



2008 Annual Report



**ENVIRONMENT
NEW JERSEY**

Clean air. Clean water. Open space.



“Working together, we held our ground, keeping parks open and ensuring that a solution to open space funding remained a priority.”

**Dena Mottola Jaborska
Executive Director**

From the director

Dear Environment New Jersey Member,

Environment New Jersey members made the difference in 2008, calling on the state’s leaders to protect open space and lay the groundwork for a new energy future.

In the spring, Gov. Jon Corzine cited New Jersey’s faltering economy in his proposal to close several state parks, including High Point State Park and Monmouth Battlefield State Park. Meanwhile, funding for New Jersey’s open space program was running dangerously low.

Would New Jersey’s parks and open space fall victim to the tough economic times?

Thousands of Environment New Jersey members said “no.” Working together, we held our ground, keeping parks open and ensuring that a solution to open space funding remained a priority for the governor and the Legislature in 2009.

In other areas we did more than just hold our ground, we made fantastic progress.

Early in 2008, Gov. Corzine released a ten-year energy plan for New Jersey that relied too heavily on coal and other polluting power sources.

Would New Jersey continue to stick with the same polluting policies of the past?

Again, thousands of Environment New Jersey members rallied to the cause, calling on the governor to adopt a more visionary plan that puts renewable energy and energy efficiency at the center of New Jersey’s energy future. In October, the governor released his final plan, which sets for New Jersey the strongest offshore wind and solar energy generation goals in the nation, including enough wind energy to power 1 million homes by 2020.

I know we’ll face more tough fights in 2009. But with a new president and the most pro-environment Congress in recent history, we have what some are calling a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make progress toward reducing the pollution that causes global warming and promoting more clean, renewable energy.

I’m hopeful that, together, we’ll make the most of these opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dena Mottola Jaborska". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue background.

New Jersey moves forward on global warming; Washington stalls

A year after the Legislature passed landmark legislation to reduce global warming emissions, New Jersey joined other Northeast states to cap power plant emissions in 2008, even as federal legislation stalled in Washington. The agreement, called the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, requires power plants in ten Northeastern states to pay for every ton of carbon dioxide produced—the pollutant most responsible for global warming—and use the proceeds to finance the transition to a clean energy economy.

Capping pollution across the region

Environment New Jersey advocated for the initiative and lobbied strenuously in the opening days of the year to stop New Jersey utilities from exempting power plants or diverting the proceeds to finance more fossil-fuel technologies. The states will cap carbon dioxide emissions at current levels, and work to reduce emission levels 10 percent by 2018.

“New Jersey is making a strong statement by holding power plants accountable for their pollution that causes global warming,” said Doug O’Malley, our field director.

By December, New Jersey officially joined the other nine Northeastern states to auction pollution credits. These credits will generate over

\$100 million in revenue to be re-invested in energy efficiency and clean energy.

Action stalled in 2008; hope for 2009

The states banded together to reduce the pollution that causes global warming, in part because the Bush administration and Congress have failed to pass a strong, comprehensive federal policy to address the problem. In 2008, despite increasing pressure from states like New Jersey taking action on their own, Congress once again blocked global warming legislation.

With leadership from New Jersey Sens. Frank Lautenberg and Bob Menendez, comprehensive legislation was introduced in the Senate, but their leadership was not enough to overcome opposition in Congress. We lobbied vigorously to prevent weakening of the legislation, to ensure the reductions it set would match what is needed to avoid the worst effects of global warming. In committee, the bill remained strong; however, debate of the legislation was stymied on the Senate floor by the Republican minority.

