

May 1, 2025

Sherri L. Golden

Secretary of the Board

NJ Board of Public Utilities

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Via Electronic Filing at <https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us/>

**Re: Unitarian Universalist Faith Action NJ Comments on 2024 Energy Master Plan,
Docket No. QO24020126**

The Unitarian Universalist FaithAction NJ (UU FaithAction), on behalf of nearly 20 New Jersey member Congregations, located in 16 Counties of New Jersey, submits the following comments on the 2024 Energy Master Plan.

We are committed to the interconnectedness of all life, social justice, and the well-being of future generations. Our ethical and moral imperatives are driving our concern for climate change and environmental justice and our active participation throughout this process.

UU FaithAction has followed and participated in the public comment process at almost every phase. We incorporate by reference our previous oral, written testimony and comments and reaffirm that we wish for them to be considered and responded to in this proceeding. We emphasize the two master strategies to be followed throughout this Energy Master Plan is (1) deep and comprehensive cuts in energy use; and (2) exclusively producing energy from renewable and sustainable energy sources such as offshore wind, and solar.

The seven overarching strategies developed to guide the 2019 and 2024 Energy Master plan provide many examples and goals worth pursuing as a start.

The 7 overarching strategies developed to guide the 2019 and 2024 Energy Master plan include:

- Strategy 1: Reduce Energy Consumption and Emissions from the Transportation Sector
- Strategy 2: Accelerate Deployment of Renewable Energy and Distributed Energy Resources
- Strategy 3: Maximize Energy Efficiency and Conservation and Reduce Peak Demand
- Strategy 4: Reduce Energy Consumption and Emissions from the Building Sector
- Strategy 5: Decarbonize and Modernize New Jersey's Energy System
- Strategy 6: Support Community Energy Planning and Action with an Emphasis on Encouraging and Supporting Participation by Low- and Moderate-Income and Environmental Justice Communities
- Strategy 7: Expand the Clean Energy Innovation Economy

The Energy Master Plan must be viewed with greater urgency and an overarching NJ-based self-reliance approach.

We must do so due to

- (a) the substantial increase in available scientific information;
- (b) recent flooding/ wildfires/ etc. experiences in NJ and elsewhere;
- (c) dramatic shifts in US national government policy and budgets; and
- (d) the rising pricing and strangling of the queue for solar and wind by the industry version of OPEC, known as PJM.

We urge the Board to set goals, plan for, and implement much deeper and wider actions to achieve our many goals in a shorter timeframe.

Thank you for this opportunity; we hope these comments are useful to New Jersey in its EMP revision process and look forward to reviewing a draft Energy Master Plan revision when they are made available.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Michael Skelly, Sr.

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