

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

THE ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONS



What to Do Now?

theme of the 2007 Environmental Congress

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are pleased to present ANJEC's Annual Report for 2007 - another productive year for our organization. We continued to support the efforts of the thousands of environmental commissioners who volunteer their time to improve the environment in communities throughout New Jersey. ANJEC provided them with answers to their questions, training to increase their skills and knowledge, publications and our website to explore issues in depth.

In addition, with the support of foundations, ANJEC managed projects on a wide range of specific environmental topics that affect municipal commissioners. We worked in the South Jersey Bayshore region, urban communities, and the Highlands region, focusing attention on the special characteristics of these areas of the state. We also monitored the development of state policy on water protection, state land use planning, energy and sustainability, and kept local officials informed of policy changes that affect them. In addition, with support of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, ANJEC ran the sixth year of its environmental planning grant program for municipalities, and this year extended the grant eligibility to counties to encourage regional development.

We thank the many people and organizations that contributed to ANJEC's success this year. We appreciate the financial support of our member commissions, our individual donors, corporations, and foundations. We also are indebted to our dedicated trustees and hard-working staff who accomplished so much during 2007.

Please let me know if you have questions about or suggestions for ANJEC activities. Our friends' involvement and ideas make a real difference to our organization!

Sandy Batty
Executive Director

PRIMARY SERVICES

- In our sixth year of pass-through Smart Growth grants for environmental land use planning, we selected 23 projects for funding totaling \$186,000. This year, in an effort to encourage regional projects, we extended the grant program to counties with environmental commissions.
- Over 200 people attended the Environmental Congress “The Heat Is On: What to Do Now?” on the theme of global climate change and energy sustainability. Rutgers Professor Anthony Broccoli explained global warming’s impact on New Jersey and Dennis Canavan of Johnson & Johnson told what his company is doing to reduce carbon emissions. Jeanne Fox, President of the NJ Board of Public Utilities talked about the state’s Energy Master Plan and Jeanne Herb of the Department of Environmental Protection explained the state’s implementation of the Global Warming Response Act.
- During the year, ANJEC organized 20 workshops throughout New Jersey, attended by about 700 people from environmental commissions, local government and the public. The range of topics included water allocation, build-out analysis, eminent domain, conservation easements, transfer of development rights, stormwater management, wastewater, global warming, and stream protection.
- In 2007, our Resource Center saw a growing interest in energy sustainability and climate change, with requests for sample ordinances and information on green building, energy conservation and idling prevention.
- Over 80 people - journalists, municipal officials and environmental commissioners- came to our seminar cosponsored by the New Jersey Press Association, “Global Warming, Telling the Local Story”. DEP Deputy Commissioner Adam Zellner outlined the State Energy Master Plan and the Governor’s global warming initiatives and panel of experts explored the local implications of climate change.
- With ANJEC coordination, Rutgers Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis (CRSSA) completed an extensive environmental resources inventory and analysis of the South Jersey Bayshore region. It is available on the CRSSA website <http://www.crssa.rutgers.edu/projects/bayshore/>

PRIMARY SERVICES

For 38 years, ANJEC has supported the efforts of environmental commissions, other governmental officials and individuals interested in protecting the environment on the local level. We offer them assistance through our Resource Center, conferences, courses, publications and website.

Resource Center

Every day, ANJEC researches issues, provides sample ordinances and other resources, and answers questions on a wide range of topics from environmental commissions, local officials and interested people. In 2007, we saw a growing interest in energy sustainability and climate change, with requests for sample ordinances and information on green building, energy conservation and idling prevention.

Other topics that people inquired about ranged from open space to steep slope protection, environmental impact statements, recycling, riparian buffers, trees, impervious cover, cluster zoning, and coastal habitats. Several towns contacted us about starting or reactivating an environmental commission, and we helped three commissions (Westville, Westampton and Hawthorne) that were under threat to be dissolved or downgraded to an environmental committee.

Each month ANJEC emailed to commissions generic press releases that they could send to their local newspapers. Topics included gardening, green home fix-ups, and reducing holiday waste.

Courses and Workshops

During the year, ANJEC organized 20 workshops throughout New Jersey, attended by about 700 people from environmental commissions, local government and the public. The range of topics included water allocation, build-out analysis, eminent domain, conservation easements, transfer of development rights, stormwater management, wastewater, global warming, and stream protection. ANJEC also organized three workshops for the NJ Land Conservation Rally and presented at three sessions of Rutgers Cooperative Extension’s Environmental Stewards class.

