

Coastal Climate Protection

NJPACT - Resilient Environments and Landscapes



REAL will modernize New Jersey's environmental land use rules to respond to climate change by considering risks such as sea-level rise and chronic flooding, and to facilitate climate resilience by supporting green infrastructure and renewable energy.

REAL Facts

- New Jersey is particularly susceptible to the adverse impacts of climate change as the coast serves as a significant population center, a critical element of the State's economy and a hallmark of its culture.
- Renewable energy is one means by which the impacts of sea level rise and extreme precipitation events may be mitigated.
- As compared to traditional infrastructure practices, nature-based solutions offer significant cost savings, increased resilience, erosion prevention, water quality improvements and increased habitat.

REAL Science

According to the *2020 New Jersey Scientific Report on Climate Change*:

- Some New Jersey tidal wetlands may not gain elevation at a rate that equals the rate of sea-level rise and thus some are expected to be lost to increased rates of sea-level rise.
- Anticipated increases in erosion and flooding have the potential to destroy critical beach and wetland habitat.
- The conversion of land from a natural to a developed or disturbed condition is well documented as causing significant, direct, as well as secondary and cumulative, environmental impacts.

REAL Action

- Facilitate renewable energy by allowing installation of electrical cables associated with offshore wind development.
- Encourage nature-based solutions for shore protection and offer a new General Permit for nature-based solution research projects.
- Consider the dynamic nature of dune and shoreline systems and acknowledge that engineered dunes do not diminish the importance of any other dune areas.
- Amend standards to facilitate interaction with the State Planning Commission for a commonsense approach to siting development.
- Establish standards in rule to evaluate consistency of State Planning Commission actions with CAFRA.
- Clarify certain requirements related to development over water and on beaches to protect public safety and property.