



In 2018, through our focus on four key areas—infrastructure, redevelopment, climate risk, and coordinated development—New Jersey Future advanced policies and practices that will help ensure a vibrant and equitable future for all New Jerseyans.

# NEW JERSEY FUTURE Year in Review 2018

## INVESTING WISELY IN INFRASTRUCTURE

New Jersey Future made several gains toward promoting green infrastructure as a stormwater management tool. Our new Municipal Green Infrastructure Toolkit ([gitoolkit.njfuture.org](http://gitoolkit.njfuture.org)) provides municipalities with practical information on planning, implementing, and sustaining green infrastructure. With funding from the William Penn Foundation, we accepted applications for a green infrastructure demonstration project to be selected in 2019. At the Atlantic Builders Convention, we hosted green infrastructure speed consulting sessions for developers.

New Jersey Future continues to facilitate the Jersey Water Works (JWW) collaborative, a group of more than 450 individuals working together to improve New Jersey's water infrastructure. JWW surveyed 1,175 New Jersey residents to learn about their opinions on water, with 90% responding that water infrastructure should be a top priority for the governor and legislature. In July, JWW brought 34 New Jersey delegates to the One Water Summit in Minneapolis. In October, JWW's steering committee met with NJDEP Commissioner Catherine McCabe to discuss how the collaborative can help advance water infrastructure solutions. Read more about JWW's 2018 accomplishments at [jerseywaterworks.org](http://jerseywaterworks.org).

The Joint Legislative Task Force on Drinking Water Infrastructure issued a report echoing Jersey Water Works' priority solutions, including asset management, accountability, affordability, and infrastructure investment. New Jersey Future developed an applicants' guide for green infrastructure financing, which was published by New Jersey Water Bank. Additionally, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection proposed a new stormwater rule that requires the use of green infrastructure.

Pollution from combined sewer systems and stormwater runoff is one of the biggest challenges facing New Jersey's municipalities. We advocated for the authorization of stormwater utilities in New Jersey, which would provide a dedicated source of stormwater management funding. Our outreach extended to elementary school students through a summer stormwater camp, where children learned about pollution and constructed a rain garden.

In our role as a convener, New Jersey Future launched two new efforts. The Sewage-Free Streets and Rivers campaign empowers communities with combined sewer systems to engage with long-term decision-making. The Jersey Water Works Lead in Drinking Water Task Force brings together more than 20 experts who will issue recommendations for addressing lead in drinking water.

## SUPPORTING GOOD LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT

Trenton has many positive assets that can pave the way for its future growth and revitalization. We developed a Trenton Transit Center Strategic Action Plan for Greater Trenton in partnership with Clarke Caton Hintz. This plan aims to transform the neighborhood around the transit center into a vibrant and dynamic district. Additionally, we partnered with several other organizations to help the planned Trenton Production and Knowledge Innovation Campus earn a New Jersey Economic Development Authority Innovation Challenge grant.

Land-use patterns affect quality of life for residents of all ages. We analyzed the aging-friendliness of Ridgewood, Teaneck, and Westwood, providing these municipalities with an overview of how their current land use affects older residents. We presented our work in progress with Somerdale at the South Jersey Aging Innovation Summit, sharing ideas about how to adjust land use to create walkable places that are better for older residents.

Our research on demographic trends relevant to redevelopment — including the exodus of New Jersey's Millennials, the characteristics of Opportunity Zones, and New Jersey's growing populations—were highlighted in The New York Times, Economic Innovation Group, Governing, the Philadelphia Inquirer, NJ Spotlight, and Greater Ohio Policy Center.

## INCORPORATING CLIMATE RISK IN DECISION-MAKING

As New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection works toward creating its Coastal Resilience Plan, New Jersey Future played a key role in background research and preparation. We researched and cataloged innovative climate resilience strategies in municipalities across the United States. At a gathering hosted by the NJDEP, we presented our key findings and shared insights about how these strategies could be used in New Jersey.

