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New Jersey Audubon Society's Policy Response to Global Warming

New Jersey Audubon Society recognizes that global warming poses a major threat to plants, animals and communities; therefore, we have developed and implemented a campaign to achieve:

- 1. Regulations limiting greenhouse gas emissions.**
- 2. Policies promoting responsible development of alternative energy sources.**
- 3. Programs which mandate and offer incentives for energy conservation in cars, homes and businesses.**

New Jersey Audubon has formed innovative partnerships with other organizations to attain synergistic outcomes. Our major partners include the New Jersey Public Interest Research Group (NJPIRG), the Sierra Club, the New Jersey Environmental Federation and Greenfaith. Some noteworthy accomplishments of our recent global warming campaign are highlighted below.

1. Regulations limiting greenhouse gas emissions
 - a. NJAS actively supported the NJ Clean Car legislation, which will remove greenhouse gases from the environment. This state-based strategy, which is occurring throughout the Northeast and West Coast, is seeking to change federal policy through state-level leadership action.
 - b. NJAS is playing a supportive role in the Northeast Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. The goal of the initiative is to reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions to pre-2000 levels through state-level regulations and incentives. While the initiative is regional, NJAS will play a key advocacy role in NJ. Our efforts have/will include policy analysis and recommendations, briefings with cabinet-level officials, press conferences, membership education and grass-roots advocacy support.
 - c. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is proposing the listing of carbon dioxide as a regulated pollutant. We will support this rule, as it represents the first step in state-based carbon-capping.
 - d. If and when the political climate changes in Washington, D.C., we will support efforts to have the elements of the state-based campaign instituted nationally.
2. Policies promoting responsible development of alternative energy sources
 - a. The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) will be proposing its Renewable Portfolio Standard rules this fall. The rules would require that 20 percent of all energy consumed

- in NJ be generated from renewable sources (e.g. solar, wind). We will continue to advocate for adoption of this rule.
- b. NJAS developed its position on wind power in December 2002 and held cabinet-level meetings with BPU and DEP, advocating for responsible development of wind power in NJ. Our position paper has been instrumental in setting the stage for discussions in NJ to date.
 - c. NJAS challenged the first permitted wind facility in NJ because of the lack of rigor in its Environmental Impact Statement. We have settled with the wind developer, and our Research Department will be working with the wind purveyor to answer key scientific questions in order to help wind power move forward nationally.
 - d. In recognition of its expertise, NJ Audubon was named as a member of Acting Governor Codey's Blue Ribbon Panel on Development of Wind Turbine Facilities in Coastal Waters. The panel is charged with researching the feasibility of offshore wind turbine facilities as an alternate energy source for New Jersey. The research will include a cost benefit analysis; a comparison to other electric power sources such as fossil, nuclear and renewable fuels; and an assessment of the New Jersey's long-term electricity needs. The panel, which was created by the active governor's Executive Order #12 (12/2004), will provide its recommendations by March 2006.
 - e. On May 4, 2005, NJ Audubon, Princeton University and NJPIRG held a technical workshop, "Wind Energy and Wildlife: The Good, The Bad...The Possible," designed to explore the ecological benefits and risks associated with wind-produced energy and assist stakeholders in developing scientifically sound policies pertaining to the development of wind energy in New Jersey. The by-invitation workshop included key decision makers, wind purveyors, energy and wildlife advocates, academics and members of Acting Governor Codey's Wind Power Blue Ribbon Panel in New Jersey. The well-attended seminar featured presentations from European and United States experts. The strategically timed workshop met its goal of providing a scientific basis for guiding emerging state policy.
3. Programs which mandate and offer incentives for energy conservation in cars, homes and businesses
- a. The NJ Audubon Society recognizes that global warming is one of the primary threats to wildlife and plants and is committed to advancing energy conservation and renewable energy measures. In recognition of our commitment and expertise, the Society has been asked to sit on the BPU's Clean Energy Council. The Council's mission is to design, implement and evaluate clean energy programs that meet the requirements of the NJ Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act legislation and the BPU's orders that provide significant long-term energy savings to New Jersey residents and businesses.
 - b. NJAS will support legislation and incentive programs which support this goal.
 - c. As noted in #1a above, NJAS actively supports the NJ Clean Car legislation, which will foster more efficient vehicles.

Developed by Eric Stiles, Vice President for Conservation and Stewardship, NJ Audubon Society on October 18, 2005.