# NJ'S KEY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES



#### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Needed:** Invest in transportation projects with the highest merit.

**Being done:** Governor proposed additional \$248M for NJ Transit, bringing total to \$383M.



## **SEA LEVEL RISE**

**Needed:** Create a plan for coast on where to harden infrastructure and where to move inland.

**Being done:** Groups are studying parts of problem. No vision for a comprehensive plan has emerged.



#### **WATER POLLUTION**

**Needed:** Roll back weakening of the state's water-protection rules by Gov. Chris Christie.

**Being done:** No action taken yet on groundwater standards, Flood Hazard Act and freshwater wetlands rules and more



### **AIR POLLUTION**

**Needed:** Address poor air quality. The American Lung Association gave an F to 11 of 21 counties.

**Being done:** State developing an energy master plan with a path to 100 percent clean energy by 2050.



## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Needed:** Take climate change into account in all state planning and environmental regulations.

**Being done:** DEP is starting to update the shore master plan, untouched since 1983. Will include sea level rise and climate change.



## **FOSSIL FUELS**

**Needed:** Move away from fossil fuel use to cut carbon emissions.

**Being done:** Law signed for ratepayer support of offshore wind farms, more solar development.



## **OVERDEVELOPMENT**

**Needed:** Abundance of habitat to help struggling species and keep common species healthy.

**Being done:** N.J. has strong open-space, farmland-preservation and land-conservation programs.



## **MISUSE OF FUNDS**

**Needed:** Stop raiding environmental settlement funds for general spending.

**Being done:** Voters passed constitutional amendment to do such, but some funds pre-date the vote.



#### **DEP UNDERFUNDING**

**Needed:** Increase budget to hire more staff

**Being done:** Budget cut about 14 percent, but staffing has increased.



### **TOXICS**

**Needed:** Public access to data about chemicals released, as required by federal, state laws.

**Being done:** Environmental groups have asked the state to make reports available.