

# NJ Natural Gas: We have cut emissions

## Company is investing in clean energy measures

### Your Turn

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Guest columnist

Across the nation and here in New Jersey, the effects of climate change have become far too prevalent and far too common.

Along our state's coastline, the effects of climate change are a reality we face every day.

As a business based here at the Jersey Shore, New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) recognizes the urgency of climate change and has taken a leading role in reducing emissions and investing in the clean energy economy. Over the past decade, NJNG has invested nearly \$2 billion in energy infrastructure and today operates the most environmentally sound natural gas delivery system in the state.

In 2020, we announced we had reduced emissions by more than 50% from 2006 levels, well on our way to achieving our goal of a 60% reduction by the year 2030.

To continue making progress, NJNG will also look to integrate the latest decarbonization technology into our delivery system, including green hydrogen and renewable natural gas – making the energy we deliver to our customers even cleaner.

We also recognize the need for climate change solutions and action in the communities where we live, work and serve.

That's why NJNG has launched the Coastal Climate Initiative, a new program focused on climate action right here in our own backyard.

Through this program, we will support The Nature Conservancy in New Jersey, an environmental non-profit with over 60 years of experience working to protect water and lands in New Jersey, and their work to restore saltwater tidal wetlands in the Barnegat Bay – part of NJNG's service territory.

Known as "carbon sinks," these marsh areas of our shore actively remove carbon from the atmosphere and safely store it away in their soil for thousands of years.

They also are an important barrier to help mitigate the effects of extreme weather – reducing the impact of storm surge and helping protect people and property in our shore communities.

These vital ecosystems have been identified by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection as an effective tool to help achieve the State's climate and emissions reduction goals.

The Nature Conservancy and a broad coalition of partners in the public and private sectors is advancing an innovative restoration technique that holds great potential for large-scale renewal of struggling saltwater marshes in the Barnegat Bay.

NJNG is excited to support this breakthrough work.

Through the Coastal Climate Initiative, NJNG will empower its customers to join the effort in a simple and effective way, through a voluntary charitable contribution that can be made directly on their NJNG bills.

Our company will match all customer donations dollar for dollar up to a total of \$50,000 per year, directly supporting this essential restoration work right here at the Jersey Shore.

We believe local solutions are needed just as much as national ones, and the Coastal Climate Initiative can – and will – play an important role.

By working together and engaging NJNG's customers in this local effort, we will help bring real, lasting benefits for the people, property and wildlife of the Barnegat Bay Watershed, for our state and our planet.

Learn more about the Coastal Climate Initiative by visiting [njng.com/climate](http://njng.com/climate).

*Steve Westhoven is the president and CEO of New Jersey Resources, the parent company of New Jersey Natural Gas.*