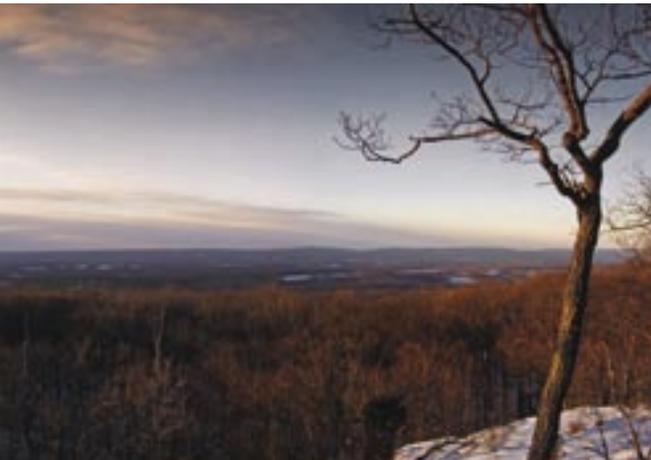
Environment New Jersey and our advocates in Washington, D.C., will make enactment of a national global warming program a major priority in 2009.



The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative fines big polluters to fund the expansion of clean energy. New Jersey now joins nine other states in the program.

P. 1 Photo credit: Jeanine Tang.

P. 2 Photo credits: (Clockwise from top left) Creative Commons photo from Wikimedia, Jean Schweitzer* (*on license from Shutterstock) and Jose Gil*.



Jenny Jump Park is one of the many parks threatened by a lack of funding and support.

Fighting to keep New Jersey's state parks open

In 2008, Environment New Jersey volunteers and staff turned back an attempt by the governor to close nine state parks, and we built support on the ballot and at the Legislature for public funding for open space preservation.

New Jersey's open space program, The Garden State Preservation Trust Fund, has been on the decline since 2006, as funding from Gov. Christine Whitman's billion-dollar bond act of 1998 came to an end. Since 2005, Gov. Jon Corzine has repeated his pledge to renew funding for open space preservation. But since then, only short-term stop-gap funding has been put in place.

Many green spaces preserved with funding from the Garden State Trust Fund are turned into parks for public enjoyment. New Jersey has no dedicated funding to support parks, and after years of skimpy funding, most parks in New Jersey are in disrepair and decline. These funding problems came to a head this year with the economy putting the squeeze on the state's budget.

In 2008, on April Fool's Day, Gov. Corzine announced that nine state parks would be closed from Washington's Crossing to Monmouth Battlefield to High Point to save

over \$4 million. Environment New Jersey immediately responded, labeling the move as the "worst April Fool's joke ever" and highlighting that 2 million people used the targeted state parks.

Environment New Jersey fought back against the cuts, writing opinion pieces in newspapers across the state, delivering over 5,000 public comments, holding press events in the parks and working with our coalition partners to organize a Statehouse rally, which attracted over 300 people.

By late spring, the governor quietly announced that all state parks would remain open. But the crisis to protect state parks did nothing to provide funding for open space.

Open space programs comes to halt

With funding for parks temporarily in place, funding for open space preservation ran completely out. By fall of 2008, landowners willing to sell their land to the state for preservation were turned away due to lack of funds.

On Nov. 11, Environment New Jersey, in coordination with the Keep It Green Coalition, held a Statehouse press event to mark the end of open space funding and to renew our call

P. 3 Photo credit: Nicholas T. **Creative commons.
P. 4 Photo credit: Gary178*.

on Gov. Corzine to adopt a stable, long-term funding solution. Environment New Jersey and 45 other groups sent a letter to the governor urging him to take quick action. The coalition called on the governor to support a small tax on all water users in the state to raise over \$150 million a year for the program, through a contribution of roughly \$32 per household per year.

On Election Day, New Jerseyans reaffirmed their support for open space preservation by voting in high margins to extend or increase local town or county open space taxes. Of all the local open space funding ballot questions, 64 percent of the measures passed, up significantly from 2007's 50 percent passage rate. But without state matching funds for open space, many towns and counties struggled to preserve valuable green spaces.

Throughout 2008, armed with the election and poll results, we asked legislators to support raising funds for open space preservation through a small statewide water tax. To date neither the governor or the Legislature has renewed funding for open space, through passage of the water tax or any other funding source, and the program continues to be out of funds for open space preservation.

