

**NEW JERSEY CLEAN AIR COUNCIL**

<p><b><u>Clean Air Council Members</u></b>                  Allen Weston, Chair                  Maria Connolly, PP, AICP, Vice-Chair                  Leonard Bielory, M.D.                  Michael Egenton                  Timothy Fekete</p>	<p><b><u>Clean Air Council Members</u></b>                  Toby Hanna, P.E.                  Stephen Milgrom                  Richard Opiekun, Ph.D.                  John Valeri Jr., Esq.</p>
<p><b><u>Clean Air Council Liaison</u></b>                  George Berdomas, 609-984-1483  <a href="mailto:George.Berdomas@dep.nj.gov">George.Berdomas@dep.nj.gov</a></p>	<p><b><u>NJ Clean Air Council Website:</u></b>  <a href="http://www.state.nj.us/dep/cleanair">http://www.state.nj.us/dep/cleanair</a></p>

**New Jersey Clean Air Council Meeting Record**

Hybrid Microsoft Teams Meeting

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Allen Weston opened the meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

All Council members were present with the changes noted below.

ABSENT

EXCUSED

REPRESENTED

GENERAL PUBLIC ATTENDEES

Kim Scarborough  
 Sharon Brown  
 Adam Neuman  
 Nicole Jones

NJ DEP Staff

Francis Steitz  
 George Berdomas

**Meeting Summary**

- Allen Weston called to order and roll was taken.
- No update regarding the appointments for the CAC member appointments. Waiting for approval from Governor’s Office.
- Francis Steitz presented the Administrative Report.
  - o How much change is there in power plants? All standards are more stringent and won’t take place until 2030.
- New Business/Old Business – None
- Discussion of the Air Quality and the Canadian Wildfire impacts.
- Updates to any recommendations and additions to the EJ section to the hearing report.
- Michael Egenton discussed the future of the CAC appointments and nominated Co-Chairs.
  - o Maria Connolly will be stepping up as the Chair for the Council.
  - o Richard Opiekun will be stepping up as the co-chair for the Council.
- Motion to approve minutes by John Valeri, seconded by Leonard Bielory and third by Allen Weston at 10:45 a.m.
- Motion to adjourn first by Allen Weston, second by Leonard Bielory and third by Richard Opiekun at 10:50 a.m.

**Administrative Report**

*Presented by Francis Steitz, Director of Air Quality*

1. **Air Monitoring Network Plan:** The Plan was posted on 5/18/23 on the Air Monitoring website (njqainow.net) for public comment until June 21, 2023. The Plan, which is required annually by USEPA, provides a complete description of the air monitoring network, summarizes changes made in the previous year and changes planned for the next year. If there are no comments on the Plan, it will be submitted to the Region 2 Administrator. Network changes in the past year include the closure of the Newark Firehouse station and the replacement of a filter-based particulate sampler in Paterson with a continuous particulate analyzer. Changes proposed for the next year include the replacement of remaining filter-based particulate samplers and older continuous particulate analyzers with upgraded continuous particulate analyzers. Also included is an update on the process for re-establishing a monitoring station in Newark.
2. **Underground Cavern Application Received:** A TCPA application to construct two new underground storage caverns was received May 24, 2023, from Delaware River Partners. This application references documentation submitted in May 2022.

The initial activities to be completed include:

- Publish, in the DEP Bulletin, a notice of the receipt of the permit application, and publish notice upon each significant action or determination the Department makes regarding an application under review.
- Complete an Administrative Review, and if the application does not contain all documents and information required for the submission, the Department shall, within 30 days of receipt of the application, advise the applicant, in writing, as to the additional information required to make the application administratively complete and the date by which the additional information must be received by the Department.

