

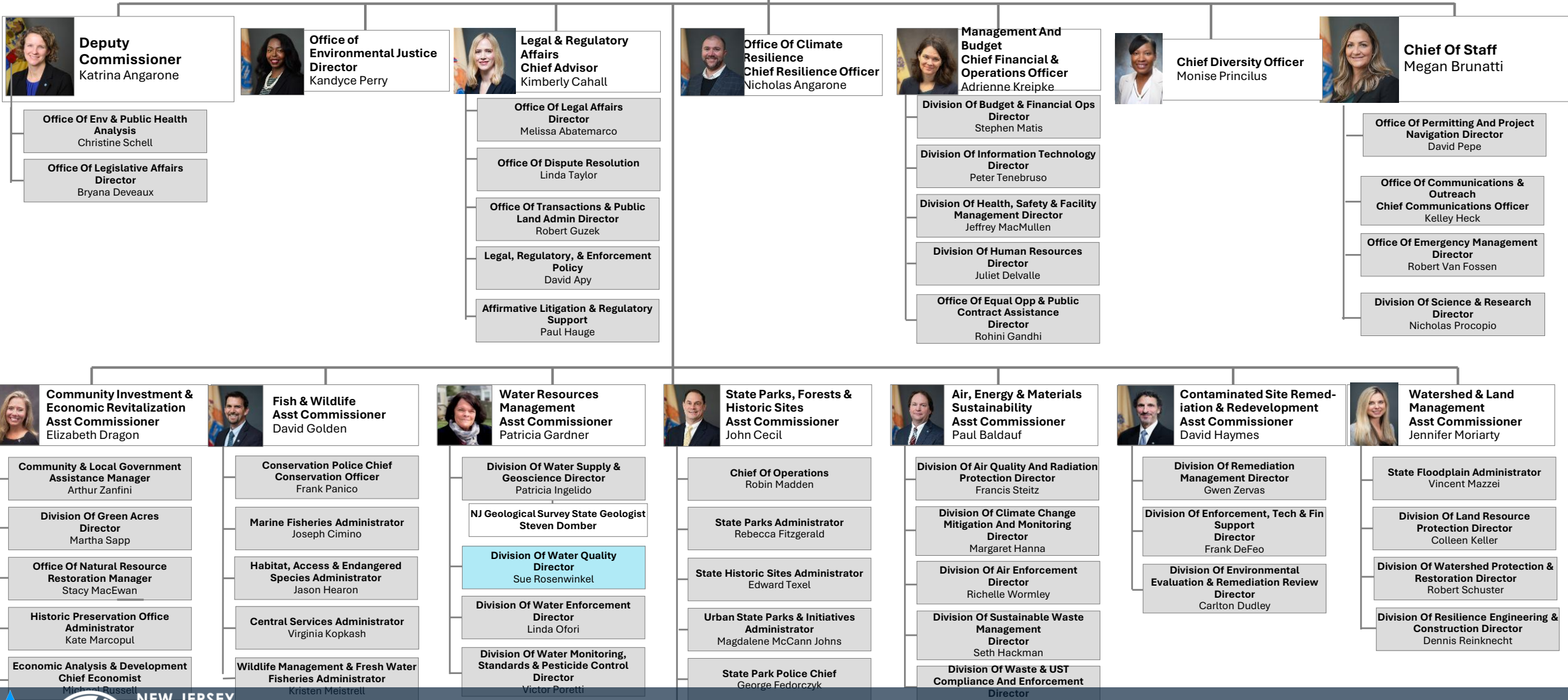


EDUCATING THE PUBLIC: AGENCY COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

