A “D” is nothing to be proud of after more than two years in office. Unfortunately, that’s the grade Governor Christie is receiving today on his environmental report card, issued by the NJ Environmental Federation (NJEF), one of the state's largest, most effective environmental non-profit organizations working for clean water and air, open space, environmental justice, and building healthy communities.

Thirty nine (39) issues in 7 subjects of environmental policy made the grade. These were the issues deemed to be the most important, active and/or representative of concerns across New Jersey.

The grading for each subject and issue was based on (in priority order):

1st how important is the issue and how well is the Governor addressing it;
2nd whether he had previously committed to addressing it; and
3rd how his efforts compared to past governors’.

Overall, the Governor has performed poorly - receiving "poor" or "failing" marks on 28 of 39 issues graded. Some of the top highlights and lowlights include:

- The Governor received his highest grades on offshore issues -- a “very good” for his unchanging opposition to liquid natural gas plants off the Jersey Shore and deepening the Delaware Bay and River Channel, and a “good” for opposing oil drilling and supporting wind power projects offshore.

- On clean water, he received failing grades for efforts to dismantle the Highlands Act and failure to fulfill his promise to better protect the state’s most important ('c1') waterways, and a 'poor' on Barnegat Bay despite his well-publicized 10 point plan due to loopholes and poor implementation.

- On climate change, the Governor gets an "F" for not only abandoning his commitment to more aggressively implement the 2008 Energy Master Plan and 2007 Global Warming Response Act, but also for taking steps to weaken them.

While the report card is quite comprehensive, it has its unavoidable limits -- it cannot be all encompassing, is by its very nature subjective, and is a snapshot in time. The Governor not only can but needs to bring up his grades and do a better job protecting public health and the environment during his remaining time in office.

Please refer to the following pages for details and/or go to at www.cleanwateraction.org/reportcardnj.
On May 3, 2012, the NJ Environmental Federation (NJEF), the state’s largest environmental group, issued the Governor a "D" overall with "poor" or "failing" marks on 28 of 39 issues*. These issues grouped in 7 subjects were deemed the most important, active and/or representative of concerns across New Jersey.

### Appointments D-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Promised?</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board of Public Utilities</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>1st top appointment turned out to be global warming skeptic, showed in his policies which haven’t changed with his replacement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Too many upper level environmental professionals replaced with industry reps, mid-level managers moved to inappropriate positions, but some of the worst did not come to fruition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Monmouth</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Failed</td>
<td>Public environmental representation lost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governor's Office</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Initial strong appointments have recently moved on and replaced by fewer, less experienced and/or less environmentally concerned staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highlands</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Failed</td>
<td>Appointed anti-Highlands Act majority to Council charged with enforcing this law, fired staff for doing job, already seeing weaker actions and decisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinelands</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Good slate proposed, best nominees confirmed, worst one stalled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Clean Air C-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Promised?</th>
<th>Status</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coal</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Opposes new plants in state including Linden and individual plants along Del. Riv. in PA, but approved new power lines to import out of state dirty power and failed to support 2 key EPA efforts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diesel</td>
<td>Strong Yes</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Doing small pilot project not promised industry-wide emission control retrofits for state construction contracts, developing good port data but not implementing solutions that will get desired results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquid Natural Gas</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>Current opposition stronger than in 2009 including use of veto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Gas</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Supports subsidizing new gas lines and plants over clean renewables and without ensuring pollution is reduced overall or locally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offshore Oil/Gas Drilling</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Good locally but too quiet where needed at the national level</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Clean Water D

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Promised?</th>
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<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barneget Bay</td>
<td>Strong Yes</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>More attention than ever but 10 point plan flawed, implementation delayed and weakened, vetoed 3 good bills to help Bay recover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 1 (c1) waters and stream buffers</td>
<td>Strong Yes, 1st 100 days</td>
<td>Failing</td>
<td>Broke promise to strengthen program &amp; review/upgrade waterways based on science; now weakening buffer protections w/ exemptions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deepening</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>Continuing litigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinking Water Standards</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Failing</td>
<td>Rejected new standards, stalled research on others, effectively shut down standard setting Drinking Water Quality Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertilizer, soil bills</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Signed bills but not advocate for strongest versions/ implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fracking</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Wants to replace Del. River moratorium w/ weak rules, vetoed NJ ban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe Playing Fields Act (pesticides)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Won't take a specific position or reveal any concerns on the bill despite repeated requests and promises to the contrary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Quality Planning, Flood Hazard, and Storm Water</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Despite opposition from USEPA, secured law that weakens protections; pushing additional regulatory exemptions even in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Supply</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Update of 20 yr. old plan delayed, likely to reveal water deficits and limit growth; situation gets worse the longer it's delayed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Climate Change F

