



# Environmental Policy, Sustainability & Energy in New Jersey

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**Fulop** 2025  
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IN JERSEY CITY:

# Notable Accomplishments on Energy & Sustainability



Under Mayor Fulop, Jersey City has been a leader in sustainability. Fulop's commitment to clean energy and sustainability has been recognized by the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters' endorsement during each of his mayoral campaigns. Under Mayor Fulop's administration, Jersey City has been recognized as one of the top 15 sustainable cities in America<sup>1</sup> and has been a leader on policy, green space, and sustainability.

## Policies

Under Mayor Fulop, Jersey City adopted ambitious policies and plans that keep the city at the cutting edge of sustainability work including:

- Resiliency Master Plan
- Stormwater Control Ordinance for New Development
- Forestry Standards for Tree Protection
- Resilient Building Design Standards

## Transportation

As Mayor, Fulop has decreased harmful emissions by providing more sustainable transportation options for residents. Every year the Fulop Administration invests over \$15 million in walking, biking, and transit infrastructure. Jersey City has almost 25 miles of protected bike lanes, 2.3 million rides on Via — the largest micro-transit system in the country started by the Fulop Administration — 3.5 million rides on Citibike which is the largest bike share in the state, and a 66% increase in Jersey City owned ferry ridership from last year. Mayor Fulop has also been a vocal opponent of the Murphy Administration's proposed Turnpike expansion testifying in Trenton and speaking at rallies and protests.



1. Hirsh, Sophie. (2023, April 11). These Are the Most Eco-Forward Cities in the U.S., According to New Research. Greenmatters. <https://www.greenmatters.com/travel/most-sustainable-cities-in-the-us>



## Open Space and Trees

Under Mayor Fulop, Jersey City has massively increased the expansion of parks, plazas, and open space with permeable surfaces and green infrastructure helping to reduce the risk of flooding in the city's neighborhoods. The Administration has also secured over \$5 million in grant funding specifically for tree plantings and green infrastructure in the next year, which will help significantly increase the urban tree canopy. The Fulop Administration has planted over 1,000 new trees in the last 5 years and over 500 are planned within the next year. Mayor Fulop understands the importance of open space and under his leadership Jersey City has invested in its most robust park/public space expansion program in the city's history. Since 2013 the Fulop Administration has renovated 35 park/public space projects citywide covering 48 acres total at a total cost of more than \$70m.

## Properly Aligning Incentives

Under Mayor Fulop, Jersey City implemented the first of its kind incentive program to encourage major construction projects to invest the upfront costs to build environmentally conscious buildings. This was done by offering an offset of one-time expenses of water/sewer connection fees. By clearly targeting a better environment and matching one-time developer expenses to one-time city revenue the program offers an improved construction product while minimally impacting city budgets.

## Plastic Bag Ban

Jersey City passed the first plastic bag ban in New Jersey paving the way for the state to follow.

## Utilities

The Fulop administration has spent nearly \$1 billion to upgrade utilities to eliminate combined sewer overflows and increase storage capacity for stormwater in Jersey City.



## Electrifying Fleet

Mayor Fulop set a goal of fully electrifying the city's fleet of vehicles by 2030. By partnering with Sustainable Jersey, Jersey City is moving forward with a fleet transition plan and is on track to meet its goal.



## Electric Charging Stations

Jersey City has demonstrated the state's most ambitious investment in clean energy infrastructure by building a comprehensive network of public electric charging stations throughout the city. Mayor Fulop believes that the first step to increasing electric vehicle usage is to provide public infrastructure and he has been a leader on this front.

## Climate Action Plan

After an extensive planning process, Jersey City released its first Climate Action Plan setting an aggressive roadmap and targets by 2030. It is a comprehensive plan focusing on energy, transit, waste, infrastructure, and municipal operations. As a point of entry, Jersey City also published a Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory in 2019. This is by far the most aggressive action plan of any municipality in New Jersey and Jersey City is on target to reach its ambitious goals.

## MicroGrid Creation

The Fulop Administration created the state's first municipal microgrid integrating solar power and battery storage at the Municipal Services Complex along with EV garbage trucks to ensure that the city's critical operations and functions continue to be performed even during power outages. Additionally, energy efficiency improvements and the utilization of rooftop solar panels totaling 1,588 kW, combined with renewable energy credits, will allow the City to achieve its goal of 100% renewable energy in its municipal facilities.



