

NEW JERSEY CLEAN AIR COUNCIL

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

New Jersey Clean Air Council Meeting Record

South Jersey Industries, Inc.
3800 Atlantic Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Allen Weston opened the meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

All Council members were present with the changes noted below.

ABSENT

EXCUSED

REPRESENTED

Kimberly Scarborough, PSEG
Sharon Brown
Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler
Robert Laumbach, M.D.

GENERAL PUBLIC ATTENDEES

Andrew McNally, SJI

NJ DEP Staff

Francis Steitz
George Berdomas

Meeting Summary

Minutes

- Andrew McNally presented the SJI PowerPoint presentation to the Council.
- Francis Steitz presented the October Administrative Report.
- Motion to approve minutes by Allen Weston, seconded by Leonard Bielory and third by Michael Egenton 10:40 a.m.
- George Berdomas updated the council on the appointments from the Governor's office. Status is there is no update and at the Governor's Office for approval.
- Hearing Topic Discussion
 - o Commissioner has now made an update to make the Air Toxics the Hearing Topic this year.
 - o EJ focus on with this topic as well.
 - o Receptivity of revisiting the retrospect of two decades ago from CAC members that presented the Air Toxics presentation. Give some feedback overall.
 - o Dr. B – Most important is making recommendations and did the council members listen to the public.
 - o Tease out the recommendations in the report and make a list of the recommendation from the report.
 - o Hearing Chair for the presentation
 - Chair – Upon further discussion
 - Vice Chair – John Valeri
 - o Developing a list of who will come to this meeting.
- Richard Opiekun – still the editor of the brochure. Work on getting the brochure to George Berdomas for review with the DEP communications.
- Motion to adjourn by Leonard Bielory at 11:10 a.m.

Administrative Report

Presented by Francis Steitz, Director of Air Quality

1. Low NOx Omnibus/ Medium-Duty Inspection Rules Proposed:

The Department proposed in the November 7, 2022 New Jersey Register to regulate NOx emissions from medium-and heavy-duty vehicles and close a loophole in the inspection requirements for medium-duty diesel vehicles. A public hearing will be held on Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 9:30 A.M. The hearing will be conducted virtually through the Department of Environmental Protection's (Department) video conferencing software, Microsoft Teams. More information at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/notices.html>. Comment will be received for 60-days and will close on January 6, 2023.

2. BPU receives approval to launch first RGGI funded program:

On October 26, 2022, BPU Board members voted to approve a new medium and heavy-duty charging station grant program using RGGI funding. The program will have a private track and a community track and is intended to complement the NJZIP program (run by EDA) which funds electric vehicles but not chargers.

- Under the community track, grantees would assume responsibility for identifying, recruiting, and subscribing local businesses interested in utilizing publicly accessible charging infrastructure, located in an overburdened community, for their medium and heavy-duty vehicles. Grantees would be eligible for up to 100% or \$225,000, whichever is reached first, per publicly accessible, dual-port fast charger, with a maximum of 6 chargers per location.
- Under the private track, applicants that have active vouchers from the first two phases of the NJZIP program would be eligible. Private charging would be funded at a lower level than community charging, with funding available for up to 75% or \$175,000 of the costs associated with purchasing and installing the DCFC chargers. The maximum number of chargers per location would be capped at 6 and they would not be required to be accessible to the public.
- Applicants to either the private or community track would need to first apply to their utility to ensure their selected location would be able to support the requested chargers. The applicant would then be required to submit the results of the utility's studies and decision to the BPU in order to receive final consideration for this grant program.
- Funds from this program can also be used for "make-ready" infrastructure since BPU is still working on minimum requirements for utilities to launch make-ready grant programs for medium and heavy-duty vehicle charging infrastructure.