- Charge a reasonable fee for services performed in connection with underground storage cavern permitting.
3. **DEP to Launch Statewide Marketing Campaign to Promote Electric Vehicles:** Memorial day weekend the Bureau of Mobile Sources launches a statewide consumer awareness campaign to further accelerate the transition to electric vehicles. Through a contract with marketing and communications firm MarketSmith, this campaign will fulfill the requirement of New Jersey's EV Law to develop and implement a public education program to educate consumers about the availability and benefits of plug-in electric vehicles. Billboards and social media posts for Facebook and Instagram, in both English and Spanish, will launch in advance of the Memorial Day weekend, and will peak around key car-buying holidays through the end of the year. That will drive traffic to DEP's Drive Green website, where residents can learn more about EV incentives, environmental benefits, charging at home, and NJ auto dealers that have been trained and certified to provide a great EV-buying experience. The URL is [www.DriveElectric.nj.gov](http://www.DriveElectric.nj.gov)
  4. **Recycling of Electric Vehicle Batteries:** The International Council on Clean Transportation recently published a report on reuse and recycling of electric vehicle batteries. The report estimates that nationally there will be approximately 1 million end-of-life batteries by 2030, 14 million by 2040, and 50 million by 2050. Approximately 90% of end-of-life vehicle batteries are collected for reuse and recycling, 50% of which have massive energy storage potential (100GWh by 2030, increasing to 12,000 GWh by 2050) and can be reused for 10 years (e.g., solar battery storage). Challenges of battery reuse and recycling include battery collection, transport, inspection, disassembly, sorting and regrouping, and second life battery placement. Key policy recommendations include incentivizing domestic capacity for battery reuse and recycling; setting standards for battery durability, safety, and information accessibility; supporting research and development in lithium-ion battery recycling technologies; and introducing element-specific recovery rates for recycling and targets on recycling content in battery production to ensure efficient recycling of key materials and reduce raw material mining.
  5. **RGGI auction:** RGGI's second auction of 2023 took place on June 7th, 2023, auctioning a total of 22,026,639 allowances at a clearing price of \$12.73. New Jersey sold approximately 3.5 million allowances, generating proceeds in the amount of \$44,444,796.
  6. **US National Clean Hydrogen Strategy and Roadmap:** On June 5, the U.S. Department of Energy published the U.S. National Clean Hydrogen Strategy and Roadmap. The DOE's Clean Hydrogen Strategy identifies multi-sectoral decarbonization opportunities in production, transportation, storage, and utilization. The publication of the Clean Hydrogen Strategy coincides with New Jersey's pending application to participate in the Northeast Hydrogen Hub. The Northeast Hydrogen Hub application spearheaded by NYSERDA includes the states of New York, New Jersey, Maine, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and more than 100 partners. While the full list of projects in the pending application is not available to the public, staff in the Bureau of Climate Change and Clean Energy that participated in the development of the application find that the guiding principles of the Northeast Hydrogen Hub are reinforced in the DOE's Clean Hydrogen Strategy. If selected, projects in New Jersey will target high-impact end uses at ports, airports, and freight movement, and support the development of fueling infrastructure along highways. Lastly, both the

national strategy and application recognize that hydrogen should be prioritized for hard to decarbonize end-uses. Specifically, blending hydrogen into natural gas networks was not included in the application and the national strategy notes that blending efforts should be targeted in the industrial sector where high temperatures are needed.

7. **NJ Transit Draft Sustainability Plan:** NJ Transit released a [draft Sustainability Plan](#) and they are seeking public comments by July 7th. In addition to public comment period there will be a [webinar on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM](#). The plan focuses on seven sustainability themes: Energy; Air Quality; Mobility & Accessibility; Climate Resilience; Waste; Water, and Community Engagement. Each theme follows a framework of goals, aspects (areas of focus to achieve goals), targets, actions, and metrics. The Energy theme includes targets of 100% zero emission bus purchases by 2032; 100% zero emission bus fleet by 2040 and 100% clean energy by 2050. The other themes were less specific in their targets. In the Air Quality theme, the target was to establish a GHG reduction goal by 2025 and evaluate a pollutant-specific CAP reduction goal by 2025 (for PM, O3, CO, SOx, NOx, & Pb). In the Waste theme, the target was to evaluate a landfill diversion goal for operational waste by 2025. In addition to addressing environmental issues the draft plan provided insight into how NJ Transit plans to increase ridership community engagement and identify where public transportation access is most needed. The draft plan lacks specific metrics and benchmarking, but notes that such metrics and benchmark analysis will be forthcoming.

## Clean Air Council FY22/23 Meeting Locations

### MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS (tentative)

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

July 19	7 <sup>th</sup> Floor Large Conference Room. Hybrid: 401 E. State Street, Trenton, NJ – present Hearing Report to the commissioner
August 16	No meeting. (Microsoft Teams Meeting, only if needed)
September 20	Hybrid: Microsoft Teams & In-person
October 18	Hybrid: Microsoft Teams & In-person
November 15	Hybrid: Microsoft Teams & In-person
December 20	IBEW – 299 Ward Street, East Windsor, NJ 08520