New Jersey's Efforts to Engage the Public on Clean Water Priorities



Association of Clean Water Administrators -
Annual Meeting
August 13, 2025



Agenda

DEP Communications

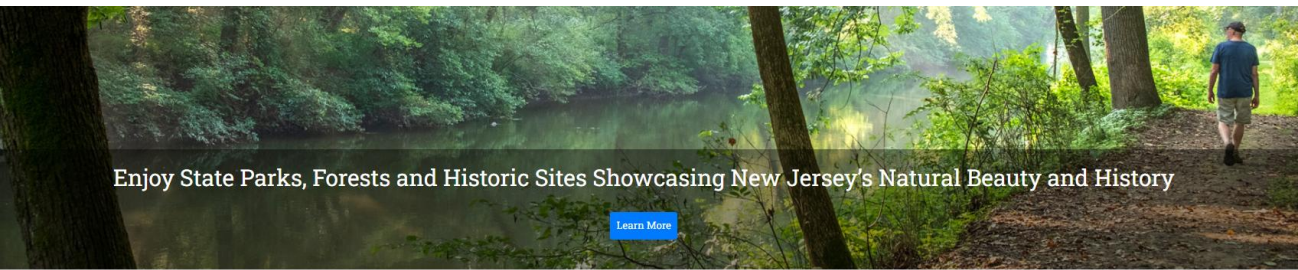
NJ Water Bank

CSO Public Engagement

Our Water's Worth It

Other Engagement





Enjoy State Parks, Forests and Historic Sites Showcasing New Jersey's Natural Beauty and History

[Learn More](#)

Updated Websites

<https://dep.nj.gov/>

Environmental Emergency?
Call the DEP Hotline
1-877-WARN-DEP
1-877-927-6337

Environmental Non-Emergency?
Use WARN NJDEP Mobile App

[Air Quality](#)

Check Beach Water Quality.

[Weather Ready](#)

Storm, Weather Resources and Updates.

[My Environment](#)

What is the status of the environment in your neighborhood?

- Q Information Tools
- DEP Online
 - DataMiner
 - NJ-GeoWeb
 - GIS Data
 - GIS Maps and App Gallery
 - Public Records (OPRA)
 - Rules & Regs
 - DEP Bulletin
 - Environmental Standards



NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF
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PROTECTION

Featured



DEP Accepting Nominations for Annual Recycling Awards

Nominate NJ Recycling & Sustainability leaders in 11 categories by Friday, July 25



Resilient Environments and Landscapes (REAL): Myths and Facts

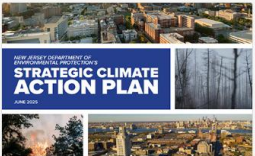
NJ is the first state in the nation to initiate a comprehensive update to building



New Green Transportation Planning Grant Program

Nearly \$1 million in grants awarded to develop local transportation solutions to cut vehicle pollution and emissions.

Popular Topics



Strategic Climate Action Plan

This report sets the course for the Department's next phase of climate action by looking across all its programs to identify additional opportunities to meaningfully prepare the State for the impacts of climate change.



Climate Change Resource Library for Educators

K-5 educators, use these resources to incorporate climate change lessons into all subject areas.



NJ Wildfire SMART

Learn more about NJ Wildfire SMART (Safety, Mitigation, Awareness, Resources, Training), a set of actions focused on providing steps and informational resources to help reduce the risk and spread of wildfires.



Water Conservation



Historic Settlement of Up to \$450 Million with 3M for Statewide



NJ Saltwater Registry

facebook

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Follow Page 16K followers

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

10 hours ago

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Event Summary

- ✓ The remnants of tropical cyclone Chantal will impact the region through this evening with showers and thunderstorms. Localized heavy rainfall amounts of 4-6" are possible, which could lead to flash flooding. An isolated severe thunderstorm cannot be ruled out, however the main threat through this evening is flash flooding. A Flood Watch is in effect for portions of the area to highlight this threat. No significant non-thunderstorm winds, beach erosion, or coastal flooding is expected.
- ✓ Moderate to high risk for the development of dangerous rip currents for the New Jersey shore and Delaware Beaches this evening and Tuesday.
- ✓ Heat and humidity will build into Tuesday, with heat indices near 100° to 105° expected across portions of the area. Forecast high temperatures are in the upper 80s to mid 90s. The heat and humidity will lead to an increased risk of heat related illnesses. A Heat Advisory is now in effect for most of the area Tuesday.
- ✓ Scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected to develop again both Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon and evening. Thunderstorms will be capable of producing localized heavy rainfall which could lead to flash flooding, as well as localized damaging wind gusts.

instagram

nj.dep

NJ Department of Environmental Protection

11.6K followers

1,882 posts

On June 28, 32 volunteers cleared trash and illegal dumping from the future Greenway site in Heavily NJ.

