

CLIMATE SUMMIT

New Jersey Student Climate Challenge

All virtual Climate Summit sessions will be presented live. Recordings will be accessible on the [Sustainable Jersey for Schools website](#).

Opening Plenary – Tuesday, February 23, 1:00pm - 2:30pm

*New Jersey's First Lady Tammy Snyder Murphy
Dave Velazquez, President and CEO, Atlantic City Electric/Pepco Holdings
Natasha Iqbal, Student, Egg Harbor Township High School
Randall Solomon, Executive Director, Sustainable Jersey*

Keynote Address – Caroline Lewis, Founder and Senior Climate Advisor, CLEO Institute

The CLEO Institute, which stands for Climate Leadership Engagement Opportunities, is a leading nonprofit organization focused on driving community climate action through education and engagement. In 2019, Ms. Lewis was recognized by TIME magazine as one of the 31 most influential people in the South. She was also one of 12 individuals nationally recognized as a White House Climate Resilience Champion of Change in 2013. She will discuss the importance of climate change education and action and the power of youth participation.

Closing Plenary – Monday, March 22, 1:00pm - 2:30pm

*Robyn Brenner, Executive Director, The Drumthwacket Foundation
Andrea Drewes, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Graduate Education, Rider University
Natasha Iqbal, Student, Egg Harbor Township High School
Randall Solomon, Executive Director, Sustainable Jersey*

Keynote Address – Lynne Cherry, Founder and Jaysa Hunter-Mellers, Youth Ambassador, Young Voices for the Planet

Lynne and Jaysa will share examples of how young people can make a difference in the climate crisis by becoming leaders, changing minds, and changing the world. Jaysa will share her own experiences as a youth leader for climate activism and will introduce a youth-driven action guide that students can use to plan and implement a climate action project in their own communities.

The Opening and Closing Plenary sessions are suggested for all Climate Summit participants.

CLIMATE SUMMIT

Nine Topic Focused Student Sessions

Climate and Sustainability Goals for New Jersey - Friday, February 26, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Helaine Barr, Research Scientist Climate Change Program, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Rhyan Grech, Policy Advocate, Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Joel Mott, Principal Public Programs Specialist, New Jersey Pinelands Commission
Randall Solomon, Executive Director, Sustainable Jersey

This session will focus on the impacts of climate change in New Jersey with a special focus on the South Jersey region. Presenters will share strategies aimed at reducing the flow of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and addressing our vulnerability to the harmful effects of climate change, such as sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and food insecurity. The role students can play in implementing the strategies will be highlighted.

Climate Justice, Social Justice - Monday, March 1, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Meishka L. Mitchell, AICP, PP, Vice President, Cooper's Ferry Partnership
Crystal Pruitt, Deputy Director, Office of Clean Energy Equity, Division of Clean Energy, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
Randall Solomon, Executive Director, Sustainable Jersey

Climate change is not just an environmental problem. It is an inherently social issue because the impacts of climate change often have disproportionate effects on low-income communities, persons of color, indigenous people, individuals with disabilities, young children, and seniors. This session will explore the inequities that exist in New Jersey and statewide and local initiatives aimed at addressing them.

Virtual Home Energy Check-Up - Wednesday, March 3, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Edward Musz, Manager, Energy Efficient Programs, Atlantic City Electric/Pepco Holdings

Atlantic City Electric will offer students a Virtual Home Energy Check-up experience. An Energy Analyst will take them through an educational virtual walkthrough of their home looking at lighting, thermostat settings, and more to find where they can save energy. A checklist will be available prior to session to prepare students for the virtual assessment. Throughout the check-up, the Energy Analyst will explain why saving energy is important for them now and in the future.

The Electric Vehicle (EV) Revolution - Friday, March 5, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Hogan Dwyer, Research and Project Specialist, Sustainable Jersey
Jennifer Grisham, Program Manager, Smart Grid & Technology, Atlantic City Electric/Pepco Holdings

From electric buses to scooters, there are many new ways to get around and move goods that are better for our health and the planet. To address social justice, health, and environmental issues, the time has come to transition our transportation options to clean vehicles. This session will review the basics of electric vehicle technologies and EV performance and explore ways to encourage residents, businesses, schools, and local governments to 'go electric'.



CLIMATE SUMMIT

Renewable Energy Options - Tuesday, March 9, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Stephen Sunderhauf, Regulatory Group, Atlantic City Electric/Pepco Holdings
Nancy Quirk, Energy Program Manager, Sustainable Jersey

The utility grid of the future is here! New sources of energy from wind and solar are increasingly important in delivering electricity to our homes, schools, and offices. And our homes, schools, and offices can deliver energy and other services to the grid, including energy storage to offset energy demand. This session will review renewable energy technologies currently used in New Jersey including opportunities to 'go solar' via community solar programs, which enable residents to take advantage of cost savings on their energy bills while helping to build a clean energy economy.

Knowing Your Food, Knowing Your Environment - Friday, March 12, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Sara Elnakib Ph.D., MPH, RD, Family & Community Health Sciences Educator III, Rutgers University

Food production, distribution, and consumption can all play a critical role in the climate change story. This session will highlight how these roles can be changed from antagonists to protagonists by taking action at the local level to implement environmentally friendly agricultural practices, promote locally grown food, and reduce the amount of wasted and uneaten food that winds up in landfills.