► *A waterfall along the Delaware Water Gap*





Environment New Jersey Executive Director Dena Mottola was a leader in revamping Gov. Jon Corzine's energy plan.

Big progress on clean energy

Governor's energy master plan

In 2008, we worked to convince Gov. Jon Corzine to develop a visionary 10-year energy master plan for New Jersey. Together with a broad coalition, Environment New Jersey developed a clean energy agenda that would position New Jersey as the nation's leader on clean energy and make New Jersey a world leader in generating wind power.

The governor's original plan set weak goals for renewable energy and energy efficiency and promoted an expansion of traditional coal and nuclear power plants to meet New Jersey's future energy needs. But with the strong support of volunteers and coalition partners throughout the state, Environment New Jersey was able to demonstrate broad public support for a more visionary plan, much of which the governor incorporated into his final plan.

We attended town hall meetings and public hearings hosted by the governor's staff, gathered more than 10,000 public comments, and educated the public by attending meetings and conferences, and working with various media outlets.

"When all was said and done, Gov. Corzine adopted most of the major goals on our agenda," reported Matt Elliott, our Global Warming and

Clean Energy Advocate. "This is a real step forward toward fighting global warming, clearing our air, and growing the economy."

The governor's plan includes a commitment to generate 30 percent of the state's electricity from renewable sources by 2020, and it recommends ambitious goals to retrofit homes and businesses with efficient, energy-saving technologies.

Go Big on Wind!

To convince Gov. Corzine to include strong wind goals in his plan, Environment New Jersey launched the Go Big on Wind! campaign on Earth Day.

Twenty-five state VIPs signed a letter calling on Gov. Corzine to adopt the nation's most ambitious offshore wind goals, and to make New Jersey the first state to build wind offshore.

Environment New Jersey released the letter to the media and met with the governor's staff throughout the summer to communicate the broad public support for the campaign.

On October 6, Gov. Corzine stood on the Atlantic City boardwalk with Environment New Jersey Executive Director Dena Mottola Jaborska to

P. 5 Photo credits: (Clockwise from top left) Mesa Solar LLC, Staff and Cisel Freliance Corp.



Renewing America

A blueprint for economic recovery

formally announce his intent to make New Jersey the first state to build offshore wind, and to build enough wind to power one million homes by 2020.

“The governor’s announcement makes New Jersey a world leader on wind,” said Dena Mottola Jaborska, Environment New Jersey’s director. “And it will have national policy implications as Congress crafts federal clean energy and global warming legislation.”

Plug into the sun

Environment New Jersey promoted two bills in the New Jersey Legisla-

ture that would give more residents access to solar power. The first would require New Jersey housing developers to make solar a viable option on all new homes built in the state.

The second would make it easier for communities of all sizes to invest in community-scale solar arrays. Individuals could form a renewable energy co-op and pool resources to build solar on nearby buildings, parking lots or open space.

Both bills are still pending and will be a top priority for Environment New Jersey in 2009.

In November of 2008, Environment New Jersey, together with Environment America, released a report titled “Renewing America: A Blueprint for Economic Recovery.”

Renewing America lays out a blueprint for how to repower America for the 21st century—cleaning the environment while revitalizing the economy. The report notes that a new president and a new Congress create a golden opportunity to chart a new future for America, and makes the following recommendations:

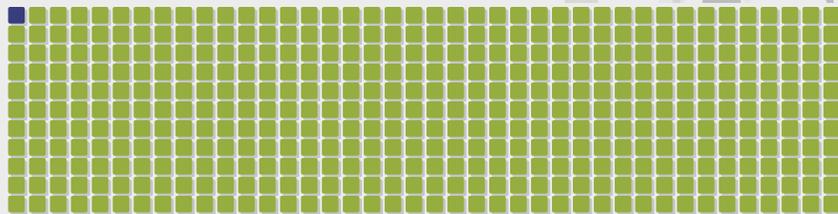
- *Embrace a future of clean power by making our economy more energy-efficient and getting 100 percent of our electricity from clean, renewable sources.*
- *Achieve energy independence by cutting our consumption of oil in half—nearly as much as we currently import from all other nations.*
- *Speed economic recovery through a growth of the green jobs market and create millions of new jobs in dozens of different occupations in every part of the country.*

► *To read the full report and learn more about what steps New Jersey still needs to take to address global warming, visit our Web site.*

New Jersey’s wind opportunity

Each square represents 2,500 New Jersey homes.