## Flooding

The Fulop administration has invested in pumping stations throughout the city to limit flooding. Under Mayor Fulop, Jersey City enacted a stormwater ordinance that reduced the site plan review size to allow more projects to be reviewed by MUA for stricter stormwater requirements.



## Recycling

The Fulop administration created a recycling and composting program to help residents reduce waste. Through its Composting Program, Jersey City has collected over 600,000 pounds of food waste since 2019.

## Efficiency & Reliability

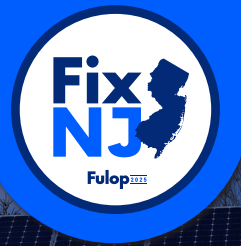
Jersey City's Municipal Building Energy Efficiency and Resiliency Project is a \$21 million investment to comprehensively improve the efficiency and reliability of 26 municipal buildings while ensuring the City meets its climate goals and becomes more resilient to future storm events. This project will provide needed equipment upgrades and improved indoor air quality and occupant comfort at 26 municipal buildings. These improvements will reduce energy and operational costs leading to over \$500,000 in annual operational and energy savings.

## Government Structure

The Fulop administration has restructured Jersey City's entire government to create and empower agencies to advance resiliency work and increase awareness within the community, including launching:

- Division of Sustainability
- Division of Recycling
- Environmental Commission
- Shade Tree Commission

Since 2013, Jersey City has been a leader in the fight to protect our environment, focused on mitigating climate change, increasing resiliency, investing in a green economy, and ensuring equity across Jersey City neighborhoods through bold and inclusive actions. There is simply no candidate running for Governor with a more comprehensive track record of driving the climate conversation than Mayor Fulop.



**AS GOVERNOR:**

# Areas of Focus in Energy & Sustainability for New Jersey

While most elected leaders set environmental policies around 10-20 year objectives with limited accountability while they are currently in office, Mayor Fulop has a long track record of recognizing the urgency in doing our part to reverse climate change – right now. This is how he performed as Mayor and this is how he would perform as Governor. Fulop would bring the same set of priorities to implement real, tangible, and visible policies for New Jersey that would set the pace for the state to be the leader in resiliency, sustainability, and environmental protection in the country

By investing in clean energy across the state, we can curb emissions and create jobs by investing in zero-carbon technology and providing financial incentives to help by bringing zero-carbon technologies to commercial readiness.

## Clean Air & Clean Water

Clean water, clean air, and being aggressive towards polluters will be core tenets of the Fulop Administration. Whether it's Advanced Clean Fleets in New Jersey similar to what Mayor Fulop did in Jersey City, removing toxins from drinking water by massive support for municipalities to properly invest, or holding polluters accountable with the Attorney General - Governor Fulop will make sure that all families in NJ are guaranteed a safe environment that is without toxins.



## Recalibrate Energy Efficiency in New Jersey

In 2018, under the Clean Energy Act, New Jersey passed an energy target of a mere 2% energy efficiency savings in electricity. This is an unacceptably low goal and speaks to Trenton’s acceptance of the status quo and its lack of desire to truly fight climate change. New Jersey can do more – and to start, as Governor, Fulop would raise this goal to 7% to match some of our northeast neighboring states.

With millions of legacy systems in place that are over 30 years old, most New Jersey residents and municipalities are powering and heating their homes with outdated technology from their lighting to their HVAC to street lights. By introducing a statewide energy program that upgrades our systems to sustainable, energy-efficient technology, we can lower emissions, reduce residents’ utility bills, provide work for contractors, and more. A Fulop administration would put requirements on new construction while properly aligning incentives for middle-class families. As a state, we need to set penalties/rewards for utilities if they miss or exceed targets and allow a needs-based sliding scale of cost-sharing for customers so that everyone can participate.

Efficiency is the basic “blocking and tackling” on energy and climate policy that should be addressed first as this is the easiest place for NJ to make meaningful progress.

## Offshore Wind

A Fulop Administration will continue to build on the success of the Murphy Administration’s commitment to offshore wind and would be fully committed to providing support for New Jersey’s goal of 11,000 megawatts of offshore wind generation of clean, renewable electricity by 2040. New Jersey is perfectly positioned to build the nation’s largest network of responsibly developed offshore wind projects and Mayor Fulop has a proven track record of moving towards renewable energy in Jersey City.



