



Protecting and Preserving New Jersey's Environment
<http://christiefornj.com/>

Politicians talk about protecting our environment. Chris Christie has actually done it. As our U.S. Attorney, Chris jailed polluters and used their fines for open space preservation and conservation projects, including the Cape May National Wildlife Refuge, the Forsythe Wildlife Refuge in Ocean County, and the Hudson-Raritan Estuary. Chris understands that there must be responsible protections in place to ensure our natural resources remain both a state treasure and an economic engine.

RETURN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO ITS CORE MISSION
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The Department of Environmental Protection is in place to do exactly what its name indicates. However, over time the department's primary mission has fallen to the wayside in favor of government bureaucracy – new regulation and expansive increases in both permits and fees. If the Department of Environmental Protection is going to be effective, it has to get back to its mission of protecting and preserving New Jersey's environment, while making it possible to maximize our state's resource potential.

Change the Leadership, Empower the Rank and File

I will bring new, better management to DEP. We will not out-source or shirk responsibility to implement and enforce our environmental laws to boards, commissions, councils, departments, or other agencies. I strongly support and have proposed meaningful ideas to improve the scientific basis of regulatory decisions, to remove political considerations, improve the quality of rule-making, and increase the confidence of the general public and the regulated community in agency decisions.

It will be my Commissioner and the duly appointed and constituted DEP staff who will be accountable for all permitting and regulatory decisions to me, and through me, to the public that elects me and I will oppose any effort to change that. Unlike Jon Corzine, I don't shy from accountability of my Cabinet departments. DEP rank and file worker need to be better valued and are critical if the DEP is to fulfill its statutory obligations and protect our beautiful state's precious natural resources. I welcome the responsibility and this agenda is proof positive of that.

Establish Rule-Making Scientific Advisory Committees

Rule-making advisory committees will be established to evaluate the underlying science in DEP or other departmental rule proposals.

Strengthen Rule Impact Statements

Current rule impact statements are inadequate and unsupported. In a Christie administration, impact statements will be more detailed with supporting expert analysis and will require a more accurate cost/benefit analysis. These analyses will include better evaluation of the benefits, economic and otherwise, of lives saved, illnesses avoided, natural resources preserved, work and school days not lost due to sickness, and health care costs reduced to the more traditional and

legitimate costs to taxpayers and businesses to implement public health and environmental regulations. Proposed rules will also contain a true “risk analysis” supported by actual data to ensure the proposal is serving an actual and critical public need.

Ensure DEP enforcement is performed properly

We will reinstate the Office of Environmental Crimes within the Attorney General's Office and increase funding to the Attorney General's Environmental Crimes Bureau. We will also restore the DEP Director of Science & Research position.

Revitalizing the State Development and Redevelopment Plan

The Christie Administration will drive an improved consistent State Plan that will better coordinate the State's growth, economic, environmental, energy, housing, and transportation agendas. We will ensure consistency of State regulations and local ordinances. This should be the keystone for the Executive Branch's delivery of its Priorities, Expectations and Goals for each Department. There must be a “Logical and Predictable” environment for business and government agencies. We need to develop in the right places and just say no in the wrong ones and my Administration will do just that. We will neither further empower short-sighted, narrow special interests nor betray the public trust.

PROTECTING NEW JERSEY'S OPEN SPACE
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Establish Long-Term Funding Source of Open Space

Preserving New Jersey's open space is critical to the long-term sustainability of our state's natural resources. In order to better plan and commit to open space, a Christie Administration will establish a long-term funding source for open space at a spending level comparable to that of the past decade. I will push for a Constitutional Amendment that will dedicate a portion of the sales tax to provide for land preservation for the next ten years. We will maintain the current 60/40 split between Green Acres and farmland preservation. I would also ensure that the Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT) is viable and address the Highlands and Pineland land issues.

Increase acres preserved annually

In addition to providing a stable funding source, New Jersey will look to increase the number of acres annually preserved. We will look at environmentally sensitive and rural land that is available, especially in the Highlands and Pinelands.

Reinstate the Highlands appraisal process for 5 years

We will push for legislation to reinstate the Highlands appraisal process for 5 years when the GSPT is renewed and strengthened. This will help to protect Highlands farmers and landowners.

Revive the Governor's Council on New Jersey Outdoors

We will revive the Governor's Council on New Jersey Outdoors to provide a direct line to the Governor on this important issue. The Council will be asked to advise the Governor on open

space needs and is anticipated to be instrumental in helping to secure long term stable funding. Amongst the Council's members will be key conservation leaders.

Create a User Friendly Preservation Process

Landowners and communities interested in preserving open space should be afforded clear, user friendly information about how to do so. We will provide clear, concise, on-line information to walk a reader through the steps to preservation so they do not need to try to sort through government offices, phone numbers, and government documents to find this information.

STRONGLY ENFORCE CLEAN WATER AND OCEAN POLLUTION LAWS

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Chris will continue the aggressive efforts he started as U.S. Attorney to combat violations of water pollution and ocean dumping laws. A Christie administration will endorse bi-partisan legislation to enhance penalties for violations of the "Ocean Dumping Act" and the "Comprehensive Regulated Medical Waste Act."