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
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<th>Status</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global Warming Response Act (GWRA)</td>
<td>Strong Yes</td>
<td>Failing</td>
<td>Failing to implement despite strong promise, very disappointing he wavered on man-caused climate change as his national rep. grew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Failed</td>
<td>Unilateral withdrawal from this agreement and without any public process costing tens of millions of dollars, lost jobs, more pollution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Environmental Values D

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget and Staffing</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>NJDEP kept relatively stable at current, albeit inadequate level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative Impact and Environmental Justice</td>
<td>Strong Yes</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Some initial good steps taken, but pace is too slow and commitment to follow through is uncertain, bad projects keep popping up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJN</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Failed</td>
<td>Gutted key media outlet/watchdog on NJ politics &amp; the environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science, Cost:Benefit</td>
<td>Strong Yes</td>
<td>Failing</td>
<td>Ignoring economic &amp; health data that support stronger protections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Remediation</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Oversight of worst sites and consultants is too weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waivers on Permits</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Failing</td>
<td>Just adopted waiver rule -- a sweeping weakening of protections, past denials and expert staff decisions being overturned by politics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Energy D-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clean Energy Funds</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Failing</td>
<td>Nearly $680 million diverted in &lt; 3 years negatively impacting economy, compliance with GWRA, and public health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Master Plan</td>
<td>Strong Yes</td>
<td>Failed</td>
<td>Major broken commitment, reduced emphasis on efficiency and clean renewables, more open to nuclear and incineration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offshore Wind</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Passed nation's strongest law, needs to stay on track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oyster Crk. Nuclear Plant</td>
<td>Yes, 1st 100 days</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Cut deal to close in 2019 but safety review since has been a failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salem Cooling Towers</td>
<td>Yes, 1st 100 days</td>
<td>Failing</td>
<td>Broke key commitment to &quot;stop the fish slaughter&quot;, no action to date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Nation-leading effort in trouble, legislative fix needed w/ Gov's. help</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Open Space D

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
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<th>Status</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beach Access</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>In response to bad court ruling, adopted needlessly weak rule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>Strong Yes</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Funds rapidly diminishing, appears no longer open to water fee and sales tax may be problematic politically and/or substantively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Park Leasing</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
<td>Devils in the details, just beginning to implement plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Plan and Commission (SPC)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>New plan has too much emphasis on growth over protection, too much discretion w/ key points not yet public, lack SPC appointments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threatened and Endangered Species</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Consideration being given to strengthening some protections, but repeatedly delayed with nothing concrete, significant offered yet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Key:

**Promised?**  
"yes" indicates a campaign promise made by Chris Christie with 'strong' and/or '1st 100 days' added when there was an additional level of commitment, and “n/a” means no promise was made.

**Status:**  
Evaluation of progress made by the Governor to date using three criteria (listed in priority order): how important is the issue and how well is the Governor addressing it; then whether he had previously committed to addressing it; and finally how his efforts compared to past governors.

* For additional details, visit website at [www.cleanwateraction.org/reportcardnj](http://www.cleanwateraction.org/reportcardnj)
Governor Christie's Environmental Report Card

Issue Descriptions

Below please find more detailed descriptions of the evaluations for each issue and subject covered on Governor Christie's Environmental Report Card, issued by the NJ Environmental Federation (NJEF) on May 3, 2012 and available at www.cleanwateraction.org/reportcardnj.