LIBERTY STATE PARK NEW JERSEY


GREEN ACRES 2024 FUNDING ROUND

Air Quality Alert Ozone Action Day Declared!

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
Division of Water Quality


Branding and Logos



Resilient
Environments
And
Landscapes

*Briefing on Forthcoming
Notice of Substantial Change*

July 14, 2025



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 <p>MONDAY The Science of Sea-level Rise April 19</p>	 <p>TUESDAY Climate Impacts April 20</p>	 <p>WEDNESDAY Climate Change Mitigation April 21</p>	 <p>THURSDAY Climate Resilience Plan April 22</p>	 <p>FRIDAY Environmental Justice April 23</p>
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#EARTHWEEK #STRENGTHENNJ





NJ WILDFIRE
SMART
SAFETY • MITIGATION • AWARENESS • RESPONSE • TRAINING

World
Water Day





New Jersey's Technical Assistance Program
helping communities improve water infrastructure

Mission WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



DIVISION OF
**MONITORING,
STANDARDS &
PESTICIDE CONTROL**

DWMSPC oversees pesticide regulation and assesses NJ's waters to ensure drinking water, recreational activities, shellfish harvesting, and aquatic health comply with regulations.

DIVISION OF
**WATER SUPPLY &
GEOSCIENCE**

DWSG works to ensure New Jersey's drinking water supply is adequate, reliable, safe, and available for the future, based on sound science.

DIVISION OF
WATER QUALITY

DWQ has the primary responsibility for protecting New Jersey's surface and ground waters from pollution caused by improperly treated wastewater and its residuals.

DIVISION OF
**WATER
ENFORCEMENT**

DWE ensures compliance with the State's water programs. Their focus is placed on inspections of wastewater discharge, community drinking water supply facilities and stormwater management.



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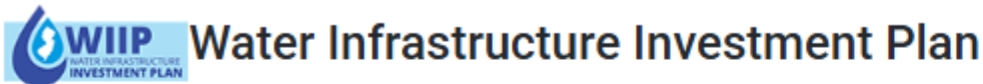
WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
Division of Water Quality



Water Infrastructure Investment Plan

<https://dep.nj.gov/wiip/>

- Started in 2022 with the influx of ARPA and BIL funds for water infrastructure.
- New website to inform the public and promote the Water Bank.
- Updated the website in 2024 to include information and guidance on applying for Water Bank funds.



Home New Jersey Water Bank IUP & Project Priority Lists LSLR SRF Requirements Spending Dashboard Needs Surveys **WIIP Sessions** Guidance & Forms Contact Us



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WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
Division of Water Quality

Water Infrastructure Investment Plan – WIIP Sessions

[Home](#) / [WIIP Sessions](#)

Water Infrastructure Investment Plan Sessions:

New Jersey's Water Bank program will receive almost \$1 billion from the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) over the next five years. New Jersey's SFY 2023 budget also allocates \$300 million of [American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\)](#) funds to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to make transformative investments in critical water infrastructure upgrades. These WIIP sessions focus on how the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection expects to use these funds through the clean water and drinking water state revolving funds (SRFs). DEP's Intended Use Plans outline the funding aspects such as project priorities and SRF funding packages. Information about WIIP sessions can be found below.

Upcoming Session:

Additional information, such as agendas and meeting links will be posted here at a later date. Join our [mailing list](#) for announcements.

