

**NEW JERSEY CLEAN AIR COUNCIL**

<b><u>Clean Air Council Members</u></b> Maria Connolly, PP, AICP, Chair Richard Opiekun, Ph.D., Vice-Chairman Leonard Bielory, M.D. Michael Egenton Timothy Fekete Robert Laumbach, M.D.	<b><u>Clean Air Council Members</u></b> Toby Hanna, P.E. Stephen Milgrom Allen Weston John Valeri Jr., Esq. Adam Neuman Sharon Brown Kimberly Scarborough
<b><u>Clean Air Council Liaison</u></b> George Berdomas, 609-940-5946 <a href="mailto:George.Berdomas@dep.nj.gov">George.Berdomas@dep.nj.gov</a>	<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>

**New Jersey Clean Air Council Meeting Record**  
 Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

CALL TO ORDER	Maria Connolly opened the meeting.
COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT	All Council members were present.
ABSENT	NONE
EXCUSED	NONE
REPRESENTED	NOT APPLICABLE
GENERAL PUBLIC ATTENDEES	NONE
NJ DEP Staff	Francis Steitz

### Meeting Summary

- Maria Connolly called meeting to order and roll was taken by Richard Opiekun.
- Frank Steitz gave the NJDEP administrative report on the following topics.
  - o State of the Art (SOTA) Manual for Boilers and Process Heaters
  - o Agilex draft permit
  - o Electric School bus grant
  - o EPA electric school bus awards
  - o FHWA \$10million award for EV charging stations
  - o RGGI DEP grant awards
  - o RGGI auction
- **Frank Steitz will follow up** on EVs and charging issues that were brought up by Council members.
  - o Update on infrastructure and capabilities of electric chargers in cold weather and anecdotal reports of chargers not functioning properly in extremely cold weather.
  - o Update on the behavior of electric school bus performance and charging in cold weather.
  - o Links shared by Council members on electric vehicles and charging recently in the news  
<https://www.npr.org/2024/01/16/1224913698/teslas-chicago-charging-extreme-cold>
  - o <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2024/01/15/electric-car-north-to-south-pole-drive/>
- Mark Dinglasan, Executive Dir. NJ Office of the Food Security Advocate gave a presentation on food security in NJ (slide presentation shared with Council)
  - o OFSA reports directly to the NJ Governor
  - o In U.S. food insecurity has increased between 2021 and 2022
  - o In NJ, food insecurity has also increased to 8.8% in 2022.
  - o Need physical social and economic access to have food security.
  - o Components of food security work include the following areas:
    - Availability
    - Access (e.g., finances, transportation)
    - Utilization (can you meet nutritional needs)
    - Stability (reliable access over time)
    - Agency (do you have power to make decisions about food and health)
    - Sustainability
  - o Trying to make as much data as possible to be publicly available to make better decisions on food security throughout NJ.
  - o NJ has a food infrastructure problem and not a supply problem.
  - o The issue for OFSA is to figure out how we create an ecosystem where food travels with the money to work to solve the infrastructure problem and make the food available to communities? This is a big issue in southern New Jersey.
  - o Lunch Break community organization (<https://lunchbreak.org/> ) was used as an example organization that looks at dietary and cultural needs within the community.
  - o We need to create markets for our farmers and not just buy their food.
  - o Diesel and gas vehicles, along with landfills, are the largest contributors to the emissions problem of food waste. It's an infrastructure issue.
- Frank Minch, Div. Dir. Of Agricultural and Natural Resources gave a presentation on food waste and composting issues (no slides)

- We need to look into creating markets for farmers and also look into crops that we are not growing that we may want to consider trying to grow here in NJ.
- We need to determine if farmers can set aside a certain acreage for growing food specifically for food banks and not just for the primary market.
- Food waste issue is dealt with on 3 levels by NJ Dept. of Agriculture
  - Feed stock (rules currently in place)
  - Garbage feeding (rules currently in place)
  - Source-separated food waste (composted or fed to livestock) (no rules currently in place)
- Need to get farmers to start accepting more composted food waste.
- New website coming soon called Manure Link to get suppliers of waste and farmers together.
  - <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/news/press/2023/approved/press230714.html>
- Composting options needed for organic farmers and there needs to be a way to get more of these farmers to work with waste composters.
- We need to work on farm waste on a more regional basis and not on a farm-to-warm basis.
- Land use has competing challenges from both warehouses and solar farms.
  - How do we keep farmers farming?
- Related topic area article shared by Council member:
  - <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/nrm.12337>
- Old Business/New Business
  - Motion to approve the minutes for December first by Len Bielory second by Maria Connolly.
    - All Council approved (no abstentions)
  - Discussed Annual Hearing speaker guidelines and lining up of potential speakers.
    - Chair – Maria Connolly
    - Co-Chair – Stephen Milgrom
    - Mike Egenton would like to see NJ Food Council (Linda Dougherty) and the NJ Restaurant and Hospitality Association (Dana Lancellotti) added to the spreadsheet of potential invited speakers.
    - Allen will contact Wakefern foods for a speaker.
    - Frank will make sure the speaker spreadsheet is updated since it was missing some speakers following the December meeting.
    - The guidance for speakers was reviewed and approved for release by Council. Will be reviewed by DEP.
    - Frank and George will draft the speaker invitation letter and share with the Council.
    - Council members who are speaker contacts are asked to keep in touch with their invitee(s) and follow-up to make sure they are ready to present and are able to provide all materials needed by the Council pre-hearing.
    - Serpil Guran will not be able to be a presenter at the hearing. Council members wondered if she'd be able to give us a presentation in March at the Rutgers EcoComplex.
      - Len followed up after the Council meeting and determined there is a major event there on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March, so despite confirming their presenter's availability on the 20<sup>th</sup> , their facilities are not available.
      - **Is there any chance we could switch Kean University hosting the CAC to March 20<sup>th</sup> and do the EcoComplex on February 21<sup>st</sup> ?**
    - Next meeting to be hybrid tentatively at Kean University (2/21/2024) and hosted by Len Bielory.

- Invite letter to potential hearing speakers to include speaker presentation guideline document and Len's sample last slide to ensure invitees provide us with actionable recommendations.
- Motion to adjourn at 11:20AM made by Leonard Bielory, Michael Egenton seconded.