

NJEF ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2009

Protecting Water Resources:

- Helped stop legislation that would have required mandatory fluoridation of NJ's drinking water supplies. This bill would have involved the use of hydrofluosilicic acid (an industrial byproduct that contains additional harmful heavy metals) which has a tremendous financial impact on both drinking water and sewer pipes. The most effective way to prevent cavities is topical use, i.e. toothpaste and fluoride rinses, as oral ingestion can lead to overdosing, mottling of the teeth, and other harmful health effects.
- Helped stop a proposed trash transfer station in Little Egg Harbor. The proposed site is a significant recharge area for the Cohansey Aquifer, a source of drinking water and major aquifer, and home to many threatened and endangered species such as the Coopers Hawk and Barred Owl.

Stopping Bad Environmental Legislation/Projects

- Successfully influenced Governor Corzine to veto two anti-environmental bills before leaving office. The first would have delayed the deadline for wastewater planning updates to be made for three years. These updates are critical in stopping sprawl development through tighter regulation of sewer extensions and restrict developments that rely on septic systems for sewage disposal. The other bill would have restricted the number of neighbors told about contamination on a site by limiting it to those within 200 feet of the 'area of concern,' rather than within 200 feet of the borders of the property.

Preserving Open Space

- Helped to preserve Petty's Island, a 392-acre island located in the Delaware River close to Camden, as an ecological, cultural and historical preserve. Located in one of NJ's most heavily industrialized river corridors, the island is home to wildlife such as bald eagles and herons and was also once the land of Native Americans, William Penn and a venue for slave trading and trafficking.

Sustainable Energy

- After years of organizing on a local, state, and national level, NEF and coalition partners succeeded in pushing New Jersey regulators to recommend a new cooling tower at Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant. The ruling is important in protecting our fisheries, water resources, and ecosystem in Barnegat Bay. In addition, it is widely expected to increase pressure for towers at the Salem nuclear plants on the Delaware River. A big kudos goes out to Grandmothers, Mothers and More for Energy Safety for their relentless commitment and hard work on this important issue. Public hearings will begin Feb. 24, 2010.
- Helped form the Arthur Kill Watershed Alliance to successfully pressure the Linden City Council to reject a plan to build PurGen, a controversial coal degasification plant. Numerous environmental and economic concerns surround the \$5 billion project, including untested and unproven carbon capture and sequestration technology that could jeopardize the state's attempts to help mitigate global warming.

Healthy Towns/Healthy Schools

- Passed Pesticide Free Zone resolutions in Cherry Hill, Collingswood, Hamilton and Montclair bringing the total number up to 31 total counties, towns and a school district with PFZ resolutions/posting of parks. Collingswood also passed No Idling and Green Cleaning resolutions and Upper Saddle River passed a No Idling resolution.
- Trained over 1,000 facility managers and principals on low-impact and school Integrated Pest Management (IPM) solutions. To date, over 4,500 have been trained.
- NJEF helped assist school district in Monmouth County from fogging classrooms and school buses with quaternary ammonium disinfectant pesticides to kill the H1N1 virus. The proposed fogging could have put 7,000 students and staff at risk to exposure to disinfectant residues with side effects such as severe irritation, sensitization, and asthma attacks.

Greening Our Urban Cities: Newark

- NJEF helped to form Newark's first environmental commission in which Kim Gaddy, NJEF's Environmental Organizer, was appointed chair. One of its first successes was the opening of the "South Ward Powerhouse" yesterday, a demo house offering tips and information on how to live more eco-friendly and energy efficient. Kim Gaddy was also appointed as a member of the state's Environmental Justice Advisory Council, responsible for making key recommendations on public health issues in urban communities.
- With a goal of helping create a healthier, greener, and more economically stable Newark, NJEF's Urban Environmental Institute, in cooperation with Grace Corporation and LB Electric, held a successful environmental justice leadership training course and solar training course on solar energy, weatherization, green roofs, LEED building, and water / stormwater efficiencies. The course is helping residents to compete and work in the emerging green job market.

Cleaning Up Toxic Waste

- In order to protect public health and welfare, NJEF, along with Gloucester Mayor Rau Hatton and other community activists, helped to ensure more stringent and frequent testing for radioactive levels during clean-up of the GEMS landfill superfund site in Gloucester. The landfill was once the dumping ground for toxic industrial and municipal waste dating to the 1950s. In 1999 low levels of radium and uranium were found at the site, prompting a site clean-up.

Effective Community Organizing

- NJEF community organizers had a record year--reaching almost 400,000 households, generating almost 100,000 new individual members, over 50,000 email alert subscribers, and almost 25,000 handwritten letters, phone calls, and telewires on environmental issues.