# Commitment to Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

While Jersey City has been a leader in building electric vehicle infrastructure the state of New Jersey has not. This needs to change. In addition to contributing to poor air quality, the transportation sector accounts for 42% of greenhouse gas emissions in New Jersey. With poor air quality, short commutes, and high per capita income, our electric vehicle market should be booming.

New Jersey currently ranks in the bottom half of states in ports per electric vehicle. As Governor, Fulop will implement state-mandated electric vehicle ports as part of each utility's capital program. This would allow for the building of necessary infrastructure to facilitate more electric vehicles with no impact on taxpayers.

## Underground Utility Lines

The state's older municipalities continue to have less sustainable and visibly outdated above-ground utilities. The state has learned through recent superstorms the vulnerabilities of these above-ground utility lines. As Governor, Fulop will incentivize municipalities and builders to move lines underground in order to reduce weather-related power outages and provide more reliable service to businesses and residents.





# Warehouse Development Moratorium

Over the last several years, precious open space throughout New Jersey has been acquired and developed into mega warehouses. These mega warehouses change the character of municipalities, remove valuable open space, result in more truck traffic and exposure to freight truck pollution, and create more impermeable surfaces, leading to increased flooding. Furthermore, with added technology and automation at each facility, the reality is that permanent job creation is minimal. With little upside for residents, the state has been extremely short-sighted with its current warehouse approach. To preserve open land and protect the character of municipalities and the health of residents, this needs to change.

As Governor, Fulop would immediately issue an executive order to implement a statewide moratorium on warehouse approvals until a statewide study on best practices is completed. In addition, while respecting the rules of home rule that govern NJ municipalities, Fulop would push for statewide changes to land use laws, including supermajority requirements at zoning/planning boards for municipal approvals, additional environmental impact studies paid for by the applicant but selected by the municipality for neutrality, and require the applicant pay stormwater and impact fees. Until a process that is fair to residents is implemented and one that considers the long-term impact on NJ, the moratorium would exist under the Fulop Administration.



# State Open Space Protections

A Fulop Administration will be committed to safeguarding the state's existing open space and using resources to expand park assets. Selling of state park land will not be an option. As Governor, Steve Fulop would push aggressively to implement the Liberty State Park Protection Act.

Furthermore, the state must expand spending to preserve and protect open space. Being above the national average is not acceptable for a state as densely populated as NJ, and we should set targets to always be in the top decile of spending.



## Liberty State Park Protection Act

As Governor, Steven Fulop would continue his strong advocacy for this state treasure and will push to enact legislation that finally protects all of Liberty State Park from privatization.



## Department of Environmental Protection Investment

There has been a steady deterioration of resources committed to the DEP by New Jersey's governors, including the current administration. For Steve Fulop an investment in the DEP is not just lip service but something that he demonstrated as Mayor of Jersey City. As Governor, Fulop would look to return DEP resources to 3,500 employees to improve efficiency and drive a more proactive policy. DEP should be a core commitment of any forward-thinking administration and not an afterthought. The DEP budget is still 15% below the level it was during the Christie administration — with inflation that equates to a 25% budget cut — and DEP has 400 fewer staff than before Christie. As a result, there is no enforcement of environmental requirements, parks are falling apart, there is a \$725 million backlog in repairs, and there is no one to monitor our air and water quality, oversee toxic clean-ups, or deal with flooding. Steve Fulop has a proven track record and he is committed to investing in DEP as the first step towards making substantive progress.

## Bear Hunt

Mayor Fulop has a long track record of working with the League of Humane Voters on policy and he has been clear about his intent to end the Bear Hunt in New Jersey.

## Nuclear Power Plants

We have seen a renewed interest across the world in nuclear energy, from Germany to Michigan to California. With two nuclear power stations in New Jersey, we must continue to invest in the plants that produce 90% of our state's carbon-free energy and 40% of our state's total energy. Our state must plan for long term resiliency and plants must be scheduled for secondary life extensions now. By extending the life of existing nuclear power plants, we can significantly increase the availability of reliable low-carbon power for decades to come.



## CONCLUSION:

Steve Fulop has a proven track record in Jersey City of enacting policies to promote sustainability, fight climate change, and create resiliency and efficiency.

**As Governor, Fulop will implement real, tangible, and visible policies for NJ to set the pace for the state to be the leader in resiliency, sustainability, and environmental protection in the country.**

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