

DAY ONE DECLARATION: ***STATE OF EMERGENCY*** ***ON UTILITY COSTS***

*Utility costs are out of control in New Jersey. Families are spending almost their entire budget just to pay the electric bill this summer. It's time for action, because people just can't wait any longer. **So on Day One as New Jersey's next governor, I'm going to declare a State of Emergency on Utility Costs and freeze your utility rates, massively build out cheaper and cleaner power generation, and require more transparency from our utility companies including PSE&G, JCP&L, Atlantic City Electric, and Rockland Electric, and our grid operator PJM.***

INTRODUCTION

Life in New Jersey is too expensive and every single New Jerseyan who pays the bills knows it. It's appalling that while costs rise on everything, New Jerseyans are now being slapped with, at minimum, a 20% increase in their utility bills, and Donald Trump's tax hike bill will increase costs by an additional \$220 per year by cancelling cheap and clean generation and energy efficiency programs. We've all had enough of it; no one can afford it; it's got to stop. That changes when I'm governor. Too many people — our utility companies and grid operator, the administration in Trenton, and Donald Trump in Washington — have kicked the can down the road and not been held accountable for their decisions. New Jersey isn't generating even close to enough in-state power to keep costs low, and we risk missing the clean energy targets that we need to protect our environment for generations to come. I'm not going to accept that.

In the military, you're trained to run towards a crisis. When I was leading my crews as a Navy helicopter pilot, everyone was accountable to me and delaying my response to an emergency wasn't an option. New Jersey is facing an energy crisis now because no one has taken leadership and no one has been held accountable. That's not how I was trained, and it's not how I will govern. I will bring a different kind of leadership and accountability to lower utility costs for families. That starts with declaring a State of Emergency on Day One, through which I will **freeze utility costs**, massively expand cheaper and cleaner energy generation to build an **energy arsenal** in our state, open the books and require more **transparency** from our utility companies, and force our grid operator PJM to end its years of mismanagement and **add power** immediately. Prices are spiking because of a huge power shortage — I'll transform New Jersey's energy picture to build new, cheaper, and cleaner energy generation, bring down families' bills, and put the Garden State on track to hit our emissions and clean air goals.

ACTIONS UNDER THE STATE OF EMERGENCY

1) To provide immediate relief, I will freeze utility costs for families as we rapidly expand new, cheaper, and cleaner power generation to lower costs.

a) I will ensure that the average New Jersey family sees no increase in their utility rates over the next year.

2) I will massively increase New Jersey's power generation to build an energy arsenal in our state and make our energy supply cheaper and cleaner.

a) I'll eliminate unnecessary red tape and permitting delays to open up the floodgates on new cheaper, and cleaner energy projects that increase our power supply, lower costs, and reduce emissions, because more power generation means lower bills.

b) This means immediately breaking ground on new solar and battery storage projects, expediting capacity upgrades at our existing nuclear plants, and streamlining the modernization of existing natural gas facilities to make them cleaner and more efficient — which will lower costs, reduce carbon emissions, and boost reliability and energy independence right now.

c) Due to Trump's price hike bill, new solar projects must begin construction by July 2026 to receive federal tax credits, so we have no time to waste. Solar is the fastest energy source to build right now and the cheapest form of power generation nationwide, but permitting roadblocks and interconnection delays are preventing us from hitting our goals — which is increasing utility bills and making our air dirtier. I'll cut through those barriers to get solar projects done now.

d) We're importing dirty and expensive energy like coal from other states, and that has to stop.

e) I'll also immediately develop plans for new nuclear capacity in Salem County, which is critical to meeting our energy needs. I'll sit down with neighboring states to harness economies of scale to build new reactors in our region at a low cost.

ACTIONS UNDER THE STATE OF EMERGENCY

3) I will require a new level of transparency and accountability from our utility companies, including PSE&G, JCP&L, Atlantic City Electric, and Rockland Electric.

a) I'll immediately open up their books to see where rising costs to families are going, and make sure their voting records at our grid operator's board meetings are consistent with what is best for New Jersey.

b) I'll ensure that price gouging and collusion isn't happening in energy and utility markets.

c) And I'll immediately convene an emergency meeting of New Jersey's utility companies to ensure they are connecting new, cheaper, and cleaner power generating projects to our energy supply as fast as possible, including by working with them to address bottlenecks at our grid operator, PJM.

4) I will instruct my Attorney General to take Trump and New Jersey's grid operator, PJM, to court — in coordination with governors in our region — to force them to end their mismanagement and instead accelerate the development of cheaper and cleaner energy sources and connect new power generation to our grid immediately.

a) New energy projects can't lower utility bills if they're waiting years to start producing energy, but PJM refuses to connect them quickly.

b) President Trump is actively thwarting the development of new, needed power plants. I will take him on over his destructive efforts to block crucial power supplies, which will reduce our energy rates and make our air cleaner.

TAKING ON ANYONE TO LOWER UTILITY COSTS



In my administration, bringing down the cost of living and being accountable to the people of New Jersey will be my number one priority.

Make no mistake: I am willing to take on anybody, including my own party and the powerful utility companies, to get this job done for New Jersey. New Jersey's grid operator PJM has refused to connect enough new, cheap, and clean energy generation to the grid for years, but New Jersey waited to act until we were hit with a 20% rate increase. While other states were taking action, New Jersey hesitated and was sidelined for far too long. The result is that we don't have enough in-state generation to keep costs low and we risk missing our clean power targets. That is unacceptable. In my administration, Board of Public Utilities nominees, who hold huge power over rate hikes, will share my commitment to driving down energy costs above all else. If they don't, they shouldn't get too comfortable.

I will take bold action to reduce costs — no matter who it ticks off in New Jersey or Washington, DC. Trump's price hike bill is increasing utility costs by \$220 per year by cancelling hundreds of new, cheap, and clean power generation projects across our state. PJM's mismanagement and refusal to connect projects to the grid is costing families a further \$400 a year. I'll take them on and beat them, because we have to lower utility bills right now.

When I become governor, I will take on Trump, our grid operator PJM, the utility companies, and anyone who refuses to put New Jerseyans first.

