



EMPOWER NJ

NO FOSSIL FUEL PROJECTS

FACT SHEET

Governor Murphy claims that he has no authority to order a moratorium on new fossil fuel projects, and that no governor has done more on climate than he has. Neither claim is true.

New Fossil Fuel Projects in the State

New fossil fuel projects are being planned and constructed all around the State under the Governor's watch. There are at least 14 new fossil fuel projects proposed for New Jersey in various stages of planning and execution. These new projects will increase greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by approximately 30% statewide and will increase GHGs from electric generation by approximately 76%. Overall, Governor Murphy has done little to stop or even discourage them, although his administration has taken steps to slow both the Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) and PennEast projects.

Moratoriums Ordered by Previous New Jersey Governors

Previous governors of both parties have exercised their broad constitutional power and ordered moratoriums in far less compelling cases than our climate emergency. Some examples:

- **Governor Byrne:** Moratorium on all development in the Pinelands until the legislation is passed protecting the Pinelands. (Executive Order 71, 2/8/79).
- **Governor Kean:** Moratorium on development of freshwater wetlands until legislation protecting the wetlands is passed. (Executive Order 175, 6/8/87).
- **Governor Florio:** Moratorium on all new incinerators and stopped those under construction to protect our air quality from toxic emissions. (Executive Order 8, 4/6/1990).
- **Governor Whitman:** Moratorium on water quality plan amendments until water quality management plans are updated. (Executive Order 109, 2/11/2000).

New Jersey's Authority to Regulate Greenhouse Gases

The Governor (along with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which he controls) has the power to regulate greenhouse gases and to deny permits to fossil fuel plants. He only has to exercise that power.

- Under the Air Pollution Control Act, the Department has the authority to regulate all air pollutants, including greenhouse gases, soot and black carbon. (N.J.S.A. 26:2C-8).
- Under the Global Warming Response Act, GHGs must be reduced by 80% below 2006 levels by 2050 and the DEP is required to adopt rules and regulations to achieve this and interim goals. (N.J.S.A. 26:2C). Nothing in this act imposes any limit on existing authority of any department to limit or regulate greenhouse gas emissions.
- Under Title V of the Clean Air Act, New Jersey has the authority to deny permits for natural gas power plants.

Other States and Governors are Far Bolder

Other governors have sought and implemented far more ambitious green goals than Governor Murphy. Here are examples from other states:

- **Hawaii:** 100% renewable energy by 2045.
- **New York:** 70% of statewide electric generation from renewable energy systems by 2030 and zero emissions (100% carbon free) by 2040. Higher targets for GHG reductions than New Jersey, reducing GHGs as a percent of 1990 levels by 40% by 2030 and 85% by 2050.
- **New Mexico:** 100% carbon-free electricity by 2045, with at least 80% from renewable energy by 2040.
- **Washington:** Utilities must be 100% carbon-neutral by 2030. 80% of their power must come from renewable resources. By 2045, all utilities must be self-generating 100% clean energy.
- **California:** 100% carbon-free electricity by 2045, with 50% from renewables by 2026; 60% from renewables by 2030, and 100% carbon-free energy by 2045. All new construction must have solar power.
- **Nevada:** 50% of electricity from renewable resources by 2030 and 100% carbon-free (zero carbon dioxide emissions) resources by 2050.
- **Colorado:** Large utilities to achieve an 80% reduction in CO₂ emissions below 2005 levels by 2030 and be 100% carbon free by 2050, with aggressive interim targets.
- **Arizona:** Ordered a moratorium on new natural-gas power plants.
- **Maine:** 80% renewable energy by 2030, and 100% by 2050.
- **Vermont:** 75% renewable energy by 2032.