Past Sessions:

[February 4, 2025 - 2025 – Public Hearing – Proposed FFY25/SFY26 CWSRF and DWSRF IUPs](#)

[December 20, 2024 - Stakeholder Session- Proposed SFY26 Affordability Criteria Revisions](#)

[September 4, 2024 - N.J.A.C. 7:22 Stakeholder Session](#)

[August 1, 2024 - Stakeholder Focus Groups](#)

[April 18 & 23, 2024 - NJ I-Bank 2024 Seminar](#)

[January 10, 2024 - Public Hearing - Proposed SFY24 CWSRF and DWSRF IUPs](#)

[July 19, 2023 - Information Session - Building the Water Bank](#)

[May 22, 2023 - Training/Webinar - American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\) Funds](#)

[March 3, 2023 - FY 2024 NJ Water Infrastructure Investment Plan \(WIIP\) Update Webinar](#)

[February 1, 2022 - Proposed FFY 2023 CWSRF and DWSRF IUPs Public Hearing](#)

[October 6, 2022 - NJDEP Technical Assistance Webinar](#)

[September 14, 2022 - Proposed Amendments to the FFY 2022 CWSRF and DWSRF IUPs Public Hearing](#)

[August 17, 2022 - Engagement Session on ARPA Funds](#)

[April 6, 2022 - Proposed FFY 2022 CWSRF and DWSRF IUPs Public Hearing](#)

[March 23, 2022 - Proposed IUPs Information Session](#)

[January 24 & 27, 2022 - Engagement Session on IUPs in response to Bill](#)

December 20, 2024 - Stakeholder Session- Proposed SFY26 Affordability Criteria Revisions

On December 20th, 2024, a stakeholder session for the SFY26 Proposed Affordability Criteria (AC) revisions was held prior to finalizing the Proposed Clean Water and Drinking Water IUPs. The proposed Affordability Criteria revisions summary document and municipal and water system AC score comparison tables are available [here](#).

View the [Stakeholder Meeting Presentation](#).

For questions, please email waterbankinfo@dep.nj.gov.



Public Engagement

Members of the community can assist NJPDES CSO permittees in addressing the CSO outfalls in NJ. The NJPDES CSO permits require active public outreach and engagement during the construction of the CSO LTCP projects.

Stakeholder Engagement

CSO Virtual Public Hearings

New CSO Permits Stakeholder Questionnaire

Suggested Conditions for CSO Permits

New permits will contain specific permit conditions for the next five-year permit cycle that will reflect unique elements of each permittee's respective LTCP. These new permits will also contain general provisions that will apply across all permittees. For each category below, charge questions have been provided to solicit feedback to guide stakeholder discussions.

For each suggestion, please identify the issue of concern within the context of the suggested permit condition and why this suggestion will help address that issue. Once DWQ collects this information, future stakeholder meetings will be scheduled.

1 Name *

CSO Public Engagement

Starting in 2021, DWQ began a series of stakeholder engagement to develop new permit conditions and develop guidance for public engagement.

Survey responses were used to develop agendas and discussion items for stakeholder meetings.

Public Engagement Guidance was developed as part of this stakeholder effort.

<https://dep.nj.gov/dwq/combined-sewer-overflow/community-involvement/>



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WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
Division of Water Quality

Responding to Feedback

What We Heard on Public Engagement – 12/7/21

What the CSO Permit Can Require Under the Clean Water Act

- Designation of a CSO coordinator for public engagement and have based on various design phases (planning/design/implementation) with a contact for major construction projects;
- Permittee should have a website as an information platform to provide connection between the public & permittee and public signage identifying LTCP projects;
- Permittee must advertise meetings in advance with locations, times and agendas;
- Restart the CSO Supplemental Team with a request for new members representing different groups;
- Permittee must select meeting locations that are accessible to the local community with meeting materials in other languages.
- Require a Regional level CSO Supplemental Team as well as Municipal teams (at the community level).

What the CSO Permit Does Not Have Regulatory Authority to Require

- Permittees to fund community groups to do public outreach;
- Establish methods to prove that outreach efforts will result in engagement from the affected community.



Overview of Some Permit Conditions Developed as a Result of Public Input Throughout the LTCP Implementation

- ✓ **CSO Executive Summary** – A one-page non-technical summary of the highlights of the CSO permit.
- ✓ **Enhanced Public Engagement** – Requires meetings held with public accessibility; posted in advance; website as information clearinghouse; requires CSO Coordinator.
- ✓ **Environmental Justice** – Continue to identify and focus on addressing CSO-related flooding areas.
- ✓ **Green Infrastructure** – Inclusion of additional GI projects will not require modification of the LTCP; require installation of GI early in the LTCP implementation; encourage public input on locations of GI.