- Current number of homes being powered by wind in New Jersey
- Projected number of homes to be powered by wind in New Jersey by 2020



Tackling global warming, energy efficient transit and buildings

In 2008, Environment New Jersey applauded Gov. Jon Corzine for taking another important step toward tackling global warming. As required by the state's Global Warming Response Act, the governor and the Department of Environmental Protection released the Draft Global Warming Response Act Recommendations Report, which outlines the Corzine Administration's plans to achieve an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

In 2007, the New Jersey Legislature passed the Global Warming Response Act, which requires the state to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all sources by 2050, a major challenge that will require big changes in the way we generate electricity and power our modes of transportation. At public meetings and formal meetings with Corzine administration officials, Environment New Jersey advocates and volunteers called on the governor to write a report that identifies a clear path that New Jersey can take to become totally free of fossil fuels, choosing instead 100% renewable energy sources to power homes, businesses and transportation by 2050. The draft report released on December 15th details over 50 policy changes that the New Jersey

Legislature and various state agencies, such as the Department of Transportation and the Department of Community Affairs, can adopt to achieve that important goal.

With regard to electric generation, which is responsible for 25 percent of the state's greenhouse gas emissions, the report calls for goals to generate all of the state's electricity from carbon-free sources by 2050. In addition, it recommends a gradual phase-out of the state's dirtiest fossil fuel-fired power plants, and calls for a moratorium on new coal-fired power plants.

The report also includes strong support for green, efficient homes and businesses. By 2030, buildings in New Jersey will incorporate efficient, energy-saving technologies as well as renewable energy systems to produce more energy than they consume.

"The goals in this report will virtually end our dependence on fossil fuels, grow the economy with new green-collar jobs, clear our air, and set a strong model for the nation," said Matt Elliott of Environment New Jersey. "The report lays out some of the nation's strongest plans to slash greenhouse gas emissions."

Beyond electricity and buildings,



Smart growth begins with dependable public transit and protecting our priceless open spaces and working farms.