In July 2009, the Governor wrote NJEF: "I can only say that I am a man of my word."
That quote and all the others in this document come from:

- Candidate Christie’s reply to NJEF's questionnaire in July of 2009;
- Christie for Governor press release from October 6, 2009 (currently page 471 of 1165 pages archived at http://www.politickernj.com/press_releases?); and

Appointments: D

On appointments overall, Governor Christie has failed to live up to this commitment. In his July 31, 2009 response to NJEF's questionnaire, Candidate Christie wrote: "All of my appointments will be based upon the qualifications and commitment of the nominee to the advancement of the mission of the organization and to New Jersey." In oral interviews with NJEF at the time, he reiterated this position and added that NJEF would have meaningful input on key environmental appointments. While NJEF might have offered strong recommendations – both objections and positive alternatives, they were with few exceptions rejected.

On BPU appointments, the Governor gets a poor. Governor Christie's first appointment to head the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) while initially appearing ok, turned out to be a global warming skeptic with policies consistent with that and his replacement has not changed those policies.

On NJDEP appointments, the Governor gets a poor. At the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), outsiders too close to regulated industries have replaced too many upper level environmental professionals. Mid-level management has been shaken up causing delays, loss of expertise, and potentially far worse. Whether by its own accord or direction from the Governor and as documented throughout this report card, the DEP has failed to take needed action to protect public health and the environment as well as fulfill the Governor's key commitments. However, it could be far worse as key representatives of polluters have been considered but were ultimately rejected for top environmental positions.

On Ft. Monmouth appointments, the Governor fails. When the Fort Monmouth Redevelopment Commission in 2010 was reformed, public environmental representatives lost their seat at the table when the Governor rejected good, viable nominations.
Appointments: D (continued)

On the Governor’s Office appointments, Christie rates a fair.
Initially he made strong appointments in the Governor’s Office, like Chief of Staff Richard Bagger, but many of these have recently moved on and their replacements have been fewer, less experienced and less environmentally concerned.

On Highlands appointments, the Governor rates as a TOTAL FAILURE.
Governor Christie fought hard for and just last month secured a working majority to the Highlands Council that opposes the very law they're charged with implementing. This majority has already flexed its muscle by firing competent staff for doing their job and railroading through an uncredentialed replacement. Policies that lead to less healthy and more expensive drinking water are already in the works.

The Governor's Pinelands appointments rate a good for now.
A competent manager was hired for the Pinelands Commission, a good slate was proposed with the best nominees confirmed and the worst held, and a new chair that NJEF endorsed was selected. However, what appears to be more than rumors abound that Christie Administration efforts to weaken Pinelands protections are about to begin if they haven't already.

Clean Air: C-

On coal, the Governor is poor though he will object.
He deserves credit for being steadfast in his opposition to the Linden coal plant, continuing litigation against individual Pennsylvania coal plants, and his no new NJ coal plants policy. However, these positives are more than offset by his support for new out of state coal-fed power lines in New Jersey and refusal to support more comprehensive solutions at the national level as proposed by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Governor Christie rates a poor on diesel as well.
In a 10.6.09 campaign press release he said he would “Require state contractors to retrofit their diesel engines” because as elaborated on his website at the time "I recognize too many folks get sick from diesel exhaust with all the ensuing health and economic costs." However, the Governor has failed to fulfill this pledge settling for a pilot project and deferring a decision on whether to fulfill the commitment until 2014, after the next election. In addition, he chose not to play a significant role in making demands on the Port Authority of NYNJ (PANYNJ) to adopt a clean air strategy that would result in a significant reduction in diesel pollution from port trucking.

On liquid natural gas, the Governor scores a very good.
During the campaign, he was not supportive of these plants offshore. On his first Earth Day as Governor, he announced he would use his veto authority to stop one. His opposition has remained steadfast even as the facility applicants attempted to have the federal agencies ignore the veto.

In contrast, the Governor rates poorly regarding natural gas on land.
Christie has been a lead proponent of new subsidies for gas plants and lines across the state at the expense of clean renewables. Further while non-fracked natural gas is not as dirty as coal, that's less clear for fracked gas. The Administration has not insisted that this new capacity only be used to replace dirtier existing sources rather than expanding overall fossil fuel capacity.

On offshore oil and gas drilling, the Governor received a good.
He opposes it anywhere close enough to impact the Jersey Shore, one of the few Republicans nationally that does. But he has been uncharacteristically shy about expressing this at the national level where this debate is really being played out.
Clean Water: D

While he'll likely object, the Governor scores a poor on Barnegat Bay.
During the campaign the Governor made a strong commitment to "Clean up Barnegat Bay with stronger laws and rules to stop the nitrogen and phosphorus that is poisoning the Bay" (10.6.09, Christie for Governor press release). However, despite paying more attention to the Bay than any past Administration, the necessary follow through has been lacking. His much publicized 10 point plan was weak on addressing the Bay's biggest problem, overdevelopment, and has been weakened further upon implementation.