In addition, as Governor, I will oppose any attempt to drill off the coast of New Jersey and direct an immediate and comprehensive evaluation of Barnegat Bay and the Delaware, work with the Legislature, and take strong steps to resolve their problems.

Increased Protections for Waterways

My Administration will revisit Governor Corzine's decision to propose, but then reject, approximately 300 miles of waters for these protections, called category 1 or c1. I've had a ringside seat for 7 years and seen first hand the level of corruption in this state and I have concerns that at least some of these waters may have been rejected due to political pressure rather than the underlying science. It is also likely that other waters in this state deserve this protection. My DEP will make it a priority to apply the best science to determine whether additional waters deserve these protections and will expedite upgrading any that do.

Restoring the Delaware and Barnegat Bay

I will make it a priority to identify and implement strategies for better cooling systems at Oyster Creek and Salem. We cannot ignore this issue. I will not. There has to be a better way to cool Oyster Creek and Salem without putting – New Jersey taxpayers on the hook, and we will do it.

There also has to be a better way to control the nitrogen and phosphorous poisoning of the Barnegat Bay, similar to the legislation 'Save Barnegat Bay' has proposed, and we will do it. This will also be a top priority of my Administration.

Saying No to Coal

Coal plants are another significant source of this nitrogen and that is among the many reasons I oppose the proposed coal plant in Linden. The \$5 billion to build this plant would be better focused on renewable and efficiency efforts, like those outlined in my energy plan. Due to global warming and for our own security, we need to reduce not increase our reliance on fossil and foreign fuels,

Restore Shore Protection Cuts

A Christie administration will restore Governor Corzine’s unconstitutional cuts to the State “Shore Protection Fund.” Not only do these cuts violate state law, but they leave New Jersey residents vulnerable to future storm damage and endangers the economic viability of a shore tourism industry that generates more that \$38 billion in economic activity and provides jobs to over 400,000 people.

Reduce beach closings

A Christie Administration will prioritize resources and reduce beach closings by identifying the sources of pollution, fixing infrastructure problems, and addressing non-point sources of pollution. The best way to protect the public health, and maintain the economic vitality of the shore economy, is to keep our beaches open and keep our ocean waters clean.

Protect all sites in all seasons

We will require that that all environmental sample stations, whether they are considered official bathing beaches or not, issue advisories if high fecal bacteria levels occur. We will also test and post information on highly used recreational waters (e.g. Barnegat Bay, Raritan Bay, and Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers, as well as Great Egg and Great Bay Harbors). We will put a plan together to test in all seasons.

Provide complete water testing information on-line information

While the current rules do not require public notification other than closures at open designated beaches, the County Health Departments and the DEP do voluntarily post results on-line today. Clean Ocean Action describes this on-line data as “limited, complex and confusing for citizens to use and is often delayed.” We will provide a user friendly on-line site with timely information of beach advisories.

Oppose the Deepening of the Delaware River

I oppose this project because it is ultimately a waste of money, provides no economic incentive for New Jersey companies, and will have a serious negative environmental impact, especially because it will allow the dredge spoils to be dumped in NJ.

CLEAN UP OUR LAND

Expedite Hazardous Site Remediation to Eliminate the Backlog

A Christie Administration will focus on expediting the remediation of the backlog of hazardous sites. This would include focusing internal resources and aggressively using licensed site professionals to certify work. We can – and must – trust outside professionals, but the recent EPA audit makes clear DEP management must improve its oversight capacity to hold these professionals accountable and responsive to clear, strong standards.

Restore recycling rates

The Christie administration will make sure that NJ again becomes the national leader in recycling. Funds that are dedicated to supporting recycling will be used for that purpose and the regulatory roadblocks to effectively reusing materials will be safely eliminated.

Adopt “Operation Medicine Cabinet”

We will work with hospitals, pharmacies, the pharmaceutical industry and other key groups to create a public-private partnership to promote the environmentally-safe disposal of unused prescription drugs. We will combat the threat to the environment and human health posed by the improper disposal of unused medications, which poses long-term environmental and public health consequences, and contributes to the growing problems of the abuse of medications.

The Christie Administration will support the creation of a statewide “Operation Medicine Cabinet,” a successful private-public partnership of communities, law enforcement and pharmacies currently being implemented in Florida, Colorado, Indiana, Iowa and other states that promotes the proper disposal of unused prescription drugs.

CLEAN AIR, GREEN ENERGY, AND GLOBAL WARMING JUSTICE
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While Jon Corzine signing the Global Warming Response Act and updating New Jersey’s Energy Master Plan and the strong goals contained therein are laudable, implementation here and a host of related issues is quite disappointing. In contrast I am committed to aggressively pursuing these goals. My green energy plan (<http://www.christiefornj.com/images/energyasindustry.pdf>) is just a hint of the kind of change I’ll bring.

Reduce Diesel Pollution

I recognize too many folks get sick from diesel exhaust with all the ensuing health and economic causts. My Administration will implement policies which phase in a requirement that state contractors to retrofit their diesel engines to reduce these deadly emissions.

Environmental Justice

As the Linden coal plant shows us, too many communities bear a disproportionate share of the pollution burden as they do too many others. Too often state decisions are made without keeping that in mind. I will require my Administration to develop standards and guidelines and implement them so that cumulative and disproportionate impacts will carry much greater weight in our decisions.