

# A Vision for Environmental Justice and Climate Action.

New Jersey is one of the most vulnerable states to climate change. We are also one of the most segregated states, by both class and race. That means our underserved communities are at the highest risk when it comes to climate change and environmental impact. As Mayor of Newark for the past decade, I have been on the front porch of climate change, witnessing firsthand the devastating effects of generations of environmental injustice.



## The time for bold, transformative climate action is now.

That is why my administration has prioritized mitigating environmental impact in everything we do. We changed our zoning laws to require green infrastructure in all new developments. We launched RainReady Newark, a comprehensive green infrastructure program to combat flooding and improve stormwater management. We provided grants to community-based organizations for sustainability projects, including a sustainable food network. And we are on track to plant thousands of new trees across Newark.

By advancing policies that prioritize environmental justice and sustainability, we can ensure a healthier, greener, and more equitable future for all New Jersey residents.

**In a city  
where 1 in 4  
children has  
asthma...**

I understand the personal impact of climate inaction. If the state faces environmental challenges, Newark faces them twice. We must be aggressive in our response to climate change because New Jersey cannot afford to wait.



# Top Priorities for Baraka's Environmental Agenda



**1. Remediation of Environmental Injustice Statewide** — Support the Climate Superfund Act (S3545/A4696), and strengthen it with additional language to dedicate a set portion of funding to projects in underserved communities.

- The Act, similar to laws in Vermont and New York, would hold polluters financially responsible for the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions on public health, agriculture, economic development, flood preparedness and housing, as well as the costs of projects to abate these effects.

**2. Updated Zoning Laws for Green Infrastructure** — Require green infrastructure in all new developments statewide to enhance energy conservation, improve flood mitigation, and increase tree cover.

**3. Expanding and Modernizing Public Transportation**

- Invest in expanded train and bus routes and dedicated bus lanes.
- Ensure a dedicated source of funding so NJ Transit's capital funds are not raided for operational costs.
- Transition NJ Transit vehicles to greener, low-emission models.



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## 4. Support Governor Murphy's Zero Emissions Goal

- Fully support the goal of making New Jersey's electricity production fossil-free by 2035.
- Invest heavily and prioritize renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power.
  - This not only helps us go green, it will create thousands of new jobs and bolster a green economy.
  - Continue to lay the foundation for offshore wind, so that the state is positioned to act when the federal government changes its stance.

## 5. Oppose the New Jersey Turnpike Expansion Project

- Prioritize sustainable transportation solutions over highway expansion that would increase emissions and congestion.

## 6. Green Ports and Clean Air for New Jersey

- Build on the Port of Newark's transition towards greener, more sustainable operations.
- Prioritize investments to transition all New Jersey ports to green, low-emission operations.

## 7. Reinstate Sales Tax Exemption for Electric Vehicles

- Reverse the 2024 decision to end the highly successful sales tax exemption for electric vehicle purchases, ensuring affordability and accessibility for all residents.

## 8. No to New Gas Power Plants in Newark

- Oppose the construction of new fossil fuel-based power plants in Newark and any other communities already suffering from disproportionate pollution levels.

## 9. Flood Mitigation

- Establish a statewide task force to survey flood risk and create regional plans around the major waterways in the state, to offer holistic solutions to the pinchpoints leading to frequent flooding. I said we should do.

## 10. Warehouses

- No more unchecked warehouse development that worsens air pollution and harms frontline communities.
- Development must include strong environmental protections, traffic impact mitigation, and regional input.
- Demand green infrastructure, zero-emission trucking, and policies that balance economic opportunity with public health.