

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Continues Commitment to New Jersey's Quality of Life; Highlights Goals for a More Sustainable New Jersey

Governor Christie Whitman today continued her commitment to improving the quality of life for all New Jerseyans by endorsing goals to help the state achieve a viable future. The Governor also signed an executive order requiring an annual report on the state's progress in promoting sustainability.

The goals were part of a report prepared for the Governor by NJ Future, a nonprofit, nonpartisan research and advocacy organization that seeks to promote the goal of creating a sustainable state through sustainable development.

"This is an excellent first step toward defining exactly what a sustainable future should look like," said the Governor in recognizing the eleven goals laid out by the report. "We need economic vitality and strong communities, healthy people and minimal pollution. High quality education, good government, equity, decent housing--these are characteristics of a great state. And so is strong and sustainable infrastructure, from ensuring efficient transportation to protecting natural resources."

"I admire the thoughtfulness with which these goals were chosen," said Gov. Whitman. "I am pleased today to endorse them as fundamental to New Jersey's long term viability. I applaud the many, many New Jersey citizens who contributed their time, energy and ideas to this project over the past several years.

The Governor signed Executive Order No. 96 at the Sustainable State Leadership Conference in New Brunswick. The leadership event is a half-day conference sponsored by NJ Future that focuses on the role that businesses, individuals and governments can play in creating a more sustainable society.

The Executive Order will require state departments and agencies to utilize policies, whenever possible, that comport with the goals outlined in the sustainability report. The order also encourages departments and agencies to exchange information and establish practices that will encourage the achievement of the goals. Finally, the order requires that state departments and agencies will report to the Governor annually on New Jersey's progress toward reaching sustainability goals.

The Governor was recently honored by Renew America and the President's Council on Sustainable Development. New Jersey's sustainability efforts were recognized by the groups as a national model demonstrating that communities, government and businesses can all contribute to the sustainability effort.