



**August 2, 2024**

Good afternoon Mayor's and Municipal Officials,

In this week's update on news and resources from the NJDEP (New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection) you will find the following - Murphy administration reminds residents and businesses to conserve water as hot and dry conditions persist; Take the **August Food Waste Challenge**; The previously issued **air quality action day is extended**; Join New Jersey's Conservation Police Officers around the state on **National Night Out**; DEP's 52 Weeks of Adventure takes you to **Rancocas State Park**; NJEDA is offering a competitive funding opportunity -**The Green Workforce Training Grant Challenge**; Green Acres Program has purchased 132 acres next to the Buckhorn Creek Wildlife Management Area and more. Read on...

## **Murphy Administration Reminds Residents And Businesses To Conserve Water As Hot And Dry Conditions Persist**

The Murphy Administration reminds residents and businesses to conserve water as the state continues to experience hotter and drier than average conditions this summer statewide.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for monitoring and protecting the state's water supply to ensure ample clean, safe water for drinking and other needs. DEP's Division of Water Supply and Geoscience has been closely monitoring the drier than usual conditions this summer.

"While these conditions have not significantly impacted drinking water supplies statewide, persistently hot and dry conditions can adversely affect water supplies in the longer term," **Environmental Protection Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette** said. "It is important that residents and businesses take proactive steps to moderate their use of water now to help ensure ample supplies throughout the summer. Some steps people can take include being mindful of lawn and landscaping watering practices, choosing a

commercial car wash that recycles water over handwashing, and covering your pool when not in use to prevent evaporation.”

Reservoir levels are near long-term averages for this time of year and groundwater supplies are near normal throughout the coastal regions of New Jersey, with the southwestern, central and northern portions of the state experiencing lower groundwater levels due to dry conditions.

Though current water demands are being met and New Jersey’s water systems are capable of handling periods of low precipitation, these periods of extreme heat, which are worsening as a result of climate change, coupled with mostly localized, not widespread, precipitation have put a strain on water systems. Hydrologic conditions can change rapidly, so stay informed over the coming months for any changes in status that may warrant additional water conservation steps. [READ MORE](#)

The DEP will continue to monitor water supplies very closely and advise the public, local governments, and water systems as appropriate. The most up-to-date information about the status of New Jersey’s water supplies can be found at [njdrought.org](http://njdrought.org), where you can also find more information about water supply conditions. For a DEP microsite on water conservation measures

visit <https://link.edgepilot.com/s/cc13ae66/0d8n0GEq9kmzzprCyd1ZuQ?u=https://dep.nj.gov/conserve-water/>



## Take the August Food Waste Challenge



Did you know that an estimated 339K tons of food was wasted in New Jersey in 2021 because it spoiled before it was eaten? Not only does uneaten food contribute to climate impacts, but consuming spoiled food can also make you sick.

Foodborne illness is a preventable public health challenge that causes an estimated 48 million illnesses and 3,000 deaths each year in the United States. Foodborne illness has a variety of causes, one of which is improper food storage.

This month's challenge is to review our tips and ensure you are storing food properly to prevent waste!

For more information about food storage and safety, visit [nj.gov/dep/dshw/food-waste](https://nj.gov/dep/dshw/food-waste).

Share with us creative ways you extend the shelf life of your produce at home, either through storage or by crafting new food waste recipes, by posting a photo and using the hashtag [#EraseFoodWasteNJ](https://twitter.com/EraseFoodWasteNJ).

## HEAT HUB-NJ

### Heat Vulnerability Assessment Survey

While anyone can suffer from a heat-related illness, several specific populations are more vulnerable to extreme heat and susceptible to heat-related illnesses.

Take the survey to learn if you or your loved ones fall into one or more populations vulnerable to extreme heat.

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#) | Visit [Heat Hub New Jersey](#)

# The previously Issued Air Quality Action Day for Thursday, August 1st is being extended into Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>

Ozone levels are forecast to remain elevated in the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG) category in northern NJ due to persistent hot temperatures and mostly sunny skies.

[NJDEP | NJDEP - Employment | Employment Opportunities](#)  
Winds will shift to a more southerly flow allowing residual ozone from the day prior to push further northward.