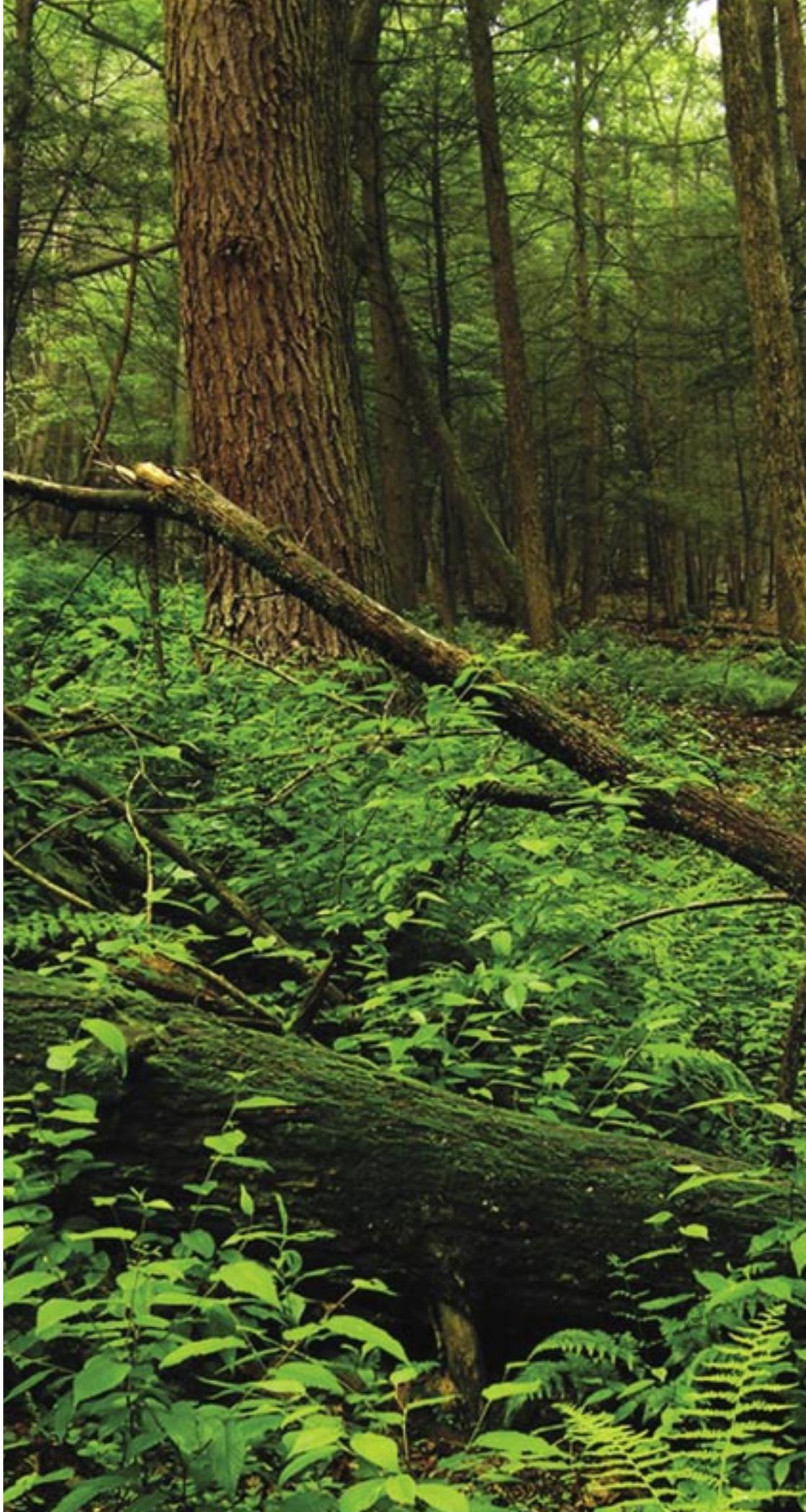
P. 7 Photo credits: (Clockwise from top) Kyle Grandinger**, Bull's Eye Arts*, big dog**.
P. 8 Photo credit: Nicholas T**.

the report seeks to reduce emissions from the transportation sector —currently the leading source of global warming pollution in New Jersey.

To that end, the report recommends a number of Environment New Jersey-backed transportation solutions that will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars and trucks. The Corzine administration has committed to:

- Promote zero-emission vehicles, such as electric cars;
- Expand mass transit, including trains and rapid-transit buses;
- Promote transit-oriented development; and
- Support a clean fuel standard that will require cleaner fossil fuels and help move toward zero-emissions cars and power plants.

If implemented, the plan will expand mass transit and carpool options so that every New Jersey resident will have multiple transportation options. It will turn major highways, including the New Jersey Turnpike, into clean car corridors with charging stations for electric vehicles. And it will move the state toward a day where every vehicle is 100% clean and without any harmful emissions.





New Jersey's waterways are at high risk for pollution and runoff, especially from nearby developments.

Environmental groups unite to defeat developers' land grab

Environment New Jersey and allies in the environmental community created a strong alliance to fight pro-developer policy changes in the New Jersey Legislature this summer.

Citing the flailing economy and a downturn in the real estate market, developers petitioned the New Jersey Legislature last spring for the Permit Extension Act. The bill aimed to give developers a pass on newly enacted clean water and other environmental regulations, allowing them to extend the life of lax, outdated state environmental permits for more than six years.

