## Environmental Resource Inventory For the City of Cape May, New Jersey Updated: September, 2017

#### Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to:
The Association of Environmental Commissions (A.N.J.E.C.)
and The Cape May City Green Team

#### Gratitude is also extended to:

Cape May City Mayor Lear and Council Members Meier, Hendricks, Furlin and Pessagno

The creation of this document, its guidance and review came from the Cape May City Environmental Commission

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The aforementioned volunteers, City officials and staff provided the text of the information for this inventory. The CD creation and copy is gratefully accepted from Heather Bruno, Environmental Commission Secretary.

# **Update Addendum Update-September 2017**

Introduction: Environmental Commission in New Jersey	Section 1
Cape May City Master Plan Recommendations; Year 2002	Section 2
Data Bases Open Space - R.O.S.I. list Wildlife Inventories, Threatened & Endangered Species Also Sewell Point (E. Pittsburgh), etc.	Section 3
Water Resources Potable, Wetlands, Estuaries, CAFRA, Ocean, Harbor and Stormwater	Section 4
Vegetation & Landscape Dune grass, NJ And Plant List for Wildlife, Shade Tree, Xeriscaping, Water Conservation Garden	Section 5
Open Space, Sewell Point Tract	Section 6
Chemical Contamination & Hazardous Waste MGP, Past Gasoline Stations, Coachman's Motel, Herbicides and Pesticides	Section 7
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Addendum - Professionally Prepared Maps by Amy S. Greene, Environmental Consultants	

# Section 1 Update-September 2017

# Legal Authority for Site Plan Review

The following is the Environmental Commission Site Plan/Subdivision Checklist:

The Environmental analysis and review of an application is exceedingly important for the Planning Board by the Environmental Commission. Please see attached document.

#### CHART B

# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION SITE PLAN / SUBDIVISION CHECKLIST

Project Information     Project Nome:		
A. Project Name:		
B. Applicant Name:		
C. Street Location:		
D. Date when application deemed com	plete:	_
E. Project Description (single family, to	wnhouse, commerc	ial; acreage; size of structure, nature and use, etc.)
2. Information Received:		Have the requirements of NJ's regulations and the town's
A. Application		environmental ordinances been met?
B. Plans		A. Grading     Change of slope
C. Variance Request(s) Describe		Charge of stope     Source of fills
D. EnvironmentalImpactStatement		Preservation of topsoil
Yes_No_Waiverrequested_	N/A	<ul> <li>B. Stormwater management (roads, buildings and other)</li> </ul>
E. Soil erosion & sediment control plan	S	<ol> <li>Relationship to municipal requirements</li> </ol>
Yes No Waiverrequested		Impervious cover amounts
F. Stormwater calculations		Stream buffer, if applicable     Easement on non-structural element
Yes No Waiverrequested	N/A	C. Flood Hazard Area
G. Septic; wastewater management pla		D. Wetlandsfill or disturbance
Yes No Waiverrequested		E. Buffering
H. State permits: wetlands, flood hazar	-	Proposed or needed
water management amendment, sev		<ol><li>Vegetation in buffers</li></ol>
coastalareafacilityreview	roi extension,	F. Landscaping/limits of disturbed areas
Appliedfor Received		<ol> <li>Preservation of significant trees or other landscaping</li> </ol>
		<ol><li>Appropriateness of new species; natives or invasives?</li></ol>
. Application deficiencies, inadequate items, discrepancies		G. Habitat fragmentation for plants and wildlife
		H. Hazardous substances
		1. Storage
. Existing conditions: environmentally ser	nsitivefeatures	2. Generation
A. Steepslopes (over 15%)	Yes_No	<ol><li>Existing underground storage tanks</li></ol>
B. Woodedareas	Yes_ No	Air, light or noise pollution
C. Surfacewater	Yes No	J. Off-site secondary impacts:
<ul> <li>D. Aquifer recharge areas</li> </ul>	Yes No	<ol> <li>Surface runoff and flooding</li> </ol>
<ul> <li>E. Wellhead protection areas</li> </ul>	Yes_ No	<ol><li>Non-point source pollution</li></ol>
F. Floodplains	Yes No	<ol><li>Sedimentation and erosion</li></ol>
G. Wetlands	Yes_ No	<ol> <li>Water supply quality and quantity</li> </ol>
H. Limestone areas	Yes_ No	<ol><li>Traffic congestion</li></ol>
Drainage pattern	Yes_ No	Airpollution
J. Significant trees or other vegetation		7. Habitat fragmentation
K. Types of habitat	Yes No	Consistency with existing plans
L. Dunes	Yes No	A. Municipal Master Plan
. Impacts of proposed development on th	e existing condi-	B. Conservation Element in Master Plan
tions during and after construction	o oxiding condi-	C. County Master Plan
usio salinguna anoi sonoi action		D. Otherregional plans
		E. State Development and Redevelopment Plan