The Governor is failing on C1.
In that same press release, the Governor committed to "Strengthening the C1 program, weakened by the Corzine Administration, to protect New Jersey's most important waters also in the first 100 days". No measureable progress had been made to fulfill this commitment at all let alone in the first hundred days. In fact, the Administration has weakened these protections by waivers and other exemptions and is currently proposing further weakenings.

However, the Governor scores a very good on the Delaware Deepening.
He opposed it during the campaign and that opposition has remained steadfast since.

On drinking water standards, the Governor is also failing.
He has rejected new standards on some chemicals (radon, perchlorate and volatile organics), stalled research on others (PFOA used in non-stick cookware) and has otherwise effectively shut down the state's standard setting Drinking Water Quality Institute.

The Governor received a fair rating on the fertilizer and soil compaction bills he signed into law.
While the bills were part of the Governor's 10 point Barnegat Bay package and the fertilizer bill was a campaign promise, the Administration did not play a significant role in the bills' passage for better or worse, and hasn't been aggressively implementing them.

On fracking, the Governor scores a poor.
While initially supportive of a moratorium in the Delaware River Watershed, the Administration has more recently been trying to rally support for weak rules to lift the moratorium. Further, the Governor conditionally vetoed a permanent ban for a 1 year moratorium for the rest of New Jersey.

When it comes to pesticides, the Governor also received a poor.
While the Administration has been vaguely supportive of the Safe Playing Fields Act, it has refused to get more specific or reveal any concerns despite repeated requests and promises to the contrary.

The Governor also receives a poor for critical rules on water quality planning, flooding and storm water.
While he made no specific promises during the campaign here, his campaign did assert he would not weaken environmental protections generally. These rules were strengthened over the past few years and are critical given the increasing frequency of floods, droughts and build out. The Governor signed a bill that weakens the water quality rules and is proposing changes to all three rules that would weaken protections further.
Clean Water: D (continued)

On Water Supply, the Governor also gets a poor. His Administration continues a bi-partisan delay of updating the state Water Supply Master Plan, despite commitments to the contrary. If it is done accurately, it will likely tell a story that the Administration doesn't want to be told, i.e. development restrictions needed. The exact same criticism he laid on Corzine in 2009 can be said of Christie today: "It is outrageous that [the Corzine ] Administration continues to delay the required review of a state water supply master plan ... there can be no more serious environmental issue facing our state. We must ensure a safe, adequate and sustainable supply of water ... for too long we have been flying blind when it comes to clean water availability. At the start of my administration, we will assess the state of our drinking water, both quantity and quality. Even though a study is required every five years, the last time one was in place was in 1995."

Climate Change: F

Arguably on no other issue has the Governor abandoned his campaign promises more than climate change as he gets failing marks across the board here.

"Due to global warming and for our own security, we need to reduce not increase our reliance on fossil and foreign fuels" Chris Christie, July 2009, NJEF questionnaire.

"While Jon Corzine signing the Global Warming Response Act (GWRA) and updating New Jersey’s Energy Master Plan (EMP) and the strong goals contained therein are laudable, implementation here and a host of related issues is quite disappointing. In contrast I am committed to aggressively pursuing these goals." Christie for Governor website, October 2009 through April 2010

Governor Christie has abandoned his commitment here by not only not aggressively implementing the 2008 EMP and 2007 GWRA, but also taking steps to weaken them. For example, he's unilaterally withdrawn from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), reduced the EMP standards for energy efficiency and clean renewables, and diverted nearly $680 million of dedicated ratepayer money away from the Clean Energy Fund (CEF).

Additional related information is available at the Clean Air and Energy sections of this document.

Energy: D-

Refer to Climate Change above for more information on the Governor's failing marks on Clean Energy Fund and the Energy Master Plan.

On Offshore Wind (OSW), the Governor receives a good mark. He championed and signed a strong law and now New Jersey has the chance to lead the nation with 15% of our electricity needs coming from OSW within the decade. It is critical the Governor stay on track here and that’s currently in jeopardy.