At a public hearing held by the New Jersey Senate Economic Growth Committee on June 19, Environment New Jersey's Dena Mottola Jaborska argued, "The Permit Extension Act is an effort by developers to erase all the progress we've made on the environment in the past few years. It's a major step backward for clean water protections, flood prevention and toxic site clean up. We urge the members of this committee to vote no."

Waterways protected

Late in 2007, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection adopted Environment New Jersey-backed protections for all the state's waterways, granting all

waterways the protection of buffer zones within which development is prohibited. Early in 2008, the agency introduced new regulations to protect clean water and open space, including one that would put an estimated 300,000 acres of environmentally sensitive lands off limits to development.

Environment New Jersey and other environmental groups organized ongoing public opposition to the Permit Extension Act, including a grassroots Lobby Day on June 19 attended by representatives of more than 27 local and regional environmental groups in the state. In addition, more than 5,000 Environment New Jersey members and thousands of New Jerseyans mobilized by other environmental groups wrote, called and e-mailed their legislators urging them to vote against this anti-environmental bill.

Strong opposition to the permit waivers resulted in greatly weakening the force of the legislation sought, giving developers only three additional years to hold onto previously issued permits instead of seven as originally proposed. Most importantly, changes to the final legislation exempted new clean water regulations from the extension period granted by the bill, leaving newly won protections intact.

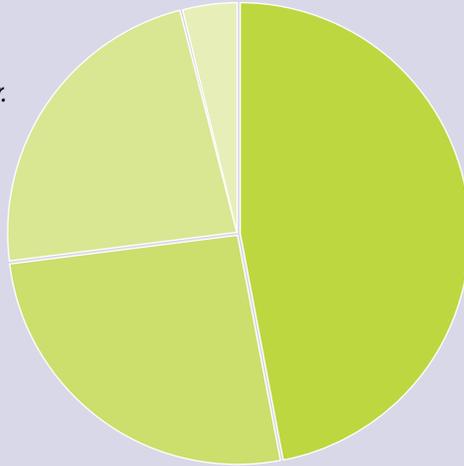
P.9 Photo credits: (Clockwise from top left) Morgue File, Staff, FERC.

2008 Financial Information

The charts below reflect the combined financial information for Environment New Jersey and the Environment New Jersey Research & Policy Center.

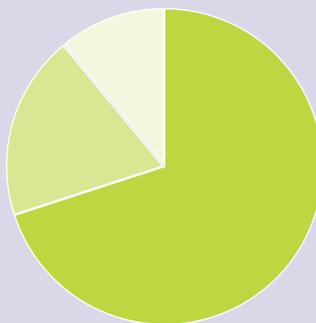
FY08 Program

- ◆ Clean Energy 47%
- ◆ Global Warming 26%
- ◆ Open Spaces 23%
- ◆ Clean Water and Toxics 4%



FY08 Income

- ◆ Citizen Members 82%
- ◆ Foundation Grants 18%



FY08 Expenses

- ◆ Program 70%
- ◆ Fundraising 19%
- ◆ Administrative 11%

Foundation Support

The Environment New Jersey Research & Policy Center, a 501(c)(3) organization, conducts research and public education on emerging environmental issues. Contributions to the Environment New Jersey Research & Policy Center are tax-deductible.

The following foundations supported the Environment New Jersey Research & Policy Center's work in 2008. To find out more, call Dena Mottola Jaborska at (609) 392-5151.

- Educational Foundation of America
- Energy Foundation
- Mertz Gilmore Foundation
- Oak Foundation
- Fund for the Environment and Urban Life

Growing a Greener New Jersey

Environment New Jersey gratefully accepts bequests and gifts of securities to support our work. Your gift will assure that we can continue to protect New Jersey's air, water and open spaces for future generations. For more information, call 1-800-841-7299 or e-mail PlannedGiving@Environment-NewJersey.org.

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