Draft Guidance Revisions



Revisions to Draft Guidance

- Clarified Purpose of CSO Public Engagement Guidance
- Additional Key Terms Defined for the Purpose of this Guidance
- Additional Best Practices and Considerations for building Public Engagement
- Additional Public Engagement Resources
- Updated User-Friendly Formatting

Table of Contents

A Guide to CSO Public Engagement

for New Jersey's Combined Sewer Overflow Permits and Long-Term Control Plans



NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

Water Resource Management
Division of Water Quality – CSO Program

- Introduction
- Permit Requirement Language
- CSO Supplemental Team
- LTCP Outreach Coordinator
- Public Engagement Process
- Other Public Engagement Resources

Guidance can be found at:

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/cso.htm>



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WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
Division of Water Quality



<https://dep.nj.gov/ourwatersworthit/>



Our Water's Worth It Awards

Ridgewood Water- Water Conservation and Addressing PFAS

Lambertville City- Stormwater and Flood Management

New Jersey Drinking Water Institute- Developing PFAS Standards

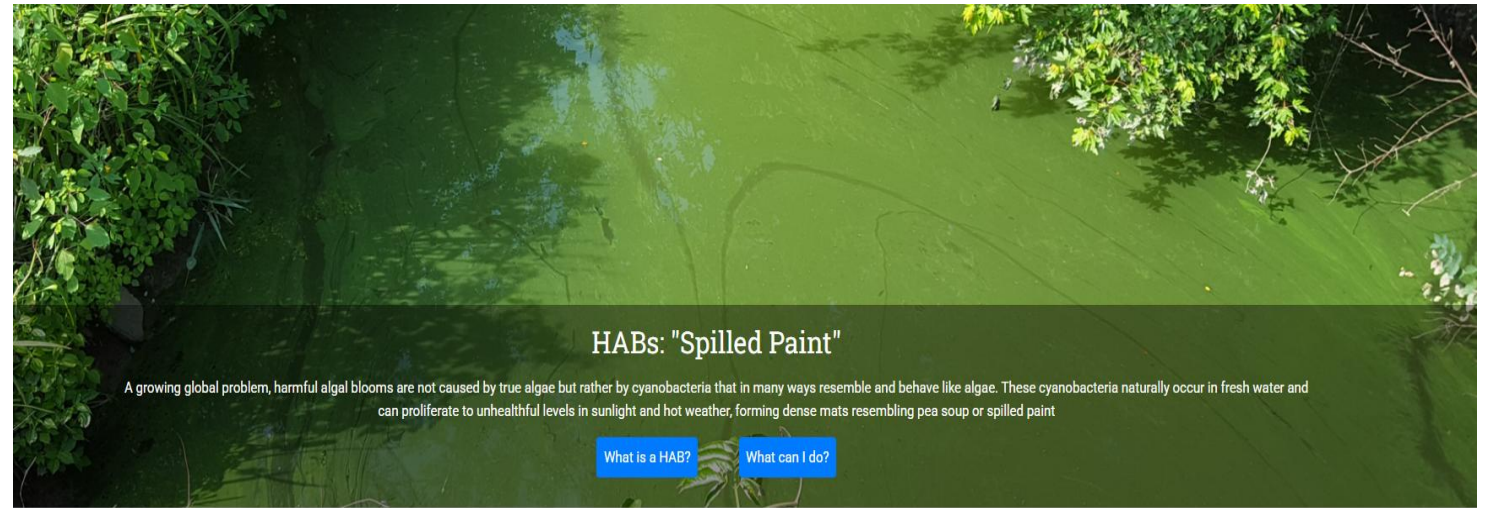
Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority- Reducing CSOs, Public Engagement and Green Infrastructure