The Governor receives a poor mark on the Oyster Creek nuclear plant, and a failing mark at Salem. The Governor committed to "enacting policies in the first 100 days to stop the fish slaughter resulting from flawed cooling systems at the Salem and Oyster Creek nuclear plants". The Governor cut a deal to shut down Oyster Creek 10 years early; but we hoped for much more including an active interim independent safety review board and measures taken to ensure the plant’s safety while still operating. But the Governor has fallen far short in this regard. The Governor has not made any progress on his commitment with regard to the fish kills and flawed cooling system at Salem.
Energy: D- (continued)

The Governor receives a fair mark here for solar. Due to past efforts, New Jersey has been a national leader on solar installations; but now the solar market is crashing and requires a legislative fix. The Governor has sent mixed signals as to his position here, and for better or worse, he will play a critical role in helping to salvage or destroy this market and corresponding jobs from research to installation.

Environmental Values: D

The Governor also scored a fair mark on budget and staffing. While funding has remained stable it remains inadequate due to historic cuts. Staffing was supposed to bottom out this year, but a small cut has been proposed for FY2013.

On cumulative impact and environmental justice, the Governor also receives a fair rating. During the campaign, the Governor Christie wrote: “the Linden coal plant shows us, too many communities bear a disproportionate share of the pollution burden as they do too many others. Too often state decisions are made without keeping that in mind. I will require my Administration to develop standards and guidelines and implement them so that cumulative and disproportionate impacts will carry much greater weight in our decisions.” The Governor’s Administration has taken some initial good steps in the right direction but the pace is too slow, the commitment to follow through uncertain, and bad projects keep popping up with either support from the Administration or a lack of tools at the Administration’s disposal to stop them.

On NJN, the Governor failed. One might wonder why NJN would be on an environmental report card, but as this report card demonstrates many environmental decisions are made in a political environment and NJN was 2nd to none in shining the light of day on such decisions.

The Governor has failed to take any meaningful steps to implement his promise regarding cost:benefit analysis. On his campaign website (October2009) he stated that he would "require a more accurate cost/benefit analysis. These analyses will include better evaluation of the benefits, economic and otherwise, of lives saved, illnesses avoided, natural resources preserved, work and school days not lost due to sickness, and health care costs reduced to the more traditional and legitimate costs to taxpayers and businesses to implement public health and environmental regulations."

On Site Remediation, the Governor receives a poor. In October 2009, he said "We really need very strict oversight [of privatizing site remediation] by the DEP so it is not open to corruption. There are benefits to privatization, but you need that strict oversight, and I wouldn’t extend it to land use management. I think that is something that should remain under government.” http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2009/10/nj_gubernatorial_candidates_ad_2.html

However, his Administration put forward, but then shelved, a proposal to privatize land use. Calls for better public disclosure, more field investigations, and deeper paper reviews and audits have been denied. DEP is also under resourced to do the job properly.

On waivers on permits, the Governor fails. His DEP just adopted a waiver rule that gives DEP far too much discretion on if and when to waive compliance with environmental laws. Further, the Administration has overturned past denials of projects for failure to meet appropriate environmental standards, such as a Wal-Mart in the Pine Barrens section of Times River, a new road instead of a walking/biking path in Lacey Twp., and the sale of Holly Farm in Millville to a developer even though Green Acres was offering a better deal.
Open Space: D

On beach access, Governor Christie gets a poor.
In response to a bad court ruling, DEP went overboard and adopted rules that leave too much power in the hands of towns with a history of being hostile to public access.

On open space, he also gets a poor but this time for inaction.
The Garden State Preservation Trust is running out of money and funds are desperately needed to counter the Governor’s otherwise hostile Highlands agenda. During the campaign, Governor Christie committed to “Renew and strengthen the Garden State Preservation Trust, which Governor Corzine has repeatedly undermined”, “a long-term funding source for open space at a spending level comparable to that of the past decade”, “an annual appropriation of approximately $250 million”, “[ensuring] open space preservation is a priority, not one that is reduced to a short-term fix”, and “a Constitutional Amendment that will dedicate a portion of the sales tax to provide for land preservation for the next ten years”. We’re still waiting!

