Climate Framework and Laws
The 2007 Global Warming Response Act authorizes the state to enter RGGI and establishes two targets for greenhouse gas emissions, including an 80% reduction from 2006 levels by 2050; the goal of reaching 1990 emission levels by 2020 has already been achieved. In January 2018, Governor Murphy signed an executive order (EO) directing the state to re-enter into RGGI. Based on current price and emissions estimates, rejoining RGGI could bring in around $80 million annually in revenue from carbon auction proceeds.

Energy
Governor Murphy signed an EO establishing an ambitious goal of generating 3,500 megawatts of offshore wind by 2030. To this end, Governor Murphy initiated an interagency strategic planning process and launched rulemaking on a funding mechanism for Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Certificates. 2018’s Clean Energy Act and Zero Emission Credit Act sets ambitious targets for expanding New Jersey’s generation of clean energy, including a renewable portfolio standard of 50% by 2030, increasing the state’s solar RPS to 5.1%, establishing a community solar program, and supporting nuclear energy.

Energy Efficiency
2018’s Clean Energy Act includes the state’s first statutory energy efficiency standards, which sets an electric energy efficiency target at 2% reduction each year and an annual reduction in natural gas consumption of 0.75%. Additionally, New Jersey’s Board of Public Utilities administers several energy efficiency programs that provide free energy audits and low- and interest-free loans for energy efficient upgrades for residential, commercial and industrial, and local government customers.

Transportation
New Jersey is a part of the Multistate ZEV Task Force and has signed the ZEV Memorandum of Understanding, committing to a shared goal of seeing 3 million ZEVs on the road by 2025. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) provides grants to install workplace charging infrastructure and offers incentives for drivers of fuel-efficient vehicles or ZEVs, including a discount on E-Z Passes, insurance discounts, and tax breaks for ZEVs, among others. Additionally, NJ Transit is upgrading its facilities and will phase out older and less efficient energy generation technology with cleaner and more efficient solutions.

Resilience
New Jersey has taken significant steps to mitigate damage caused by climate change and extreme weather events. The DEP has spent $300 million in acquiring properties that are prone to repetitive flooding, and, with the Army Corps of Engineers, has spent $20 million conducting a comprehensive resiliency study. New Jersey is investing in energy resilience by developing microgrids capable of maintaining power during extreme weather events and upgrading its fuel supply and distribution infrastructure to ensure fuel can be distributed in case of an extreme weather event.

Natural and Working Lands
Governor Murphy signed legislation banning offshore oil drilling in New Jersey state waters. The law also prohibits the DEP from issuing any permits and approvals for the on-shore development of offshore oil drilling infrastructure. New Jersey also has robust open space and farmland preservation programs that have preserved nearly 1.5 million acres of land.