

GLOBAL WARMING: KEEPING COOL, GLOBALLY, LOCALLY, FISCALLY

overview The Community Foundation of New Jersey and Conservation Resources Inc. have launched a new cooperative effort to help inform Foundation donors about current critical environmental issues, and to help identify and screen ways that they can become part of the solution to these problems.

fact Over the past few years, the subject of climate change and global warming has gone from an esoteric ecological issue to an everyday topic of conversation. For those who are concerned about the issue, we present this briefing.

the situation As our political consciousness, and even our economy, respond to this new awareness, we are seemingly bombarded from every angle to reduce the carbon emissions created by our activities (also known as our “carbon footprint.”) • Each of New Jersey’s more than 8 million residents is responsible for the emission of more than 16 metric tons of carbon dioxide (the principal greenhouse gas) per year. New Jersey ranks 16th among the states in carbon output. These emissions result from three principal sources: transportation (34 percent); residential, commercial and industrial fuel use (32 percent); and electricity consumption (24 percent). It is clear that the density of New Jersey’s population, the sprawling pattern of development in our state, and our love affair with the automobile will surely place us in the top tier of state contributors to this problem. • Based on these figures, it is obvious that public policy strategies to address climate change must include a wide array of measures designed to promote energy conservation, green building design and the use of renewable sources of energy; reduce vehicles miles driven and increase the use of mass transit; and identify ways in which government, industry and individuals alike can reduce greenhouse gas emissions. • In addition, as a coastal state, New Jersey is particularly vulnerable to the rising sea levels which are associated with climate change, and is already feeling the impacts of climate change, such as measurable sea level rise, more intense weather, as well as both increased coastal flooding and drought conditions. Nevertheless, the Garden State is in the forefront of efforts to address global warming and climate change, and both the Governor and the Legislature have responded to this threat by enacting tough new measures to dramatically reduce the emission of greenhouse gases over both the short and long-term. In addition, the New Jersey non-profit environmental community and local governments also appear ready to help resolve this problem.

the opportunity For donors, it is important to be aware of the many non-profit organizations that are designing projects which have a climate change component. What’s more, both non-profits and local governments are initiating such projects as: (1) “green building” demonstration projects, which incorporate high-energy efficiency features with renewable energy use, such as solar, wind, geothermal or small hydroelectric power; (2) land conservation projects which permanently protect and/or restore certain types of lands which can help store, or “sequester” carbon in both soils and plants; and (3) local food production and organic farming methods, which substantially reduce the amount of fossil fuels used to produce and distribute fruits, vegetables and meats. • For your very own “personal carbon calculator,” along with suggestions for things that everyone can and should do to reduce carbon footprints, see: www.empowermentinstitute.net/lcd/lcd_files/LCDcalcNet.html

why now New Jersey enacted the “Global Warming Response Act” on July 6, 2007. With this, New Jersey became only the third state in the nation to mandate greenhouse gas reduction goals by law. This legislation mandates the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 (an estimated 20 percent reduction) to be followed by a mandatory additional reduction of emissions to 80 percent below 2006 levels by 2050. These same reductions had previously been required by Executive Order 54, which was signed by Governor Corzine in February of 2007 • In addition, under the current Federal administration, an aggressive new attack on global warming has been initiated and New Jersey continues to play an important, one could even say essential, role. • The staff at both the Community Foundation of New Jersey and Conservation Resources are available to help you learn more about climate change and global warming, and what is being done to respond to this issue. We can also work with you to develop your own program to help solve this problem, or to identify a variety of specific projects in your local communities which you may choose to support to join the effort to address climate change here in New Jersey.

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call to action If you are interested in becoming more involved with this issue, please feel free to contact Hans Dekker, President of the Community Foundation, or Nancy Hamilton, Program Officer, at (973) 267-5533. Contact Hans by e-mail at hdekker@cfnj.org and Nancy at nhamilton@cfnj.org. • For a full list of innovative non-profit global warming solutions at work in the Garden State please see the link on our website, www.cfnj.org/globalwarming.

*Connecting donors to organizations, issues, and communities important to them over time;
Providing ongoing leadership and support to our partners and communities.*