

Partial List of Environmental Deficits in New Jersey

Urban environmental health

The health and wellbeing of thousands of poor or black urban residents are disproportionately impacted by environmental pollution, including diesel fumes, toxic chemicals from industrial sources and garbage incinerators, and New Jersey's non-attainment of federal Clean Air Act ground level ozone and fine particulate standards. These same urban residents are assaulted by a host of other environmental health related problems, including lead from older housing stock, aging urban drinking water systems, and toxic emissions from hundreds of toxic waste site, solid waste facilities, sewage treatment plants, and junkyards. Yet the budget provides more funding for garbage cans for bears than research, prevention, and reducing disproportionate urban environmental health risks.

Toxic Site and groundwater cleanup

Cleanup of thousands of toxic waste sites is delayed due to insufficient funds to clean them up and fund DEP case managers to enforce cleanup laws on private sector polluters (responsible parties). The New Jersey Spill Act chemical feedstock fees are grossly inadequate for their intended purposes: to fund site cleanup, provide alternate sources of contaminated water supply, install homeowner treatment systems, reimburse towns for drinking water system treatment upgrades and replacement of wellfields due to pollution, and compensate those harmed by toxic sites.

Air and water quality monitoring networks

The coverage of the existing water quality monitoring network is inadequate and it has not kept pace with advances in water quality science, particularly for biological and chemical water quality monitoring. New Jersey must upgrade its air pollution monitoring network to comply with new Clean Air standards for fine particulates and toxics.

Water quality and water supply infrastructure

DEP has identified a \$12 billion capital needs deficit for water quality infrastructure to meet the requirements of the federal Clean Water Act, including sewage treatment plant upgrades, urban combined sewage overflow (CSO) and stormwater systems (SSO), and municipal stormwater management and flooding controls. Hundreds of millions more are needed to upgrade NJ's aging drinking water treatment and distribution systems to meet modern technology requirements and new public health based standards under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

More than 1,000 New Jersey streams, rivers, lakes and bays do not meet fishable and swimmable standards and implementation of hundreds of Clean Water Act mandated cleanup plans ("TMDL"s) is seriously lagging.

Landfill closure, tire pile removal and scrap/junkyard yard cleanup

More than 300 old municipal and industrial landfills have not been closed in accordance with DEP regulations and continue to pollute ground and surface water, drinking water supplies, and air quality. In 1988, DEP completed a Statewide Landfill Closure Plan that

identified \$3 billion in unmet capital needs. Hundreds of junkyards pollute water and land. DEP has identified scores of massive old tire dumps that threaten public health (vectors for disease), fire and water resources. Millions of dollars in funding allocated for these purposes has been diverted.

War on Sprawl

New Jersey is the nation's most densely populated state and will be the first to reach "buildout." DEP has identified land conversion to development as the number one risk to healthy ecosystems and water quality. Yet, the "War on Sprawl" waged over the last decade appears to have fallen off the budget and policy radar screen. DEP land use/land cover maps are over 5 years old, yet this budget would allocate \$2 million to a habitat study that could erect barriers to necessary off shore wind renewable power development.

Wetlands Protection

The state wetlands program suffered severe staff losses due to last budget attrition. Those losses, including almost all the fisheries biologists, have yet to be replaced.

Other Items:

- **Endangered and non-game species management**
- **Natural Resource Damage recovery – June 2007 statute of limitations. Loss of millions in uncollected revenue possible.**
- **Science and Research – cuts made under the Whitman Administration not yet restored.**
- **DEP modernization, technology, and information management**
- **Under-collected lease, easement, and concessions revenues at State Parks and State lands.**