In March, ANJEC’s annual Commissioners Course covered effective commission operations, environmental resource inventories, master plans and ordinances, and site plan review. We repeated the course in three locations – Milltown, Mount Olive and West Deptford – with a total of 90 commissioners attending.

ANJEC also presented 16 Road Shows, for which commissions chose the date, location and topics to be covered. A total of 240 people attended, including members of environmental commissions, town councils, planning and zoning boards, open space committees, and the public. Selected presentations included effective commission operations, site plan review, open space preservation, environmental resource inventories, bike and pedestrian plans, gorilla marketing and stormwater management.

PRIMARY SERVICES

Environmental Congress

Over 200 people attended this year's Environmental Congress "The Heat Is On: What to Do Now?" on the theme of global climate change and energy sustainability. Professor Anthony Broccoli of Rutgers University explained the impacts of global warming on New Jersey and Dennis Canavan of Johnson & Johnson spoke on what his company is doing to reduce carbon emissions. Jeanne Fox, President of the NJ BPU talked about the state's Energy Master Plan and Jeanne Herb of the NJ DEP explained the Department's role in implementing the Global Warming Response Act. Nine workshops gave strategies for dealing with climate impacts such as increased flooding, ecosystem disruptions, and changes in water supply. Thirty-one nonprofit organizations cosponsored the event and seven commissions received achievement awards.

Publications

In 2007 ANJEC published several booklets and pamphlets. Copies were sent to all member commissions, and electronic (pdf) versions were posted on our website.

- The fifth edition of the *Environmental Commissioner's Handbook*, with information on commission procedures and activities;
- A revised edition of *Sample Ordinances for Protecting Significant Coastal Habitats*;
- A pamphlet and CD about setting up a Conservation Easements monitoring program;
- A pamphlet on using the DEP interactive mapping program, *I-Map*, to find out habitat information from DEP's Landscape Project;
- A Resource Paper, *Transfer of Development Rights: A Market-Driven Tool*.

ANJEC Report

More than 2,700 environmental commissioners, municipal officials and interested citizens receive the quarterly *ANJEC Report*, which offers in-depth feature articles on local and statewide environmental issues, as well as regular columns that highlight the urban environment, smart growth, environmental commission achievements and FAQs from ANJEC's Resource Center. The "Good Earthkeeping" column offers one-page articles, suitable for duplication and distribution to residents, on topics such as green cleaning methods, locally grown food, and reusable bags. The * autumn issue of the *ANJEC Report* introduced a smaller format to conform with new postal requirements. To deliver the same amount of content, the smaller publication has 36 pages, increased from the former 20 pages.

ANJEC Web Site www.anjec.org

ANJEC's web site offers comprehensive information on local approaches to environmental issues. In 2007, an average of 11,000 people visited the site each month. The most popular pages are the downloadable publications, which include *ANJEC Reports* going back to 2000, ten Resource Papers and four manuals. ANJEC constantly updates the website to highlight current issues, give new information and provide fresh links. In 2007 we added new pages on conservation easements, open space, climate change, stormwater, the Highlands and sustainable communities. With Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation support, we worked with Spitfire Strategies to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of our communications programs. We emailed a survey to ANJEC members asking for feedback on our website and the *ANJEC Report*. 70% of respondents answered that they find the website either extremely or very useful, and 78.5% respondents said that the *Report* was either extremely or very useful.

PROGRAMS

With foundation grant support, ANJEC is able to develop and administer special projects that address current issues affecting environmental commissions throughout the state.

Smart Growth Grants

Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation

2007 marked the sixth year of pass-through grants to municipalities with environmental commissions for environmental land use planning. This year, in an effort to encourage regional projects, we also extended the grant program to counties with environmental commissions or agencies.

Of the 65 grant applications, we selected 23 projects for funding totaling \$186,000. They include a Camden county project for a *Bicycling and Multi-Use Trails Master Plan* and a multi-town project identifying sources and strategies for reducing fecal coliform in the Black River in Mine Hill, Chester and Randolph Townships. The other funded projects were in Andover Twp., Cranford, Maplewood, Princeton, Stanhope, Tinton Falls, West Milford, Elk, Howell, Kingwood, Long Hill, Milltown, Point Pleasant, South Harrison, Tewksbury, Franklin Twp. (Somerset), Holmdel, Hopewell, Summit, Closter and Belmar. ANJEC provides advice and assistance to the towns throughout the course of the grant project. We also contacted former grant recipients to assess the impacts the grants have made, and their responses were extremely positive.

