

NEWS RELEASE

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N.J. Work Environment Council names Dan Fatton new Executive Director

The N.J. Work Environment Council (WEC) has selected Dan Fatton, an environmentalist, community activist and fundraiser as its new Executive Director. Fatton was selected after the WEC Board and search committee completed a nationwide search.

“We are thrilled to have Dan Fatton as WEC Executive Director. He is a New Jersey native, knows our state and its environmental challenges and has done extensive policy work which is something that WEC has been known for over the years,” said Rev. Fletcher Harper, WEC’s Board President and Executive Director of GreenFaith, an interfaith environmental organization that works with faith communities in the US and abroad.

WEC’s two current major campaigns are *Stop Chemical Disasters: Respect Our Right to Know* and *Healthy Schools Now*. The right to know campaign calls on Governor Christie, other public officials and chemical, oil and railroad industries to disclose information about rail car hazards, emergency response plans, the real names of chemicals and to pursue safer alternatives for chemicals and processes. *Healthy Schools Now* addresses urgent safety and health hazards and increases awareness about how unhealthy school environments harm learning.

“We were impressed with Dan Fatton’s passion for the important policy work that WEC does,” said Sean Spiller, WEC’s Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer of the New Jersey Education Association, “We know that he will successfully focus his energy on our work addressing urgent safety and health hazards in New Jersey’s underfunded low-income public school districts.”

WEC is a nonprofit alliance of labor, environmental and community groups that has played a key role in winning and defending landmark state policies for worker and environmental protection.

“We look forward to working with Dan as we strengthen traditional union jobs and develop more green jobs,” said John Shinn, WEC Board Member and USW District 4 Director.

Fatton is only the second Executive Director for WEC. Fatton replaces Rick Engler who ran the organization for 28 years. Engler left in February for a Presidential appointment to the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.

"I recognize how difficult it will be to try and fill the shoes of Rick Engler, founder of WEC, but I am eager to build on WEC's impressive record of success and dedicated to our mission of ensuring safe, secure jobs and a healthy, sustainable environment," said Fatton.

Fatton joined WEC after his most recent work as Director of Development and Membership Services for The Electrochemical Society, an international scientific non-profit. Working with a small staff, Dan increased development and membership revenue by more than 60 percent and created new partnerships with both the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Toyota North America.

Previously, as Outreach & Development Director for New Jersey Future, Fatton spent five years increasing dollars raised through sponsorships and major gifts fundraising. He also worked on issues of equity, economy and the environment, authoring several policy pieces with a focus on the intersection of transportation and health.

Fatton has served on the I Am Trenton Community Foundation Board of Trustees since 2009, including as President from 2013-14, and is a member of the Trenton Green Team and Trenton Cycling Revolution, a local bicycle and pedestrian advocacy group. Dan is a 2012 Lead New Jersey Fellow and a 2013 Fellow of the Environmental Leadership Program's Eastern Regional Network. In 2013, Fatton was honored with a *Healthy Kids Champion Award* recognizing his leadership in the adoption of Trenton's nationally ranked Complete Streets policy.

Fatton grew up in Hunterdon County, has a master's degree in City and Regional Planning from the Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy at Rutgers University and a bachelor's degree in media arts and design from James Madison University. Fatton serves on the Board of Trustees for the New Jersey Council on the Humanities. He lives in Trenton with his partner Alex.