



## News Release

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### **New Education Pilot Program for New Jersey Students Will Help Foster Essential Climate Literacy**

***\$500,000 grant from Atlantic City Electric and Exelon creates contest to inspire and recognize student-led projects to address the climate crisis***

**TRENTON, NJ** (January 27, 2021) – In the face of the growing climate crisis, Atlantic City Electric, Exelon, the Drumthwacket Foundation and Sustainable Jersey have announced the creation of the *NJ Student Climate Challenge*, a new pilot program to foster the growing role students and young people are playing in addressing the climate crisis. The initiative builds on New Jersey’s efforts to increase climate literacy among young people across the state, including its first-in-the-nation effort to incorporate climate change education across all K-12 state academic standards.

The Drumthwacket Foundation is working with Sustainable Jersey, the program facilitator, to use the \$500,000 grant from Atlantic City Electric and its parent company Exelon to develop an exciting new contest that encourages students to explore and address the local impacts of climate change and develop solutions to help their communities become more resilient to a changing environment. For its first year, the pilot program will provide support and recognition to teams of students from public middle and high schools in Atlantic City Electric’s service area, with the ability to expand the program to a full statewide New Jersey contest in subsequent years.

“I am thrilled that the NJ Student Climate Challenge will build upon our state’s historic effort to incorporate climate change education across our K-12 learning standards,” said First Lady Tammy Murphy, president of The Drumthwacket Foundation. “New Jersey’s children will lead the nation in the future green economy because of programs and partnerships like this. And, as our students learn to think more critically about how they can help their own local communities become more climate conscious and resilient, our entire state will benefit.”

“Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges we face, and we need to take the necessary steps today to help ensure our children have a cleaner and brighter future tomorrow,” said Dave Velazquez, president of Pepco Holdings, which includes Atlantic City Electric. “That includes giving our young people the opportunities and resources they need to understand and address climate change in their local communities. We are proud to do all we can to help the state combat climate change and empower youth through this unique program, which will help New Jersey continue to be a national leader in charting a course to a clean and resilient energy future.”

The *NJ Student Climate Challenge* will include a virtual student climate summit and a student contest. Students will participate through their respective schools. There is no cost to schools or students to participate. Contest and summit details are available at [bit.ly/NJStudentClimateChallenge](https://bit.ly/NJStudentClimateChallenge).

The climate summit will provide students and educators with an opportunity to learn about actionable ways to address the climate crisis as they begin to think about climate resilience and mitigation projects that could benefit their schools and communities. It will include a series of virtual learning sessions scheduled over a four-week period in February and March. Presenters will include experts from state government agencies, academia and nonprofits and others working to address the causes and impacts of climate change. The sessions will be delivered live with students. Recordings will be available on the Sustainable Jersey for School's website.

To participate in the contest, student teams and their teacher mentors must identify and complete a school or community project to address the climate crisis and create a digital story reflecting on the impact of climate change and what they learned by completing the project. Contest submissions are due June 11, 2021.

A panel of educators and experts from nonprofits, state agencies and the *NJ Student Climate Challenge* partner organizations will judge the contest submissions. Select entries will be recognized at an awards ceremony in September 2021 hosted by the Drumthwacket Foundation with New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy.

“We know our customers want cleaner air and affordable, reliable energy,” said Kathleen Barrón, senior vice president of Government and Regulatory Affairs and Public Policy for Exelon. “From our educational programs to our fleet of carbon-free energy sources to our extensive grant programs, including our Climate Change Investment Initiative which will support the next generation of innovators, all of our investments and strategic decisions are focused on meeting the needs and expectations of our customers.”

Atlantic City Electric has recently taken several steps to help New Jersey [achieve a clean energy future](#), including proposals to support more clean transportation, increase energy efficiency offerings in the state and build a Smart Energy Network that will connect customers to more clean energy services and technologies.

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**About Drumthwacket Foundation:**

*The Drumthwacket Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit, non-partisan organization. Its mission is to inspire pride and enhance civic awareness for all New Jerseyans by restoring Drumthwacket, a nationally landmarked historic site and the official residence of NJ Governors, and by educational and cultural activities that recognize the rich diversity and ongoing contributions of New Jersey's communities and its residents.*

**About Atlantic City Electric:**

*Atlantic City Electric is a unit of Exelon Corporation (Nasdaq: EXC), the nation's leading energy provider, with approximately 10 million customers. Atlantic City Electric provides safe and reliable energy service to approximately 560,000 customers in southern New Jersey.*

**About Exelon:**

*Exelon Corporation (Nasdaq: EXC) is a Fortune 100 energy company with the largest number of electricity and natural gas customers in the U.S. Exelon does business in 48 states, the District of Columbia and Canada and had 2019 revenue of \$34 billion. Exelon serves approximately 10 million customers in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania through its Atlantic City Electric, BGE, ComEd, Delmarva Power, PECO and Pepco subsidiaries. Exelon is one of the largest competitive U.S. power generators, with more than 31,000 megawatts of nuclear, gas, wind, solar and hydroelectric generating capacity comprising one of the nation's cleanest and lowest-cost power generation fleets. The company's Constellation business unit provides energy products and services to approximately 2 million residential, public sector and business customers, including three fourths of the Fortune 100. Follow Exelon on Twitter @Exelon.*

**About Sustainable Jersey for Schools**

*[Sustainable Jersey for Schools](#) is a certification program for public schools in New Jersey. It provides tools, training and financial incentives to support and reward schools as they pursue sustainability programs. To date, 359 school districts and 983 schools are participating in the program. Sustainable Jersey for Schools has awarded over \$2.2 million in grants to schools and school districts. Follow Sustainable Jersey for Schools on Twitter @SJ\_schools.*