a result, public health may be compromised.

Certain adaptive responses to climate change can have an impact on air quality. These responses may include distributing power generation to minimize power outages, local reliance on backup electric generators, increased power plant operation in increasingly warmer summer months, and disposal of storm generated wastes.

Likewise, changes to the energy mix have potential to impact air quality, positively or negatively, depending on how they are implemented. Alternative fuel vehicles, shifting from coal to natural gas and energy conservation can all have air quality benefits or risks that need to be carefully managed.

The air quality impacts cited above can have a wide range of health consequences on all sectors of the state's population. Increases in ozone and other pollutants can aggravate lung diseases and lead to premature deaths. Also, changes in temperature, precipitation, and pollution levels can exacerbate pre-existing respiratory conditions such as asthma and allergies, particularly in children, the elderly and those with compromised immune systems. Children and the elderly comprise populations that are particularly vulnerable to increased pollution. Other especially vulnerable populations may include low-income communities, communities of color and the chronically ill.

The above-cited issues, therefore, require planning and action at multiple levels of government. More work is required.

The goal of the 2013 Clean Air Council public hearing will be to identify and better understand these critical issues as a basis for recommendations for a comprehensive action plan.

The following are key concerns that will be explored by the CAC:

New Jersey Clean Air Council  
Annual Public Hearing  
May 2, 2013  
9:30 a.m.

N.J. Dept. of Environmental Protection  
401 E. State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08625

## Long-term Air Quality Issues

- 1 What is the relationship between ambient temperatures and ozone levels?
- 2 What are the best ways to limit increases in ozone levels and other pollutants that may result from higher temperatures and/or changed weather patterns?
- 3 What are the amount and type of resources needed to carry out an air quality mitigation program?
- 4 Do we have suitable models for predicting public health impacts associated with air pollution in a warming climate?
- 5 What is the role of utilizing cleaner energy sources, increasing the amount and access to mass transportation and upgrading transportation technology in maintaining air quality?
- 6 What are recommended best practices for simultaneously decreasing emissions of greenhouse gases and criteria pollutants, taking into account their complex inter-relationship?
- 7 What are the air quality impacts of a redesigned power delivery system that can better withstand extreme weather events?
- 8 What are some examples of effective state-wide community-based educational programs concerning these issues?
- 9 How do we protect particularly vulnerable populations from adverse changes in air quality?

## Short-term Air Quality Issues

- 1 How can we be better prepared for power disruptions and storm damage and the potential releases of toxic chemicals and other air pollutants from manufacturing, sewage treatment plants, etc. arising from extreme weather events?
- 2 How can we minimize adverse air quality impacts associated with disposal of materials contaminated with mold, mildew and hazardous materials related to wet weather storm damage?
- 3 What is the State's role in responding, monitoring and making decisions related to air pollutant releases that occur as a result of large scale natural disasters?

## Hearing Procedures

The Clean Air Council has invited guest speakers who will address many of these issues. A list of the confirmed speakers will be posted on the Clean Air Council website (noted below) prior to the hearing. Interested residents of New Jersey also are invited and encouraged to participate in the hearing.

Those who wish to testify should contact Heidi Jones at (609) 777-0598, via e-mail at Heidi.Jones@dep.state.nj.us, or via fax at (609) 633-8236 ASAP. Presenters will be allowed 10 minutes and are asked to bring 25 printed copies of their remarks, including a summary of key information and recommendations.

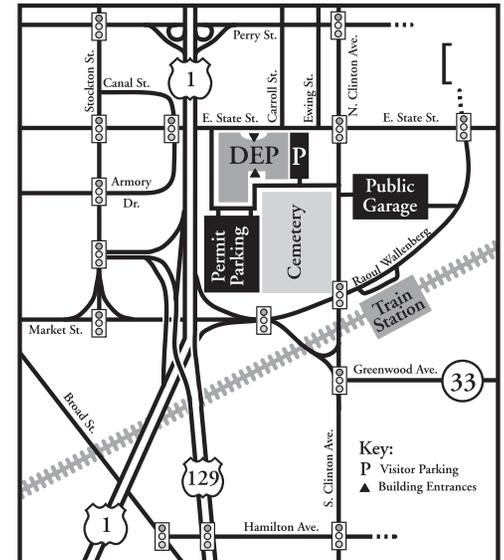
Written testimony also may be submitted until June 3, 2013 to the following address:

New Jersey Clean Air Council  
Mailcode 401-02  
401 E. State Street, 2nd Floor  
P.O. Box 420  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

## The Clean Air Council

First convened in 1968, the Clean Air Council was created by the Legislature to make recommendations to the State of New Jersey on matters and programs pertaining to air pollution control.

**For more information on the  
Clean Air Council**  
visit [www.nj.gov/dep/cleanair](http://www.nj.gov/dep/cleanair)



**Map to DEP**