

NEW JERSEY CLEAN AIR COUNCIL

<u>Clean Air Council Members</u> Allen Weston, Chair Maria Connolly, PP, AICP, Vice-Chair Leonard Bielory, M.D. Robert Campbell Michael Egenton Timothy Fekete	<u>Clean Air Council Members</u> Toby Hanna, P.E. Andrew McNally Stephen Milgrom Richard Opiekun, Ph.D. Scott Ross John Valeri Jr., Esq.
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New Jersey Clean Air Council Meeting Record
Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

CALL TO ORDER	Allen Weston opened the meeting.
COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT	All Council members were present with the changes noted below.
EXCUSED	Timothy Fekete
ABSENT	Andrew McNally Scott Ross
REPRESENTED	Michael Egenton by Kimberly Scarborough, PSEG
PUBLIC	Robert Rashkes Will Richardson
NJ DEP Staff	Francis Steitz Ken Ratzman Helaine Barr Heidi Jones

Meeting Record

- Richard Opiekun made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes; Toby Hanna seconded the motion. Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.
- 2021 hearing topic was discussed and will be related to COVID Air Quality Impacts. The hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2022, via Microsoft Teams with some Clean Air Council members attending in-person, and all public and speakers will be attending virtually.
- Commissioner confirmed for attendance at the April 12, 2022 hearing.
- Website updates and council reappointments discussed, and information is being gathered.
- This meeting was focused on the upcoming speakers for the hearing; council members are reaching out to potential speakers and will confirm with official invitations. Official invitations will be sent to those speakers who have tentatively accepted.
- Leonard Bielory made a motion to adjourn; Richard Opiekun seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 10:36am.

Administrative Report

Presented by Francis Steitz, Director of Air Quality

- 1. MARAMA Tampering Training Workshop:** The Bureau of Mobile Sources, a national leader in identifying vehicle emissions control tampering, was asked to develop and present a training workshop with the Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association (MARAMA). This workshop was held virtually on the afternoons of January 13th and 20th. Day one of the training focused on the negative impacts of vehicle tampering, the scope of the problem, and the types of programs that can address the problem. Day two provides training to technical staff that may conduct vehicle inspections. Over 200 participants from 28 states and multiple EPA regions attended the event.
- 2. Aries Linden Commenced Operation:** On January 18, 2022, Aries Linden Sludge Processing Facility notified the Division of Air Quality (DAQ) that the facility commenced operation on December 30, 2021, as authorized in the October 16, 2020, preconstruction permit issued by DAQ. Aries Linden, located in Linden, Middlesex County (EJ area) is collocated with Linden Roselle Sewage Authority.
- 3. EV video at MVC Offices:** As part of DAQ's work with NESCAUM and their marketing contractor (Edelman), a public service announcement video for electric vehicles has been developed which MVC has agreed to play in the lobbies of all of their buildings. You can watch it here <https://wdrv.it/9fee51252>.
- 4. RGGI Solicitation:** On February 1, 2022, DAQ solicited another round of truck and bus electrification projects in environmental justice areas using RGGI funding from the 3rd and 4th quarter of 2021. The amount of funding available will be \$6.8 million to \$20 million. The application period will be one month, and the next solicitation will be approximately July 2022.
- 5. Community science webpage launched:** In response to concerns from Overburdened Communities that the federally mandated air monitoring network doesn't reflect air quality in their neighborhoods, the Division of Air Quality developed a website providing guidance on using portable, low-cost, handheld sensors as a supplement. The website covers questions such as: What's the best approach to using sensors? What types of sensors are available? What do the sensor readings mean? and What type of low-cost sensor projects work best for me? The Bureau of Air Monitoring is currently assisting two local community groups with low-cost sensor monitoring in their communities and hopes to work with additional communities in the future.

- 6. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act:** Under the Infrastructure and Investment and Jobs Act that President Biden signed last November, millions of dollars are available to New Jersey for vehicle electrification and charging stations.
- \$21 million per year for 5 years directly to NJDOT for fast charging stations on public corridors. Additional guidance was released on February 10, 2022.
 - \$500 million per year nationally for 5 years through a competitive grant program administered by USDOT for charging stations in communities and on corridors. Only state and local government agencies are eligible to apply. The program is expected to launch by November 2022.
 - \$1 billion per year nationally for 5 years for a competitive grant program administered by USEPA for electric school buses and associated charging stations. School districts and private school bus contractors are eligible to apply. Additional details are expected by March 2022.
 - Approximately \$1 billion per year for 5 years for a competitive grant program administered by USDOT for “Low- and No-Emission transit buses.” Notice of Funding Opportunity expected first quarter of 2022.
 - Up to \$100 million per year for 5 years for a competitive grant program administered by USDOT for a “low or no emitting” ferry program. Notice of Funding Opportunity expected first quarter of 2022.

The Air Program is developing mapping, strategies, and outreach materials for #1-4 to ensure New Jersey receives the maximum funding possible.

- 7. Streamlining EV charging station grants:** It Pay\$ to Plug In, the State’s longstanding grant program for EV charging stations, has just been converted to an electronic process through SAGE (“System for Administering Grants Electronically”). Through the new system, DEP managers and grantees will be able to review and process grant materials electronically which eliminates paperwork and significantly streamlines the process.
- 8. Solicitation for EV fast chargers in communities:** On February 3, the Air Program announced a new competitive funding solicitation to install EV fast chargers in communities. The solicitation will start with several outreach webinars the week of February 21 to explain the strategic prioritization mapping that we developed and walk grantees through the new online “SAGE” application process. The application period will be open March 7 through May 13.
- 9. Sustainable Jersey updates its EV actions:** Sustainable Jersey just announced a new action that rewards municipalities for outreach to residents, businesses, and other entities to encourage adoption of EVs and charging stations. In addition, they revised their existing action “Make your Town EV Friendly” to include a requirement for towns to adopt the new EV charging model ordinance per P.L. 2021, c167.

2022 MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS (tentative)

Meeting will be 9:30am – 12pm, every 3rd Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise noted.

January 19	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
February 16	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
March 16	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
Tues., April 12	Public Hearing - Microsoft Teams Meeting.
May 18	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
June 15	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
July 20	Microsoft Teams Meeting. - present report to commissioner (tentative).
August 17	No meeting. (Microsoft Teams Meeting, only if needed)
September 21	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
October 19	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
November 16	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
December 21	Microsoft Teams Meeting.