Local Climate Action at Work - Monday, March 15, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Doug Abbott, Program Manager, Education, Alliance to Save Energy
Isabella Castiglioni, Outreach Manager, Pinelands Preservation Alliance & Association of NJ Environmental Commissions
JoAnna Contarino, College Co-Chair, NJ Student Sustainability Coalition
Sean Mohen, Executive Director, Tri-County Sustainability
Bill Shadel, Coastal Projects Manager, NJ Chapter, The Nature Conservancy

Local non-profits and Sustainable Jersey green teams in South Jersey are actively involved in fighting climate change. This session will feature examples of current initiatives and provide tips on how students can get involved in ongoing efforts or start a project of their own.

Communicating Climate Stories - Thursday, March 18, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Andrea Drewes, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Graduate Education, Leadership, and Counseling, Rider University
Jared Flesher, Documentary Filmmaker, Hundred Year Films
Danielle Lawson, Assistant Professor, Penn State University

Students' role as trusted messengers can be expanded as they share stories of personal connections to climate impacts and action through effective climate communication. In this session, experts will highlight the power of youth to positively influence the environmental beliefs and climate change understandings of their family members and other adults in their lives. Strategies will be discussed in this interactive session featuring a climate education expert and a local environmental documentary filmmaker.



CLIMATE SUMMIT

Careers in Energy - Friday, March 19, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Alisha Adams, Senior Corporate Citizenship Specialist, Corporate Relations, Atlantic City Electric/Pepco Holdings
Shrina Reavey, Senior Engineer, Environmental Management, Atlantic City Electric/Pepco Holdings
Ranjit Sackey, Regional Capacity Planning, Atlantic City Electric/Pepco Holdings
TJ Thornton, Senior Workforce Development Specialist, Human Resources, Atlantic City Electric/Pepco Holdings
Jason Tucker, Project Execution, Smart Grid and Technology, Atlantic City Electric/Pepco Holdings
Thomasina Ware, Senior Recruiter, University and Programs, Talent Acquisition, Atlantic City Electric/Pepco Holdings

Innovation in the energy sector is essential to addressing climate change. Join Atlantic City Electric to learn about Careers in Energy. This session will feature a panel of employees sharing how they work to create a brighter and more sustainable tomorrow. A wide range of opportunities exist for students studying the vocational trades to those headed for college in areas including Environmental Management, Field Engineering, Innovative Technologies, and Electric Transportation. The session will close with a discussion on internship opportunities and tips on how to build towards a successful career.

Five Teacher Professional Development Sessions

Climate Science Primer for Educators - Thursday, February 25, 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Kathleen Biggins, President, C-Change Conversations
Andrea Drewes, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Graduate Education, Leadership, and Counseling, Rider University

This session will showcase a climate science presentation that is aimed at building background content knowledge around climate change, its impacts, and ways to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change with a special focus on New Jersey. An interactive presentation and Q&A session will allow teachers to feel more comfortable and confident in their ability to bring high quality and accurate climate change information to their students.

Exploring the NEW NJSLs for Climate Change in MS - Thursday, March 4, 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Andrea Drewes, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Graduate Education, Leadership, and Counseling, Rider University
Michael Heinz, Science Coordinator, Office of Academics, New Jersey Department of Education

Participants will explore the 2020 NJ Student Learning Standards (NJSLs) to learn how climate change can live in the middle school science curriculum. Middle school teachers will examine the implications of the new standards for curriculum and instruction and will discuss how to update relevant student learning outcomes to reflect the changes. Currently available climate science instructional materials for middle school classrooms will also be shared and evaluated.

Exploring the NEW NJSLs for Climate Change in HS - Monday, March 8, 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Andrea Drewes, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Graduate Education, Leadership, and Counseling, Rider University
Michael Heinz, Science Coordinator, Office of Academics, New Jersey Department of Education

Participants will explore the 2020 NJ Student Learning Standards (NJSLs) to learn how climate change can live in the high school science curriculum across science disciplines. High school teachers will examine the implications of the new standards for curriculum and instruction and will discuss how to update relevant student learning outcomes to reflect the changes. Currently available climate science instructional materials for high school classrooms will also be shared and evaluated.



CLIMATE SUMMIT

Integrating Climate Across Classrooms - Wednesday, March 10, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Andrea Drewes, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Graduate Education, Leadership, and Counseling, Rider University
Missy Holzer Ph.D., Science Standards Review Specialist, Great Minds
Lauren Madden Ph.D., Associate Professor, School of Education, The College of New Jersey
Laney Siegner Ph.D., Climate Change Educator, University of California, Berkeley

Expert teacher educators will guide teachers from across content areas on ways to identify the big ideas of climate change that are relevant to various content areas and how to infuse climate change related standards across all K-12 subjects. Emphasis will be on exploring and evaluating instructional resources available to teachers that highlight interdisciplinary links to climate change.

Being an Ally for Youth Driven Climate Action - Tuesday, March 16, 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Andrea Drewes, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Graduate Education, Leadership, and Counseling, Rider University
John Henry, STEAM & Sustainable Schools Specialist, New Jersey Schools Boards Association
Allison Mulch, Project Director, School Sustainability, NJ Audubon

Strategies for supporting student-centered action projects will be shared that work to encourage and raise up student voices and priorities for climate action. Skilled facilitators will share approaches for what works in other popular student-led environmental projects and how to take these tips into the virtual learning environment as well to ensure that students are the ones leading the way to design and implement climate action projects in their local communities.

POWERED BY ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC

Atlantic City Electric and the Exelon Foundation are proud to support the New Jersey Student Climate Challenge as part of their commitment to powering a cleaner and brighter future for customers and communities in New Jersey.

