

Press Release

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Panelists, hosts, and moderators at Clean Energy Future.

Left to Right: Panelists: Richard Lawton, Executive Director of New Jersey Sustainable Business Council; Rachael Shwom, Associate Director of Rutgers Energy Institute; Bil O'Hearn, Communications & Outreach Manager for Business Network for Offshore Wind; Elliott Ruga, Policy Director at New Jersey Highlands Coalition. Hosts: Christine Clarke, Environmental Director at Action Together New Jersey; Norah Langweiler, Campaign Organizer for Jersey Renewes. Moderator: Analilia Mejia, Executive Director of Working Families New Jersey.

Clean Energy Future: A Forum on Opportunities for New Jersey

Little Falls, NJ – A crowd gathered in the United Food and Commercial Workers auditorium on Tuesday, November 14 to hear from a panel of experts on the reality of climate change, advancements in renewable energy technology, and the potential of progressive policies to mitigate climate impacts. Organized by Jersey Renewes and Action Together New Jersey, this event coincided with the international #StillIn day of action and promoted the importance of state-led action on climate.

“More than fifty organizations have now joined Jersey Renewes to demand that our state leaders take serious action to address climate change, and tonight highlighted just a few of the many

recommendations we've worked with allies to compile," said **Norah Langweiler, campaign organizer for Jersey Renews.**

"Values-driven businesses are organizing and offering a different business voice in DC and in Trenton - making the business case for market innovations and policy solutions that will combine to create a vibrant, sustainable and equitable economy fueled by clean energy," explained **Richard Lawton, Executive Director of New Jersey Sustainable Business Council.**

"Any environmental decision is a mixture of facts and values and there are lots of opportunities for climate change mitigation. We have choice to make and those choices reflect how we value our children's future, our ecosystems, and our climate," intoned **Rachael Shwom, Associate Director of Rutgers Energy Institute.**

"The election of Governor Murphy just confirms that 2018 is going to be a watershed year for offshore wind energy in New Jersey," noted **William O'Hearn, Communications Director at Business Network for Offshore Wind.**

"As a parent, I want to ensure that the world my children inherit is safe and secure, and to me, that means accepting the scientific consensus on climate change, and taking action," said **Analilia Mejia, Executive Director of New Jersey Working Families.**

"While COP23 in Bonn and the #StillIn coalition events nationwide affirm our unified commitment to addressing global climate change, New Jersey is in an advantageous position to lead the transition to renewable energy. Let's unite, compete in this booming market and gain green jobs and new revenue while protecting our natural resources," urged **Christine Clarke, Environmental Director, Action Together New Jersey**

Across the globe we are already feeling the impacts of climate change, with stronger and more frequent storms, wildfires, and extreme temperatures providing a very real backdrop to the clear scientific consensus on climate change. But speakers also noted that we have the solutions necessary to mitigate the devastating impacts of climate change. The market is moving towards clean energy and states are taking up the call to action. New Jersey is poised to be a leader in clean energy, particularly with the recent election of Gov. elect Phil Murphy, who has committed to taking action climate.

The event was organized by [Jersey Renews](#), a broad-based coalition of labor, faith, community and environmental organizations, and Action Together New Jersey, the largest grassroots group in NJ fighting for progressive values.