State Plan

Victoria Foundation

Throughout the year, ANJEC attended the State Planning Commission (SPC) meetings and the meetings of its Plan Implementation Committee, commented at the meetings and sent letters on a number of issues. ANJEC informed its member commissions of the state planning events and activities via the *ANJEC Report* and specific email alerts.

As the SPC developed its Plan Endorsement Guidelines and Rules, ANJEC reviewed drafts and commented extensively on our concerns. We worked to inform municipalities about Plan Endorsement through an article in the autumn *ANJEC Report* and a workshop at ANJEC's Environmental Congress. ANJEC also alerted environmental commissions when their towns petitioned for Plan Endorsement to enable them to offer environmental input.

ANJEC followed progress on the third edition of the State Plan as the SPC concluded its county Cross-Acceptance public hearings. ANJEC alerted commissions about their counties' hearings, encouraging them to participate, and answering questions and concerns they raised. At State Planning Commission meetings, we represented municipal environmental commissions and the public interest in state planning. ANJEC testified for improved processes and better public involvement. ANJEC has worked with local environmental and resident groups to support changes to increase the environmentally sensitive PA5 designations on the State Plan map.

PROGRAMS

South Jersey Bayshore

William Penn Foundation

ANJEC coordinates the South Jersey Bayshore Coalition, made up of 21 environmental and historic groups working in the Delaware Bayshore region. The Coalition's mission is to preserve the cultural heritage and environmental integrity of the Bayshore. With ANJEC coordination, Rutgers Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis (CRSSA) completed an extensive environmental resources inventory and analysis of the region. It is available on the CRSSA website <http://www.crssa.rutgers.edu/projects/bayshore/>

The South Jersey Bayshore Coalition took active positions on several issues in the region. The Coalition wrote letters to DEP requesting a public hearing for Mid-Atlantic Recycling Technologies' air permit modification; to Green Acres urging the future use of the Eagle Manor as an estuary education center, and to the State Planning Commission on the Salem County maps for the State Plan. The Coalition also has been working on obtaining National Heritage Area (NHA) designation for the region.

In addition, our southern staff supported the efforts of environmental commissions in Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland and Cape May Counties and initiated communication with townships that do not have active commissions. They helped commissions in Westville Borough to fight off the threat of disbandment; Quinton Township to address environmental issues of a proposed development and an expansion of a mining operation; Alloway Township on concerns regarding a proposed development site containing wetlands, vernal ponds and swamp pink; Mannington Township on its Master Plan re-examination; and Pilesgrove-Woodstown on the commission website (www.w-pjec.org).

Highlands

Victoria Foundation

Throughout 2007 ANJEC worked to accomplish a strong, effective *Highlands Regional Master Plan (RMP)*. ANJEC staff analyzed the *Highlands Draft RMP* released on November 2006 and provided testimony at the frequent meetings of the Highlands Council and its committees as the Council worked on its *Final Draft*. ANJEC's comments covered a range of issues - water consumption and depletion; Wastewater Management Plan review; the municipal conformance process, transfer of development rights (TDR); redevelopment; and the fiscal impacts of the RMP. The Council released its *Final Draft RMP* on November 19, 2007, which, in response to ANJEC comments, included the addition of policies and objectives for Karst limestone areas of the Highlands.

Ultimately, protection of the Highlands depends on the active participation of the 88 municipalities and seven counties in the region. To inform local officials of the *RMP* development, ANJEC provided updates, advice and alerts on emerging issues, public hearings and topics of concern. Road Shows in Ringwood, Bedminster, Frelinghuysen and Andover covered the Highlands Plan, open space stewardship and natural resources protection. Highlands Project Director Dave Peifer met with environmental commissioners and

PROGRAMS

other local officials in Bedminster, Byram, Harding, and Morris Township to discuss municipal conformance with the Highlands RMP.

ANJEC is also an active member of the NJ Highlands Coalition Board and Policy Committee. We regularly attended meetings of the Highlands Coalition Policy Committee to help prepare for the Coalition's comments on the RMP.