On state park leasing, Governor Christie gets an incomplete.
He’s released a plan that has the potential to provide a responsible, long-term funding stream to the chronically underfunded parks program but also the potential to underfund and/or commercialize the parks. The devils in the undisclosed details of this still developing plan.

The Governor received a poor on The State Plan and State Planning Commission.
During the campaign, he said “We need to develop in the right places and just say no in the wrong ones and my Administration will do just that.” However, his proposed State Strategic Plan to replace the State Plan is too vague, places too much emphasis on growth over protection, and leaves too much discretion. Similar to parks the devils in the as of yet unannounced and regularly delayed details. These efforts are further hampered by any, let alone adequate, public members on the State Planning Commission.

On threatened and endangered (t&e) species receives an all too familiar and final poor mark.
The Administration has repeated undermined the Landscape Habitat Map, which uses the best available data to help protect t&e species, by waiving protections and regularly threatening to weaken underlying rules. The Administration says it’s working on a proposal to strengthen protections but it has been repeatedly delayed with nothing concrete or significant shared to date.

The New Jersey Environmental Federation (NJEF) is one of the state's largest, most effective environmental non-profit organizations working for clean water and air, open space, environmental justice, and building healthy communities. It is the state chapter of Clean Water Action and has 150,000 individual members, 75,000 email alert subscribers, and 100 member groups in the Garden State.

The full report card and other related materials are available at www.cleanwateraction.org/reportcardnj
For additional information, contact David Pringle, Campaign Director at 732-996-4288
Press Release

For Release: Thursday, May 3, 2012

Contact: David Pringle, Campaign Director  (cell) 732-996-4288
Amy Goldsmith, State Director     (cell) 732-895-2502

GOVERNOR DOES NOT MAKE THE GRADE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Trenton - Giving an overall grade of D, the New Jersey Environmental Federation (NJEF) released its report card on Governor Christie’s environmental record today at a State House press conference.

NJEF combed through a range of environmental issues, actions, and policies in its grading. While scoring well on some individual assignments like his opposition to offshore drilling, liquid natural gas plants, and support for offshore wind, his highest subject grade was a C- in the clean. He received a D’s on energy, clean water, appointments, open space, and environmental values, and an F in climate change. To view the entire report, visit www.cleanwateraction.org/reportcardnj.

It was quite a change from two and half years ago when NJEF endorsed candidate Chris Christie – the first time the organization had ever endorsed a Republican gubernatorial candidate. At the time, candidate Christie in a series of interviews with board members had convincingly portrayed himself as a staunch environmental champion, and made a series of campaign promises to back that up.

However, Governor Christie has strayed far from candidate Christie. In reviewing 39 of the most important issues facing New Jersey, the Governor performed poorly – receiving “poor” or failing marks on 28 points.

“Coming out of the gate, the governor appeared relatively on course,” said board member Sharon Finlayson who chairs NJEF’s Vote Environment Committee. “Unfortunately after two and half years, there has been a continual and steady decline in his environmental policy making. Coincidental or not, his environmental platform and commitments began to evaporate as his national stardom rose.”

Finlayson added that it is part of the endorsement process to offer praise when it is deserved, and to hold elected officials accountable when they do not live up to their campaign commitments.

The Governor concurred when he publicly told NJEF last year that it was OUR job to tell him how he is doing on the environment and hold him accountable to his commitments. In releasing this report card, Finlayson concluded that NJEF is doing its job, but clearly the Governor is not.

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The NJEF report card grading system for each subject and issue was based on (in priority order):

- the importance of the issue and how well is the Governor addressing it
- whether he had previously committed to addressing it
- how his efforts compared to past governors'

Top highlights and low lights of his environmental record include:

- Some of the Governor's highest scores on **offshore energy** issues are offset by poor positions on land-based energy including **coal, natural gas and diesel**.

- On **clean water**, he received failing grades for efforts to dismantle the Highlands Act and failure to fulfill his promise to better protect the state's most important ('c1') waterways, and a 'poor' on Barnegat Bay despite his well-publicized 10 point plan due to loopholes and poor implementation.

- On **climate change**, the Governor gets an "F" for not only abandoning his commitment to more aggressively implement the 2008 Energy Master Plan and 2007 Global Warming Response Act, but also for taking steps to weaken them. He also diverted nearly $680 million of dedicated ratepayer money away from Clean Energy Fund.

