



## Verona Environmental Commission

600 Bloomfield Avenue  
Verona, New Jersey 07044

Verona Environmental Commission News Release  
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Contact: Gloria Machnowski, VEC Chairperson – veronaenvironmental@gmail.com

### VEC Supports Freeholders' Climate Change Resolution

Members of the Essex County Board of Freeholders recently adopted a resolution encouraging New Jersey to take action on climate change. The Verona Environmental Commission supports this resolution, which is critical to the health, safety and well-being of our town, our county and our state.

Drafted by Freeholder President Britnee N. Timberlake, District 3 Freeholder Rolando Bobadilla, District 5 Freeholder Cynthia D. Toro and Freeholder-At-Large Patricia Sebold, the resolution notes Essex County's vulnerability to two major problems caused by climate change: a rising sea level and storm surges from more frequent and intense storms. The freeholders rightly note that these are problems with severe economic consequences. Just four years ago, Hurricane Sandy caused \$36.8 billion in damage to New Jersey, some of which has yet to be repaired.

The resolution notes that Essex County has already taken steps to reduce carbon pollution and greenhouse gas emissions by supporting increased recycling and usage of hybrid vehicles. The freeholders pledge to do even more in the future, by increasing renewable energy requirements or renewable portfolio standard ("RPS") to 80% by 2050, auditing County greenhouse gas emissions and reducing emissions 80% by 2050, buying 50% or more of the County's energy from renewable sources, incentivizing renewable purchases for County residents, easing the solar power permit process, updating building codes to promote increased energy efficiency for county and municipal buildings, and working with local building trades to create job training programs for solar installation and building retrofits.

All of these are extremely worthy goals that earn the wholehearted support of the Verona Environmental Commission. We look forward to working with the Freeholders and the Verona Town Council to implement these plans as we move the County towards a more sustainable future.