Urban Project

The Fund for New Jersey

Schumann Fund for New Jersey

EPA Harbor Estuary Project

Under our urban program, ANJEC has continued to support and establish commissions in New Jersey's cities and developed communities, helping with topics like open space and recreation plans, brownfields cleanups and sustainability plans. We were gratified that in November, Newark passed an ordinance to create an environmental commission. As New Jersey's largest city, Newark's environmental commission will be a model for other cities statewide.

To support urban programs, each issue of the *ANJEC Report* covered urban topics including combined sewer overflows, eminent domain, open space, environmental justice and contaminated sites and schools. We also continued to compile and email the monthly electronic newsletter, the *Green City Gazette*, which gives information on upcoming events, news items, and web links for further information. As a member of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, ANJEC worked on revitalization issues and informed municipalities about planning for redevelopment and abuse of eminent domain.

We had several presentations on urban issues. About 30 people came to Newark for our workshop on the use of eminent domain in redevelopment initiatives in New Jersey. Approximately 60 people attended the presentation we organized in Hoboken on stormwater management regulations and combined sewer overflows, and 25 people attended a Water Workshop in Newark, organized as part of ANJEC's Harbor Estuary Project.

In addition, Project Director Sally Dudley, a member of the NJ Brownfields Task Force, helped organize the National Brownfields Association three-state conference in New York City.

Water Resources

Environmental Endowment for New Jersey Mary Owen Borden Foundation

ANJEC continued its work to protect water resources, helping environmental commissions to understand new water regulations and to educate their towns' residents on water protection measures. ANJEC reviewed the NJDEP's proposals for significant revisions to regulations covering wetlands, wastewater, pollution limits for waterways and stream protection. We testified at public hearings and submitted written comments on each of the regulatory proposals.

We also updated commissions on the regulations through articles in the *ANJEC Report* and a total of ten workshops. Three workshops covered the new Flood Area Protection regulations and how local stream protection ordinances could fill the gaps in the regulations. ANJEC also helped DEP organize three informational sessions on the proposed wastewater regulations. Another set of workshops focused on the NJDEP Water Allocation regulations and water withdrawal impacts with presentations by Pinelands Preservation Alliance. ANJEC also worked with NJ DEP to provide hands-on computer training at two workshops about the GIS-based Landscape Project.

Sustainable Communities

The Fund for New Jersey

ANJEC has been building our resources to offer commissions information and tools regarding sustainability issues. Our website has a new section on sustainable communities, and we've also developed a Power Point presentation for road shows. We assembled a "Go Green" tabletop display for loan to commissions for fairs and exhibits at libraries or town halls. It proved so popular that we created a duplicate to accommodate double bookings.

In September, our seminar "Global Warming: Telling the Local Story," cosponsored by the New Jersey Press Association, attracted over 80 members of the media, commissions and other environmentalists to talk about how to effectively tell the local story about global warming. Participants learned about the State Energy Master Plan and global warming initiatives. A panel of experts explored the local implications of climate change and how communities are addressing these effects.

Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)

The Fund for New Jersey

ANJEC helped municipalities understand the benefits and challenges in adopting a TDR program, enabled under the State TDR Act of 2004 and the regional Highlands TDR Program. We informed municipalities about TDR, providing a TDR presentation for local officials in Montclair and another for the Upper Raritan Watershed Association for about 20 mayors and environmental commissioners in the region. In addition, our full-day TDR seminar in June, a joint program with the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC), drew over 80 people. We also published a 12-page Resource Paper, "Transfer of Development Rights: A Market Driven Tool," which we sent to environmental commission members and planning boards throughout New Jersey.

Environmental Summit

ANJEC coordinates the monthly meetings of the Environmental Summit – composed of over 30 NJ environmental organizations. The Summit provides the opportunity to meet, exchange ideas and learn from colleagues. The Summit enables the participants to work efficiently on specific areas of expertise and then enlist support from the other environmental organizations. In 2007, discussions covered renewal of Garden State Preservation Trust, highway widening, the Highlands plan, the Water Quality Management regulations, the Energy Master Plan and the State Plan.

Funding for Open Space

ANJEC was part of the Keep It Green coalition that worked for passage of the referendum to renew the Garden State Preservation Trust. ANJEC sent alerts to members, had an article in the *ANJEC Report*, and attended press conferences and rallies in support of this measure. Fortunately, voters did pass the ballot question, but although open space funding has been renewed, it is only a one-year stop-gap measure and a long-term stable funding solution must be identified.