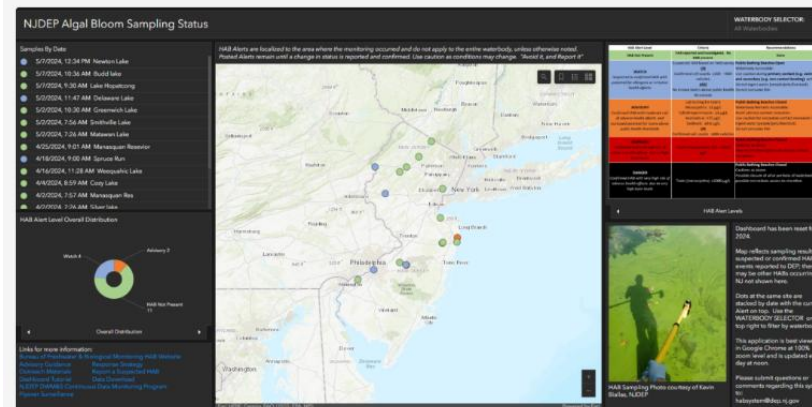
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WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
Division of Water Quality

<https://dep.nj.gov/hab/>



Maps & Data



Algal Bloom Sampling Status

A screenshot of the "HAB Report Details" web form. At the top, it says "Report a Suspected Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB)". Below this is the logo of the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the text "AVOID IT AND REPORT IT!". The form title is "HAB Report Details". A red asterisk indicates a required field. The section "Data Bloom Observed*" contains a dropdown menu currently set to "SEALED/NOVOTY" and a date picker showing "11/11/2017". Below this is a map instruction: "Use the map below to locate the position of the HAB.*". The map shows a coastal area with a red location pin. A red banner at the bottom of the map reads: "Can't find your location? Please check your browser to ensure that your location services are enabled." Below the map are "LAT" and "LONG" input fields.

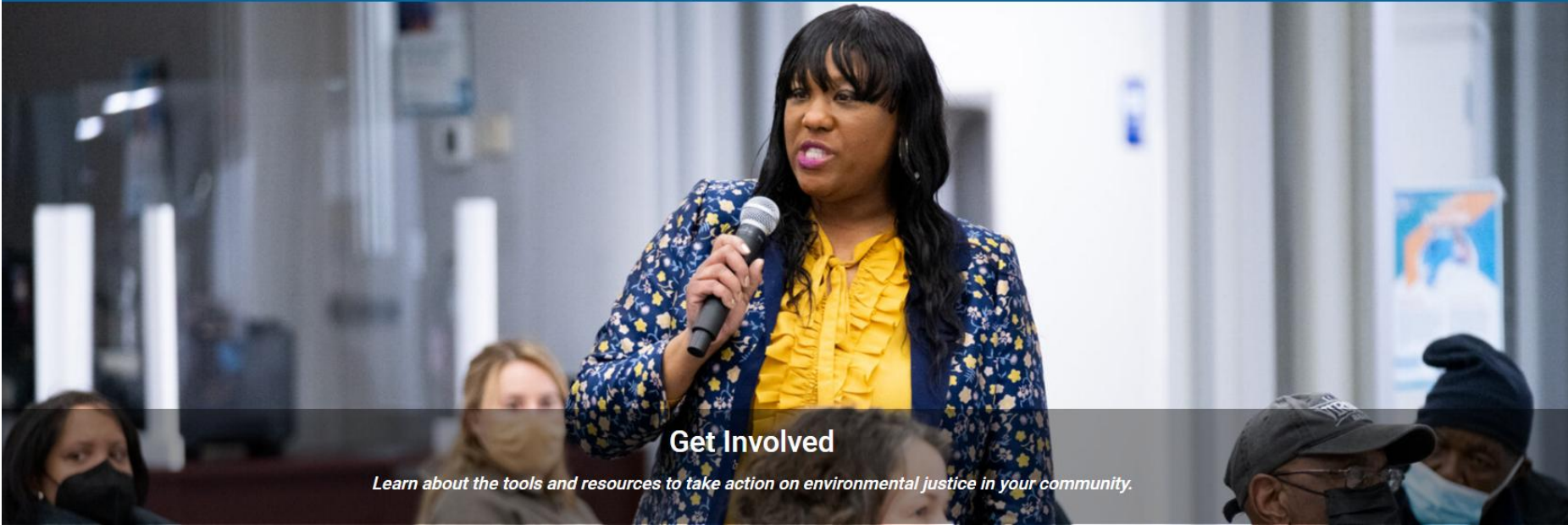
[Report a HAB](#)

