

How Did Your New Jersey Legislator Vote?

What We Scored: The Top 16 Environmental Bills in 2020-21



1. Electric Vehicles Law (S2252/A4819): Sets ambitious goals for moving New Jersey to a clean transportation sector and establishes a rebate program (up to \$5,000) for the

purchase of light-duty plug-in electric vehicles as well as an incentive program for the purchase and installation of in-home electric vehicle charging equipment. It also requires at least 10% of NJ Transit new bus purchases to be zero emissions after 2024, 50% after 2026, and 100% after 2032. *(passed at the end of the 2018-19 session; YES vote is pro-environment)*

2. Measuring Climate Impacts Law (S3215/A4606): requires the state to use a 20-year time horizon when calculating global warming potential to measure the impact of greenhouse gases. *(passed at the end of the 2018-19 session; YES vote is pro-environment)*

3. Food Waste Law (S865/A2371): requires certain large-scale generators of food waste to source separate this food waste from other solid waste and send that food waste to an authorized food waste recycling facility. This will prevent tons of food waste from being disposed of in landfills and incinerators as well as incentivize the expansion of a food waste recycling economy in New Jersey. *(YES vote is pro-environment)*

4. Redistricting Constitutional Amendment (SCR123/ACR188): created a referendum asking voters to approve of a constitutional amendment that would automatically delay the creation of new districts following a census year if the census data was received by the state any later than February 15th. This would allow legislators to run in districts with outdated census data for an extra term. We oppose creating a permanent constitutional change that delays accurate representation of the people in response to a once in a lifetime crisis. *(NO vote is pro-environment)*



5. Environmental Justice Law (S232/A22120): requires the DEP to evaluate the environmental and public health stressors of certain facilities on overburdened communities when

reviewing certain permit applications. The bill would require the DEP to deny a permit to a new polluting facility that would increase the disproportionate negative environmental and public health impacts on an overburdened community and would allow the DEP to apply conditions to the approval of permits for

existing polluting facilities. It also supports robust public input in any hearings regarding these permits to allow community members to more easily have their voices heard. *(YES vote is pro-environment)*



6. Bag Ban Law (S864/A1978): bill will prohibit all stores and restaurants from giving out or selling single-use plastic bags and grocery stores from giving out or selling single-use paper

bags. It also prohibits the use of polystyrene foam food service products and limits the distribution of single-use disposable plastic straws. This will reduce New Jersey's generation of single-use disposable waste and help to reduce litter and plastic pollution in waterways. *(YES vote is pro-environment)*

7. Green Constitutional Amendment (SCR30/ACR80): would amend the New Jersey Constitution to provide that every person has a right to a clean and healthy environment and gives common ownership of New Jersey's public natural resources to the people of New Jersey with the State serving as trustee. It also requires the State to consider the effect of any proposed action on the environment before taking that action and to make a reasonable effort to address the action's environmental effects. *(Co-sponsorship is pro-environment)*

8. Corporation Business Tax (S2934/A4721): restores the corporation business tax (CBT) surtax at a rate of 2.5% ensuring that large corporations pay their fair share. The CBT is a funding mechanism for dedicated environmental funds and programs. *(YES vote is pro-environment)*

9. Millionaires Tax (S2949/A10): increases the gross income tax rate on taxpayers with a gross income exceeding \$1,000,000. This is a responsible, revenue-raising move at a time when many programs in NJ, including many environmental programs, face budget cuts. *(YES vote is pro-environment)*

10. Clean Energy Equity Bill (S2484/A4185) focuses state efforts on the equitable deployment of clean energy, energy efficiency, and energy storage programs and technologies in overburdened communities. It will bring equitable and tangible benefits to low income and overburdened communities at the household and community level including clean energy asset ownership, energy cost savings, employment, and economic opportunities. *(Senate only; YES vote is pro-environment)*

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11. Corporate Welfare Act of 2020 (S3295/A4): approved more than \$14 billion dollars of corporate tax breaks while critical programs like the Clean Energy Fund remain underfunded. Despite being hundreds of pages long, it was introduced and passed in less than a week with no time for meaningful public or even legislative scrutiny. *(NO vote is pro-environment)*



12. Lead Service Line Replacement Law (S3398/A5343): requires public community water systems to inventory and replace dangerous lead service lines across the state within ten years and provides a fair funding mechanism by spreading the cost across all water consumers within the water system. *(YES vote is pro-environment)*

13. Offshore Wind Law (S3926/A5894): prevents local municipalities from blocking the development of offshore wind and the accompanying power transmission lines. *(YES vote is pro-environment)*

14. Grid Scale Solar Law (S2605/A4554): establishes a new solar renewable energy certificate program, with the goal of incentivizing the development of at least 3.75 gigawatts of new solar energy by 2026. The financial incentives will be available to large scale solar projects as well as community solar projects. *(YES vote is pro-environment)*



15. Dual Use Solar Law (S3484/A5434): establishes a dual-use solar energy program allowing farmers to build solar generation projects on unpreserved farmland. This helps the

farmers extract financial value from farmland that may otherwise be lost to permanent new development while still allowing agricultural use of the land and also increasing solar generation in New Jersey. *(YES vote is pro-environment)*



16. Recycled Content Bill (S2515/A4676): establishes post-consumer recycled content requirements for rigid plastic containers, glass containers, paper and plastic carryout bags, and plastic

trash bags. Increasing recycled content requirements helps to create a market for recyclables. *(Senate only, YES vote is pro-environment)*