2007 ANJEC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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2007 ANJEC STAFF

Executive Director - **Sandy Batty**
 Assistant Director - **Kerry Miller**
 Financial Manager - **Karen Buchanan**
 Development Director - **Alison Deeb**
 Resource Center - **Julia Lange Groth, Michele Gaynor**
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 Bayshore Inventory - **Patricia Burns**
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 Highlands - **David Peifer**
 Water Specialist - **Abigail Fair**
 State Plan Implementation - **Barbara Palmer**
 Transfer of Development Rights - **Joy Farber**
 Urban Project - **Kerry Butch**
Project Consultant - Environmental Summit - **Candy Ashmun**
Volunteers - **Steve Carroll, Peter Craig, Lucy Halse**

Individuals, foundations, businesses and organizations all contribute to ANJEC's fundraising efforts. These generous donations help us continue to reach, inform and empower environmentalists throughout New Jersey. Highlights for 2007 include:

Board Support – Responding to a challenge to give by a fellow board member, ANJEC Trustees and Advisory Council members gave \$9,555, representing 94% of the Trustees participating.

Activities - This year, ANJEC offered several enjoyable activities for its members. We repeated our steamboat cruise in June on the Delaware, and had a capacity crowd. ANJEC also booked sailings on the *AJ Meerwald*, the Delaware oyster schooner, on the Hudson in July. ANJEC also sponsored a "Non Event" mailing invitations that asked friends to participate without leaving home or creating any carbon emissions.

Earth Share New Jersey - ANJEC continued its affiliation with Earth Share New Jersey. This group, which encourages giving through payroll deductions, is growing stronger every year. It's another way to support the environment and raise awareness about environmental issues.

Memberships

Environmental Commissions
Open Space Committees
Individuals

Foundations

Mary Owen Borden Foundation
Corbin Family Fund
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
Environmental Endowment for NJ
First Energy Foundation
The Fund for New Jersey
Sumner Gerard Foundation
The Gollin Foundation
Peter R. & Cynthia K. Kellogg Foundation
The Leavens Foundation, Inc.
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
The William Penn Foundation
The Schumann Fund for New Jersey
Victoria Foundation
Jane B. and Robert L. Wallace Foundation
Johanette Wallerstein Institute

Corporate Donors

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Banisch Associates
Biostar Associates
EcoSystems Environmental Consultants
Environmental Compliance, Inc.
F.X. Browne, Inc.
Hatch Mott MacDonald
Heyer, Gruel & Associates, PA
Legette, Brashears & Graham, Inc.

Workplace Giving

EarthShare New Jersey

Princeton Hydro, LLC
RTP Environmental Associates, Inc.
Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein
Blader & Lehmann, PC
Tetra Tech EM, Inc
Thonet Associates
TRC Omni Environmental Corporation
Uhl, Baron, Rana & Associates
Van Note-Harvey Associates, P.C.

2007 Support & Revenue

Project grants	\$605,685	71%
Membership	80,705	9%
Educational activities	30,265	4%
Publications	7,115	1%
Contributions	77,766	9%
Interest and Board-designated returns*	46,107	5%
Donated equipment	250	<1%
Other	<u>1,510</u>	<u><1%</u>
Total Revenue	\$849,403	100%

Expenses

Program services		
Training & assistance	\$428,435	50%
Publications development	106,215	12%
Research	102,463	12%
Env'l group coordination	68,063	8%
Support services		
Management	106,882	13%
Fundraising	<u>39,329</u>	<u>5%</u>
Total Functional Expenses	<u>\$851,387</u>	100%
Operating income	\$(1,984)	

Investment Income

Gains on investments (less Bd.-designated returns)	\$ 10,557	(11,957 minus \$1,400)
Dividend income	\$ 5,755	
Investment mgmt. fees	<u>\$(1,131)</u>	
Net Investment Income	<u>\$ 15,181</u>	
	<u>\$ 13,198</u>	

The complete audited Financial Statement is available upon request.

ANJEC's MISSION

To promote the public interest in natural resource protection, sustainable development and reclamation, and support environmental commissions and open space committees working with citizens, local officials and non-profit organizations.



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