Climate Framework and Laws The Global Warming Response Act (2007) authorizes the state to enter the RGGI and establishes two targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, including an 80% reduction from 2006 levels by 2050; the goal of reaching 1990 emission levels by 2020 has already been achieved. In June 2019, New Jersey formally re-entered RGGI. New Jersey’s participation begins on January 1, 2020, with the first auction in March 2020.

Governor Murphy has also signed an executive order directing the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to develop guidance on how all state departments can incorporate environmental justice considerations into their actions. Environmental justice touches a wide variety of issues related to quality of life, including housing, health, and transportation.

Power Generation In May 2018, Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order 28 (EO 28) directing the development of an Energy Master Plan that lays out the strategy for New Jersey to reach 100% clean energy by 2050. The first draft was released in June 2019, identifying seven strategies to achieve this goal, including: cutting emissions from the transportation and building sectors, deploying renewable energy and
clean power generation with a focus on disadvantaged communities, improving energy efficiency, modernizing energy infrastructure, and supporting innovation and economic growth. Executive Order 8 (EO 8) establishes an ambitious goal of generating 3,500 megawatts (MW) of offshore wind by 2030. In June 2019, the Board of Public Utilities awarded the first 1,100 MW of offshore wind through a competitive bid process.

The state’s Clean Energy Act (2018) set additional targets for expanding New Jersey’s generation of clean energy, including a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) of 50% by 2030, restructuring the solar industry to enable long-term growth, establishing a community solar program, and investing in energy storage. New Jersey has also implemented a zero-emission credits (ZECs) program for its nuclear industry.

**Energy Efficiency** The Clean Energy Act also includes the state’s first statutory energy-efficiency standards, which sets annual reductions of 2% for electricity consumption and 0.75% for natural gas consumption. In 2018, New Jersey was recognized as the “most improved” state for its energy-efficiency policies and best practices, according to the annual scorecard from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE).

**Transportation** New Jersey is a part of the Multi-State ZEV Task Force, has signed the State Zero-Emission Vehicles Programs Memorandum of Understanding, and has committed to getting 330,000 zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) on the road by 2025. Using multiple funding opportunities, including the Volkswagen Settlement, New Jersey provides grants to install workplace charging infrastructure and offers incentives for drivers of fuel-efficient vehicles or ZEVs, including E-ZPass toll discounts, insurance discounts, and tax breaks, among others. In June 2019, New Jersey established “Partnership to Plug-in,” a first-of-its-kind, statewide partnership seeking to address critical aspects of electrification such as mapping of existing and planned charging infrastructure assets, installing electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure throughout the state, working with lawmakers to establish an EV rebate program to incentivize adoption among New Jersey residents, and creating an attractive corporate environment for ZEV-related primary and secondary companies.

**Resilience** New Jersey is addressing resilience through infrastructure, regulation, and planning. Working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the state’s DEP has completed over $1.2 billion of coastal protection infrastructure projects over the past five years, with another $800 million under way to ensure that developed areas can withstand weather and flooding events with minimal impacts. Since Superstorm Sandy, DEP has financed over $300 million of storm resiliency improvements (e.g., flood walls, relocation of critical equipment to higher elevations, new auxiliary power units). 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. DEP’s regulatory structure for coastal development encourages growth in areas outside the 500-year flood zones. New Jersey is engaged with several planning initiatives related to climate change, including work with local coastal communities on a Regional Resilience and Adaption Action Plan and is developing a statewide climate change resilience strategy.

**Natural and Working Lands** Governor Murphy signed legislation banning offshore oil drilling in New Jersey state waters and prohibiting DEP from issuing any permits and approvals for the on-shore development of offshore oil drilling infrastructure. Following the announcement in 2018 that the Trump Administration authorized airgun use in waters off the East Coast, Governor Murphy and a group of bipartisan governors from nine other states along the Atlantic coastline opposed the seismic testing and offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean. The governor announced his support for a full fracking ban in the Delaware River Basin and that proposed rules should be amended to ban all fracking activity, including the import, treatment, and discharge of fracking wastewater. New Jersey also has robust open space and farmland preservation programs that have preserved nearly 1.5 million acres of land.