“Setting lower goals, advocating for more dirty power, and wavering on the impact of man’s contribution to climate change is bad enough,” said NJEF Board Member Ben Forest. “But, he unilaterally withdrew from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) – costing New Jersey tens of millions of dollars, badly needed jobs, and more pollution.”

NJEF stressed that the Governor can turn the D around to an A, and offered the organization’s support for doing just that.

“There is absolutely no satisfaction whatsoever in giving the Governor a D,” said NJEF Board Chair Janet Tauro. “This bad grade affects all of us; the environment, our health, and the well being of future generations. He has to improve his record during his remaining time in office because New Jersey deserves nothing less. We’re here to help him or hold him accountable, it’s his choice.”

*To view the entire report card, visit [www.cleanwateraction.org/reportcardnj](http://www.cleanwateraction.org/reportcardnj).*

*Additional statements by NJEF Board Members are included in this document.*

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NJ Environmental Federation, the NJ Chapter of Clean Water Action, is an organization of 150,000 members and 100 member groups working to empower people to take action to protect America's waters, build healthy communities and to make democracy work for all of us. For over 35 years, NJ Environmental Federation and Clean Water Action have succeeded in winning some of the nation’s most important environmental protections through grassroots organizing, expert policy research and political advocacy focused on holding elected officials accountable to the public.

[www.cleanwateraction.org/njef](http://www.cleanwateraction.org/njef)
On October 9, 2009, I stood here as a member the New Jersey Environmental Federation’s (NJEF) Vote Environment Committee and endorsed Chris Christie for Governor. This is the first time we had endorsed a Republican for statewide office. At that time I said: “I believe environmental stewardship should be a concern for all of us - not owned by any one political party.” I still believe that.

During our endorsement process, I found Governor Christie convincing. He made me believe he is different kind of politician. That he shared core environmental values with us. When I asked him about climate change, his answer was clear. He believes global warming is a fact and as a father he is deeply concerned.

It was that answer that made me think - is it possible that he could be the best environmental choice for New Jersey?

It was clear that we would not agree on everything but candidate Christie promised to keep his door open, and consider other (our) points of view.

Following the election, we worked with his administration and gave the benefit of the doubt on a great deal. We advocated behind the scenes; won some and lost some in the first 12 months. For some time now, the Governor has been distant and unresponsive. His policies reflect an anti-environmental point-of-view.

On an issue of greatest importance to me, climate change, the governor gets his worst grade, an “F”. In 2009, he pledged to do better than the 2007 Global Warming Response Act (GWRA) and implement it faster than Governor Corzine. In actuality, Christie has not only not implemented the provisions of the Act and corresponding energy master plan, he has reversed their course. He set lower goals, advocates for more dirty power and wavered on the impact of man’s contribution to climate change. If that was not bad enough, he unilaterally withdrew from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) – costing New Jersey tens of millions dollars, badly needed jobs and more pollution.

Sadly, our Governor also gets an “F” on protecting the Highlands. The Governor’s appointments to the Council overseeing enforcement to the Highlands Act are an embarrassment at best with some intent on dismantling the law. Much of our state including the food, beverage and pharmaceutical industries rely on the region for safe and affordable drinking water. Tourism, a vibrant part of the area’s economy, requires the preservation of pristine ecological offerings, not the possibility of overdevelopment.

I truly hope the Governor decides to turn this around and establish an environmental legacy we can all be proud of. Nothing would make me happier.

www.cleanwateraction.org/reportcardnj
My name is Janet Tauro and I serve as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Environmental Federation (NJEF).

The organization derives absolutely no satisfaction whatsoever in giving Governor Christie’s environmental record a “D” because it isn’t the governor who loses the most by the grade; it’s all of us. It’s the environment, our health and those of future generations. It’s land that once is paved over, can never again be open space. It’s our waterways that are increasingly threatened by runoff, overdevelopment, and upstream sources of pollution.

The Governor’s D- in the “Energy” category also reflects a faulty public investment strategy. In less than 3 years, he diverted nearly $680 million of clean energy funds, that were intended to bolster green energy projects and badly needed green jobs in the construction industry.

