

***Rebuilding New Jersey after COVID-19:  
Advancing a Healthy, Resilient, Sustainable and Fair Garden State***

*A Virtual Workshop Co-hosted by the New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center, the New Jersey Climate Change Alliance and the Eagleton Institute of Politics*

Panel 1 & 2 – Friday, June 12, 2020 1:00-3:30 • Panel 3 – Wednesday, June 17, 2020 1:00-3:30

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The COVID-19 public health crisis has had a devastating impact on the health and economy of New Jersey's diverse communities and, each day, we learn of untold acts of heroism and compassion from healthcare workers, educators, countless professionals providing essential services, volunteers, residents and community leaders. New Jersey's top priority has been to address the immediate daily needs of its residents, including those sick with the virus and those caring for ill family members, residents who are financially struggling as a result of reduced or lost wages, families managing children and elderly family members, among others.

As the state recovers after COVID-19, there are opportunities for New Jerseyans to envision a new future for the Garden State. Millions of dollars will be invested to rebuild the state's economy, creating tremendous avenues to also address underlying challenges highlighted by the COVID-19 public health crisis. People hit hardest by COVID-19 in New Jersey are the same populations that suffer other health disparities such as diabetes and heart disease; these are also the same populations hardest hit by pollution and changing climate conditions.

This virtual convening brings together leaders from across a breadth of sectors to discuss opportunities for restarting New Jersey's economy, post COVID-19, in ways that intersect health equity and social well-being with addressing climate change, building inclusive and vibrant communities, and expanding opportunities for civic engagement. These discussions will inform efforts of the [Governor's Restart and Recovery Commission](#) by focusing on ways that COVID recovery efforts can advance other shared public policy goals by:

- Promoting health equity and social well-being, and ensuring adequate resources to support public health infrastructure, enabling it to prevent, protect against, quickly respond to, & recover from health emergencies;
- Building a state budget that provides direct support to households and businesses hit hardest by COVID-19 in ways that create living wage jobs and that support a sustainable future for New Jersey;
- Ensuring that rebuilding and COVID-19 recovery investments address changing climate conditions;
- Supporting investments in community assets that enhance cultural, historic, and natural resources, as well as those that promote social cohesion; and
- Honoring democratic principles.

**Moderator:** [Kiki Jamieson](#), Ph.D., President; The Fund for New Jersey

**First Panel: *Setting the Stage***

- *Demographic and Economic Realities Facing New Jersey* - [James W. Hughes](#), Ph.D., University Professor; Rutgers, The State University – An Overview of Demographic and Economic Realities;
- *Short and Longer-Term Fiscal Realities* – [Richard F. Keevey](#), Executive in Residence; Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy; Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey;
- *Realities of New Jersey's Health Inequities* – [Denise V. Rodgers, MD FAAFP](#); Vice Chancellor of Interprofessional Programs at Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS);
- *New Political Realities Post COVID-19* – [John Weingart](#), Associate Director, Eagleton Institute of Politics; Rutgers, The State University.

**Second Panel:** *Opportunities to Intersect COVID-19 Rebuilding Efforts with state climate, health, energy, social and economic goals*

- [Ana Baptista](#), Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Professional Practice and Chair of Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management Program
- [Brandon McKoy](#), President, New Jersey Policy Perspective;
- [Robert Kopp](#), Ph.D., Professor and Director, Institute of Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey;
- [Jorge Santos](#), Chief of Staff, New Jersey Economic Development Authority
- [Randall Solomon](#), Executive Director, Sustainable Jersey

**Third Panel:** *Short and Medium-term Opportunities and Challenges Moving Forward*

- [Richard Lawton](#), Executive Director, New Jersey Sustainable Business Council
- [Barbara George Johnson](#), Executive Director; John S. Watson Institute For Public Policy, Thomas Edison State University;
- [Kevin Sumner](#), Facilitator, Public Health Associations' Collaborating Effort (PHACE);
- [Kate Slevin](#), Senior Vice-President, Regional Plan Association

### **Co-Hosts**

The workshop is co-hosted by the following three partners:

The [New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center](#) was established by statute in January 2020. The CCRC is charged with using impartial and actionable science to advance government, public, private and nongovernmental sector efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate change. The CCRC is co-directed by the [Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy](#) and the [Rutgers Climate Institute](#), both of which serve to engage many programs from throughout the University, other academic institutions, and other partners in the public, private and non-governmental sectors. Among its responsibilities, the CCRC is charged with developing and delivering technical guidance to practitioners to enhance adaptation, mitigation, and resilience in the public, private, and nongovernmental sectors; undertaking pilot projects that can be replicable throughout the State and that demonstrate effective mitigation strategies or reduce the risks facing populations most vulnerable to climate change; and enhancing the State's capacity to address climate risks and impacts through outreach training, engagement, and education.

The [New Jersey Climate Change Alliance](#) is a network of diverse organizations that share the goal of advancing science-informed climate change strategies at the state and local levels in New Jersey, both with regard to adapting to changing climate conditions and addressing the emissions that cause climate change. Alliance participants include representatives of public, private and non-governmental New Jersey organizations from sectors including transportation, emergency management, business, energy, engineering, agriculture, insurance, environment, health, community planning, Environmental Justice, natural resource management, and others. The Alliance does not work to influence political outcomes or specific pieces of legislation; rather, the work of the Alliance serves to integrate science with evidence and diverse points of view through the voices of Alliance participants for the purpose of informing short and long-term climate change strategies and outlining policy options for New Jersey.

The [Eagleton Institute of Politics](#) at Rutgers University studies how American politics and government work and change, analyzes how the democracy might improve, and promotes political participation and civic engagement. The Institute explores state and national politics through research, education, and public service, linking the study of politics with its day-to-day practice.