At this point enough sunshine is warranted for the alert, however the timing of cloud cover and thunderstorms associated with a warm front lifting through our region late afternoon into the evening hours could impact ozone formation.

Air quality levels are expected to gradually improve to the moderate category through the upcoming weekend due to the chance of rain and cloudy conditions ahead of a cold front passage.

For more information go to [AIRNOW.GOV](http://AIRNOW.GOV).



**OFFICE OF CLIMATE RESILIENCE**

**WE ARE HIRING FALL INTERNS**

*Join Our Team!*



*We're looking for passionate students to contribute their talents to our team this fall!*  
*For more information on how to apply, please visit <https://dep.nj.gov/jobs/#internships>.*

**Open Positions:**

- ✓ Stakeholder & Outreach Planning Assistant
- ✓ Climate Hazard Resilience Intern
- ✓ Climate Resilience Outreach Intern
- ✓ Climate Resilience Policy Intern

**Apply Now, Application Due July 31st**

[NJDEP | NJDEP - Employment | Employment Opportunities](#)

## **DEP's Green Acres Program has purchased 132 acres next to the Buckhorn Creek Wildlife Management Area!**

Located in White Township, this purchase is part of a CHANJ corridor and is home to state-listed species like the elusive bobcat, the veery, and the wood thrush.

The property has everything: critical habitat, fields, nesting and migratory birds, deer, turkey, forest, amazing views and a portion of Buckhorn Creek.

Connecting Habitat Across New Jersey (CHANJ) is an effort to make our landscape and roadways more permeable for terrestrial wildlife by identifying key areas and actions needed to achieve habitat connectivity across the state. CHANJ offers two main products – an interactive Mapping tool and a Guidance Document – to help prioritize land protection, inform habitat restoration and management, and guide mitigation of road barrier effects on wildlife and their habitats:

By connecting critical habitats, we're ensuring that these creatures have the space they need to thrive.

For more information on CHANJ, check out:

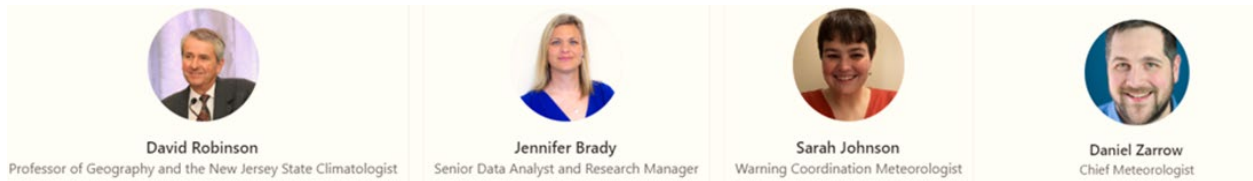
<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/8c93ac5b/iFkonaJ8mkChPWKOhV5smw?u=http://www.chanj.nj.gov/>

# NJ Interagency Council on Climate Resilience Asks: Has it Always Been This Hot in NJ?

**Date:** August 13th

**Time:** 11:00 AM

**Location:** Online Event



Have you noticed that our summer days seem hotter and those warmer days last longer each year? That's because NJ is warming at a rate that is outpacing the global average increase in temperature - and we expect this trend to continue as our climate continues to change! Learn more about NJ's temperature increases and their impacts at the Interagency Council on Climate Resilience's first NJ heat focused webinar on August 13th at 11:00 AM.

[Click here to register.](#)

[NJDEP | Climate Change | Interagency Council on Climate Resilience](#)

# Funding Opportunities



## Green Workforce Training Grant Challenge

The Green Workforce Training Grant Challenge is a competitive funding opportunity that will award grants to implement workforce development training programs that bolster the green economy talent pipeline in the state with a particular focus on NJ's Overburdened Communities. A total of \$7 million is available for programs under this Grant Challenge, including \$2.65 million from the Wind Institute for Innovation and Training and \$4.35 million through the Governor's Council on the Green Economy. The minimum and maximum amounts for individual awards are set at \$250,000 and \$1.5 million, respectively. NJEDA anticipates making multiple awards in this grant challenge.

**Visit:**

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/4398cf06/AmHBZBK6wkGC9ng7wQZueQ?u=https://www.njeda.gov/green-workforce-grant/> for program details, eligibility, award size and key dates.