On a positive note, the administration did broker the agreement for an early closure of the Oyster Creek Generating station – a nuclear plant with the same General Electric Mark I Boiling Water reactor design as Fukushima. However, the much-lauded independent safety panel has yet to meet with the public about ongoing safety issues at this dirty and dangerous plant.

On another issue close to my home, the Governor and NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) did use their bully pulpit to draw attention to the dying Barnegat Bay. This is a nationally designated estuary considered to have at best 10 years of life left. Unfortunately, the Governor’s 10 point plan doesn’t have the nuts and bolts to stop the biggest cause of the bay’s decline -- overdevelopment.

On a state-wide level, he has rejected the science that indicates that newer stricter drinking water standards are needed, and created additional regulatory exemptions in controlling flood hazards despite the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Irene.

And finally, he has been too silent on the Safe Playing Fields Act, which would eliminate the use of harmful, toxic pesticides where children play. He has yet to take a position or voice concerns, if he has any, about the bill despite repeated requests by NJEF.

In looking at this report card, I’d like to repeat that there is no satisfaction in giving these grades. We wish the governor were receiving an A+.

And, just like any of us would tell our children, grades can go up but it takes a lot of effort and hard work. If the governor chooses, NJEF stands ready to help. NJEF would like to see the governor leave behind a protected and healthy environment for the future wellbeing of our children, and this corner of the earth that we call home.

www.cleanwateraction.org/reportcardnj
Governor Christie’s 1st Environmental Report Card

Sharon Finlayson
Chairperson, Vote Environment Committee of the New Jersey Environmental Federation
Former Chairperson and Current member, NJEF Board

May 3, 2012

The New Jersey Environmental Federation (NJEF) is a state chapter of Clean Water Action (Washington D.C.) with 100 member groups, 150,000 individual members and 75,000 email alert subscribers generated by NJEF's door to door canvass.

As Chairperson of NJEF’s Vote Environment Committee (VEC), I am here today to report on the environmental progress of Governor Chris Christie. I regret to report that the governor is doing poorly.

In 2009 after a long and deliberative process, we stood before you to announce, and I was strong advocate for, our environmental endorsement of Candidate Chris Christie for New Jersey governor. At a time when environmental issues called for strong leadership, Candidate Christie conveyed his concern for the environment and promised to move a vigorous environmental agenda.

With that endorsement, we also made a mutual pledge to praise when it’s due and hold him accountable when he fails to live up to his commitments.

To this day, we stand by that endorsement.

Coming out of the gate, the governor appeared on course on some key commitments. He strongly supported off shore wind and upheld the state’s opposition to the Delaware Deepening project. On his first Earth Day in office, he publicly opposed LNG (Liquified Natural Gas) and offshore drilling projects.

Unfortunately as we fast track 2 1/2 years of governance, there has been such a decline in his environmental policymaking that he was silent on Earth Day 2012.

New Jersey is an acknowledged and respected national environmental leader, often setting standards that other states follow. Over the past 2 years, Governor Christie has risen to national prominence. This created an opportunity for him to highlight NJ’s environmental challenges, initiatives and achievements and to move a strong environmental agenda across the nation and within his party.

But as the governor's national stardom rose, his environmental commitments and policies began to deteriorate.

At NJEF’s 2011 annual conference, the governor again called on us to hold him accountable and tell him how he is doing at his job. And so, today, we are here to do just that. The report card we are releasing today reflects the governor’s environmental record and current status on issues related to campaign promises made to NJEF and the residents of this state in 2009, as well as issues that have developed since he took office. We graded him on specific policies and by issue area, which resulted in an overall grade of “D”. Not a grade to be proud of – and one that might get anyone “grounded” if you brought a report card like this home.
Even his best grade was only a C- in the “clean air” category because the good work done on offshore projects such as LNG, oil and gas drilling was offset by his poor work on coal, diesel and on shore natural gas.

In the category of “environmental values” his grade was a D. While he has taken some initial steps in the right direction to address cumulative impacts of pollution in environmental justice communities, he has adopted rules and other policies that would waive critical environmental protections.

Here is just one example of a failing grade. As candidate Christie, he committed to scientifically review and expand Category 1 (C1) protections for selected waterways within his first 100 days. Not only was that not done, but some stream protection buffers have actually shrunk in size under his watch. This along with other water policy results in an overall grade of “D” for “clean water”.

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