Request a Facilitator

About the Facilitator Corps



To better connect with our partners and communities, especially those that are overburdened, DEP has launched the Facilitator Corps to improve staff skills and thus increase overall agency capacity to be able to better facilitate engagement opportunities. 25 DEP staff have been trained to support the agency's public engagement needs through consulting on planning engagements, outreach, and facilitating meetings.



Get Involved

Learn about the tools and resources to take action on environmental justice in your community.

- Morris County - December 3, 2024
- Cape May County - September 17, 2024
- Mercer County – June 4, 2024
- Essex County- April 30, 2024
- Gloucester County – February 27, 2024
- Somerset County – December 5, 2023
- Hudson County – October 17, 2023
- Salem County – September 12, 2023
- Middlesex County – June 13, 2023
- Bergen County – February 23, 2023
- Atlantic County - December 13, 2022
- Monmouth County - November 10, 2022
- Cumberland County - September 15, 2022
- Passaic County - August 9, 2022

Attend trainings to learn more about DEP processes

"Navigating the DEP System: A Series of Environmental Seminars for Overburdened Communities"

<https://dep.nj.gov/ej/seminars/>

<https://dep.nj.gov/ej/action/>



Engagement Sessions

Attend an EJ Community Engagement Session in your county to discuss your environmental concerns with DEP and EPA Region 2 senior staff.

[Engagement Sessions](#)



EJ Rule Public Hearings

View EJ Rule public hearing notices related to EJ Rule permit applications.

[EJ Rule Public Hearings](#)

Contact

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Cortese, AICP

Executive Assistant
Division of Water Quality



jennifer.feltis@dep.nj.gov



www.nj.gov/dep/dwq



609-940-4843

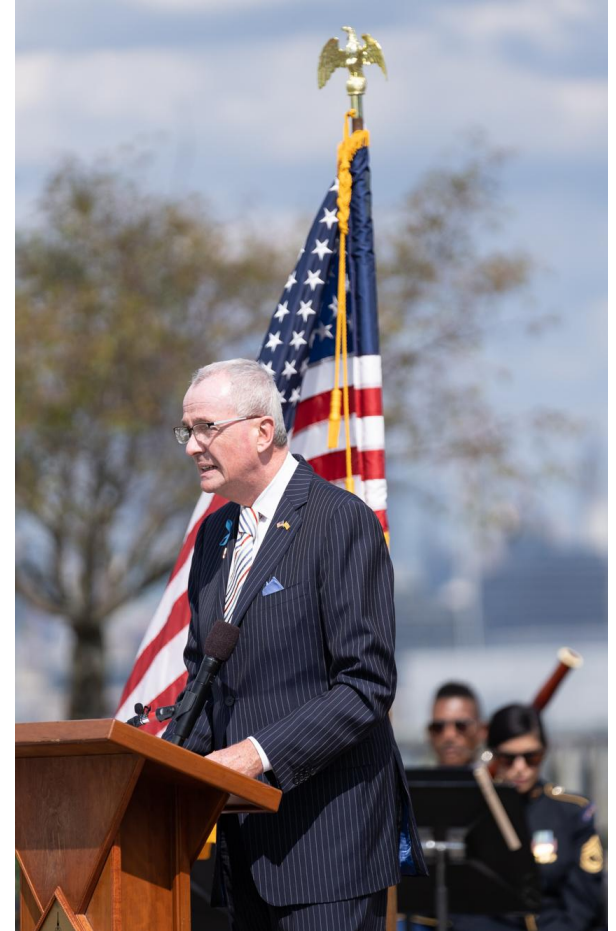
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Thank you!