Electric vehicles alone won't be enough to reduce carbon emissions related to transportation. Emissions reductions plans must also work to reduce vehicle-miles traveled. Emissions can be reduced most effectively by promoting dense, mixed-use, transit-oriented development. This often overlooked point was the topic of our comments on the state's clean and reliable transportation initiative, as well as an op-ed published in NJ Spotlight.



The state's proposed Energy Master Plan presents an opportunity to find new ways to use energy more efficiently. New Jersey Future recommended using innovative water energy projects to find unrealized energy savings. On the clean energy front, New Jersey recommended crafting smart rules for community solar installations that will benefit communities that have not previously had access to solar energy.

New Jersey Future staff spoke about the importance of planning for resilience at the Waterfront Alliance Conference and the New Jersey Preservation Conference. Our comments on climate resilience were quoted by Yale Environment 360, Zillow, NJ.com, and NJ Spotlight.



## COORDINATING STATE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

New Jersey's decisions on what to build, and where, are based on a state plan that was adopted in 2001. Much has changed in the last 18 years. Now it's time for a growth strategy that addresses the pressing issues of equity, resiliency, and infrastructure. New Jersey Future is bringing together a wide variety of groups—environment, transit, planners, and other experts — to build momentum around the need for a new state plan. New Jersey Future also elevated the issue of state planning at the New Jersey Planning Conference by participating on a panel about this subject. In 2018, we were excited to see Governor Phil Murphy initiate a new State Planning Commission.



## EVENTS AND AWARDS

New Jersey Future held its annual Redevelopment Forum in New Brunswick, drawing over 500 attendees. Keynote speaker Bruce Katz emphasized the role cities and local regions can play in dealing with complex 21st century challenges. Panels included a “town hall” style forum on how to keep Millennials in New Jersey, a plenary discussion on key drivers of economic growth, a stormwater update, a new rapid-fire Ignite! panel, and more.



At the Smart Growth Awards, New Jersey Future honored seven winners that best exemplified smart growth principles around the state: 700 Jackson in Hoboken, AeroFarms in Newark, the Great Falls Circulation Study in Paterson, Harvard Printing Company in Orange, Roebling Lofts in Trenton, Smart Growth in Somerville, and Union Eagle Senior Apartments in Bordentown. Hon. James J. Florio, New Jersey's 49th governor, received the W. Cary Edwards Leadership Award.



Jersey Water Works' fourth annual conference featured New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Catherine McCabe, who spoke about how the department is addressing water infrastructure priorities, including asset management. Professor Manuel Teodoro from Texas A&M University delivered a keynote address on how to achieve affordable, equitable access to water. Panels addressed the issues of water infrastructure funding and stormwater management.



## RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

**Green Infrastructure Municipal Toolkit** provides municipalities with resources needed to plan, implement, and sustain green infrastructure. The toolkit features videos with mayors who installed green infrastructure, as well as links to Sustainable Jersey's green infrastructure actions.

**A Review of New Jersey Water Bank Financing for Green Infrastructure Projects** examines recent New Jersey Water Bank successes in funding green infrastructure projects. It looks at steps that both applicants and the Water Bank can undertake to make green infrastructure funding more accessible.

**Unlocking Green Infrastructure: An Applicant's Guide to Obtaining Water Bank Funding for Green Infrastructure Projects** acts as a “roadmap” for municipalities, utility authorities, or other eligible entities with an interest in obtaining green infrastructure financing from the New Jersey Water Bank. It walks applicants through creating an initial funding query to securing final construction dollars.

**Trenton Transit Center Strategic Action Plan**, prepared by New Jersey Future for Greater Trenton in partnership with Clarke Caton Hintz, lays out strategies and implementation tactics for transforming the station area into a vibrant and dynamic district.



## IN THE NEWS

New Jersey Future was mentioned in 116 news stories, published seven op-eds, and put out 28 press releases and statements on topics including stormwater utilities, combined sewer overflows, Opportunity Zones, and state demographic changes. New Jersey Future continues to expand its reach through social media. The New Jersey Future LinkedIn account debuted in July 2018. By the end of 2018, NJF's followers on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn totaled approximately 13,540.

