

New Jersey Equitable And Resilient SOLAR + STORAGE POLICY ROADMAP



250,000
Low-income solar
households by 2030



400 MW of storage
for low-income and
environmental justice
communities by 2030



\$125 Million per year
dedicated to low-income
and environmental justice
communities for solar
+ storage deployment,
education and outreach,
and workforce
development

OUR VISION

We envision a clean energy future for New Jersey that is resilient, equitable, inclusive, and community-centric. As we work to tackle the impacts of climate change and transition from fossil-fuels to clean energy, we must be bold and visionary to assure our most vulnerable and underserved neighbors benefit and thrive in this new economy. This dedicated focus will result in resilient and prosperous communities, and in turn, a prosperous, green Garden State for all. This roadmap is the first step toward that future.

THE CRISIS

The National Climate Assessment report and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have issued dire warnings on the intensity, frequency and duration of climate disasters and the burden they will place on our communities. The enduring economic and emotional toll of superstorm Sandy should motivate our elected representatives to make resilient and sustainable communities a central component of economic growth, state prosperity, and improved well-being for all New Jerseyans.

WHY LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

Governor Murphy's New Jersey Clean Energy Act is a first step toward a renewable energy future in New Jersey, but we must be explicit and deliberate in ensuring that all New Jerseyans benefit in a multitude of ways from this clean energy transformation. Without specific, targeted policies, New Jersey's low-income families may not be able to fully participate in the growing clean energy economy. Clean energy access not only gives low-income families a path toward a more sustainable future, it has the power to do so in a way that builds long-lasting community resilience and wealth. Investing in these communities today will deliver large dividends for all New Jerseyans in the future.

ROADMAP TO AN EQUITABLE AND RESILIENT NEW JERSEY

Policies and programs promoting clean energy for underserved communities should achieve more than just expanding access.

We should work toward building communities that are climate resilient, health resilient, workforce resilient, and wealth resilient.



VOTE SOLAR

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This roadmap outlines four key policy concepts that address these principles:

1

Resilient, Sustainable, and Healthy Communities Holistic community energy planning that combines existing energy efficiency efforts with behind-the-meter solar, community solar, and energy storage to transition from fossil fuel energy sources to clean energy sources.

2

Accessibility and Affordability: Opportunities for meaningful financial benefits through a combination of deep energy cost savings and direct support to overcome financial and other barriers to access.

3

Community Wealth and Economic Resilience: While the solar industry continues to push for more diversity in the solar sector, without adequate training and options for solar asset ownership and control, many low-income and environmental justice communities will lag behind. We envision a future where everyone, regardless of income or race, plays a significant role in the entire value chain of the solar industry.

4

Community Engagement and Inclusive Planning: Low-income and environmental justice communities should be an integral part of New Jersey's clean energy economy and the planning process. Policymakers must ensure these communities are active voices in the clean energy discourse.

Leaders and community groups throughout New Jersey are all working toward addressing the climate crisis, but without targeted action, New Jersey's low-income families will not realize their fair share of benefits from the clean energy economy. New Jersey needs a legislative solution that addresses the above four key principles to fill the gaps in existing and proposed plans that lack funding, enforcement measures or the force of law. New Jersey's low-income families deserve the strongest protections, incentives and support to aid in a just and equitable transition to a clean energy future.

POLICIES THAT FULFILLS THESE AMBITIOUS GOALS WILL REQUIRE THREE KEY ELEMENTS:

1. **Targets** that result in bold and measurable outcomes for increasing clean energy access for low-income households.
2. **Innovative funding and financing** that will lower barriers to entry for low income households.
3. **Community-led and community-based education** programs that explain both how to participate in these programs and how to benefit from the financial, health and climate benefits.

This roadmap provides a strategy to significantly expand clean energy benefits to 250,000 low-income households. However, that is expected to represent only 35% of the state's low-income families, indicating the clear need to build off the goals of this 10-year strategy to ultimately serve all of New Jersey's low-income households by 2050.

ENDORSED BY:



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