3. FY2023 CPI Adjustments of Annual Emission Fees and Threshold Dollar Amount for Reconstruction:

NJ Air Pollution Control Act requires major air facilities to pay an annual emissions fee. This emission fee is adjusted each fiscal year for CPI changes. For FY 2023, the per ton fee is \$140.41, 7.7% greater than in FY 2022, and a total revenue of about \$3 million is anticipated in FY 2023 from emission fees. Approximately 30% of the Department's major facilities air program's funding comes from annual emission fees. The Department is also required to publish the threshold dollar amount for reconstruction each November in the same NJ Register notice in which it publishes the annual emission fee. Applying the CPI adjustment since 1995 to the base amount of \$80,000 results in the threshold dollar amount of \$151,368 for FY 2023. A facility must use this dollar amount when calculating reconstruction thresholds relative to fixed capital cost. The notice was published in the October 17, 2022, NJ Register and the Air Program will mail emission fee invoices by December 31, 2022, as facilities are obligated by rule to pay emission fees by January 31, 2023.

4. EvaluateNJ dashboard launched:

The EvaluateNJ dashboard is made possible through a collaboration between the NJDEP and Atlas Public Policy to provide analytics regarding the state of transportation electrification in New Jersey. NJDEP provides decoded vehicle registration data to Atlas Public Policy twice a year and Atlas Public Policy obtains demographic data from the US Census Bureau, charging station data from the US Department of Energy and utility information, including retail electricity prices, from the US Energy Information Administration. The information below is a small snapshot of what is available in the EvaluateNJ dashboard. To access the full EvaluateNJ dashboard, go here <https://atlaspolicy.com/evaluatennj/>

5. EPA begins stakeholder process for new Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund:

On October 25, EPA announced an RFI and stakeholder sessions for the new Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The Inflation Reduction Act amended the Clean Air Act to create the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund which provides \$27 billion to EPA for expenditure until September 30, 2024. This includes:

- \$7 billion for competitive grants to enable low-income and disadvantaged communities to deploy or benefit from zero-emission technologies;
- Nearly \$12 billion for competitive grants to provide financial and technical assistance to projects that reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions; and
- \$8 billion for competitive grants to provide financial and technical assistance to projects that reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Comments are due by December 5.

6. NJ electric school bus awards announced:

On October 26, 2022, USEPA announced the FY22 Clean School Bus Program rebate competition awards which included \$2.3 million to **Atlantic City and Bridgeton City school districts to purchase 7 electric school buses. There are 51 [Prioritized districts](#)** in New Jersey that were eligible for the lottery based program. For this first round of funding, NJ school districts and dealers submitted 47 applications requesting \$61 million for over 200 electric school buses.

7. GHG Refrigeration Facility Registrations:

Facilities with refrigeration systems that have 50 pounds or more of high-GWP refrigerants were required to register by November 1st. Currently, there are 646 facilities that have registered. The Department estimates that there are approximately 1000 facilities that should register. To increase the number of facility registrations, new email notifications will be sent to facilities with known refrigeration systems, and on November 17th, the Bureau of Sustainability will hold a webinar on registration and reporting requirements for refrigeration facilities. Additionally, the Small Business Assistance Program will be contacting nonregistered supermarkets and ice rinks to inform them of this registration requirement.

Clean Air Council FY22/23 Meeting Locations

MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS (tentative)

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

December 21, 2022	IBEW – 299 Ward Street, East Windsor, NJ
January 19	ERM Location - 200 Charles Ewing Blvd. Conference Center Ewing, NJ
February 16	Kean University at the NJ Center Science, Tech and Math - Stem 512 Conference Room
March 16	Hybrid: 401 E. State Street, Trenton, NJ
April 19	Public Hearing Room - Microsoft Teams Meeting and in-person (hybrid). – 401 E. State Street, Trenton, NJ
May 18	PSEG's Energy & Environmental Resource Center (EERC). 244 Chestnut St., Salem, NJ.
June 15	Hybrid: 401 E. State Street, Trenton, NJ
July 20	7 th Floor Large Conference Room. Hybrid: 401 E. State Street, Trenton, NJ – present to the commissioner
August 17	No meeting. (Microsoft Teams Meeting, only if needed)
September 21	Hybrid: Microsoft Teams & In-person
October 19	Hybrid: Microsoft Teams & In-person
November 16	Hybrid: Microsoft Teams & In-person
December 21	Hybrid: Microsoft Teams & In-person