

A Clean Energy Pathway for New Jersey:

Achievable, Affordable, and Essential

New Jersey residents overwhelming support more energy from cleaner, renewable sources like wind and solar, and are concerned about the impacts of climate change, according to recent polls.

Groundbreaking new research by national energy experts shows — for the first time — how New Jersey can reduce emissions from generating electric power 50% by 2030, putting the state on a trajectory to meet its 80% greenhouse gas emission reduction target by 2050.

The research report by the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research and PSE Healthy Energy describes a Clean Energy Pathway that combines three elements to achieve affordable emission reductions: greater energy efficiency, continuing New Jersey’s historic levels of solar growth, and a new focus on offshore wind. Under the Clean Energy Pathway scenario, in-state renewable energy provides 33% of total generation needs by 2030.

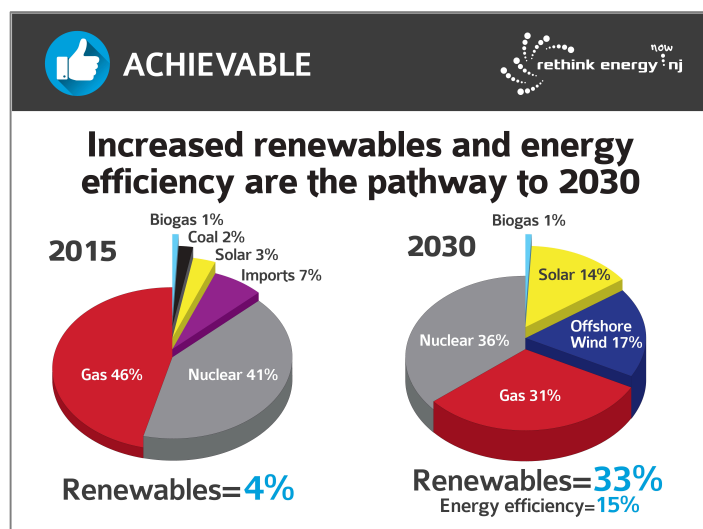
This report finds that the Clean Energy Pathway is:

Achievable:

The Clean Energy Pathway is a conservative projection of what can be achieved by 2030.

The pathway depends on:

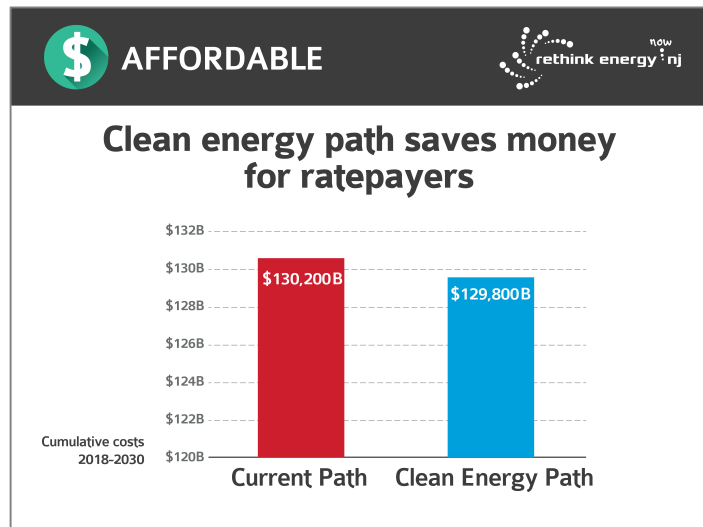
- Efficiency savings of 2% per year, a rate already attained or exceeded in several Northeastern states;
- Solar growth at rates already realized in New Jersey; and
- Feasible development of 3,250 megawatts of the state’s plentiful offshore wind resources.



Affordable:

The cost of the Clean Energy Pathway is comparable to the “business-as-usual” approach of continuing the state’s current energy mix that relies heavily on natural gas and nuclear energy. The proposed expansion of renewable energy sources is projected to moderately increase electricity generation costs, but these costs would be offset by significant efficiency savings such that ratepayers would pay slightly less.

When factoring in the public health and environmental costs of carbon, savings from the Clean Energy Pathway are even greater. By adopting sensible policies, New Jersey can affordably achieve substantial emissions reductions.

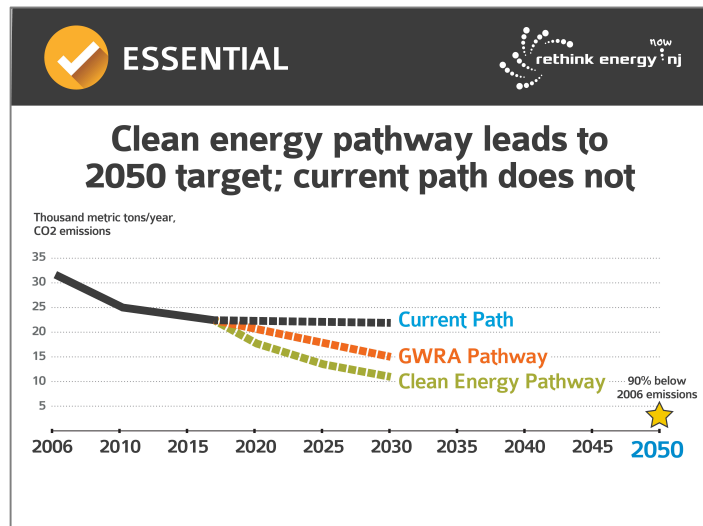


Essential:

Reducing carbon emissions is critical to creating a cleaner, healthier, and fairer New Jersey.

Removing emissions from the electric power sector is key to meeting the 2050 emission targets set by the state’s Global Warming Response Act (GWRA).

The state’s current energy pathway that relies heavily on natural gas will fall far short of achieving the GWRA’s emission reduction targets.



Achieving the GWRA’s 80% greenhouse gas emission reduction target from all energy sectors by 2050 depends on decarbonizing the electric power sector. The Clean Energy Pathway sets the stage for the electric sector to become **90% or more emissions-free** by 2050, even as total electric generation roughly doubles from 2030 to 2050 from the conversion of transportation, heating, cooling, and other fuel-using systems to run on cleaner renewable electricity.

The report, “A Clean Energy Pathway for New Jersey,” was sponsored by ReThink Energy NJ. The report and summary can be found at www.ReThinkEnergyNJ.org/CleanEnergyPathway.