### Section 2 - Master Plan Recommendations: 2007

### Recommendation Number I

The environmental Commission proposes acquisition of all environmentally sensitive wetlands within the City limits. We further recommend a moratorium on building on all City owned wetlands.

Since July 20, 1989, our Commission has been alerting the City, the County, and the State by nominating environmentally sensitive areas with the City of Cape May for preservation. The number one site to be preserved, was then and is now, is the 100 acres East of Pittsburgh Avenue known as the Sewell Point area. Others on our list included: Second Avenue area at the Cove, Cape May Harbor area, and still in need of protection are the wetlands behind the Cape May City Elementary School back to the Cape Island Creek. We continue to propose acquisition of these lands for the protection of our natural resources.

Open Space: Cape May City is comprised of 2.24 square miles. Of that, only10% of the total area is open space. Moreover, 99% of that 10% is sandy beachfront and not green space. Our Commission believes that the quality of life in Cape May City is dangerously threatened by overdevelopment. We see developers as killing the golden egg-laying goose. We think that strong intervention is needed by all governing bodies to protect our remaining open space.

Opposition to development does not imply opposition to tourism. Tourists who come to observe birds or the natural habitats provide an economic incentive to adopt policies that preserve wildlife. However, citizens can no longer assume that our natural resources are delivered without a price tag. Large and small park areas add to our green space thus assuring a constancy of quality of air and less stress on our water supply.

Case in point: the Sewell Point area is a world class environment site of national importance. This area is an integral part of the Atlantic flyway for migrating birds. It is a major oasis for threatened and endangered species. NJ Audubon Society studies have documented that the value of birding ecotourism within the Cape May peninsula is over \$20,000,000 a year. Money generated from ecotourism continues to increase. The beauty of ecotourism sites, in which to view wildlife, is that they are financially sound. Expensive infrastructure is not necessary to birding ecotourism activities

The Sewell Point site, better known as the Brodessor-Robinson site, qualifies as an endangered and threatened wildlife area as well as a critical wildlife habitat. **Under the CAFRA regulations**, development of this area in East Cape May as denied a permit in January, 1991.

US Fish and Wildlife Service has added this area to its priority list for preservation. Comparative studies have found Sewell Point has more birds per acre than the nationally respected birding habitat of Higbee's Beach.

The Environmental Commission, without a doubt, recommends that this space be reserved in perpetuity as open space. According to a study entitled, *Open Space is a Good Investment*, published by ANJEC in 1997, the study describes that open space has financial benefits. For every \$1.00 collected in taxes, residential development costs between \$1.04 and \$1.76 in services and these services continue forever increasing over time. In the City of Cape May probably less is more. Homeowners have seen the values of their properties increase significantly, tenfold, as a result of having fewer open spaces saturated with development.

## Recommendation Number II Cape May Harbor Area

- A. The Environmental Commission recommends that the water's edge linear walkway plan be deleted from the new updated Master Plan. The public has already expressed an interest in reducing the intensity of the harbor's use.
- B. The Commission recommends permitting natural vegetation as erosion control method and that no further housing or commercial development be permitted in this area.
- C. It is recommended that safe access to the harbor be created on a very small scale in the form of a pedestrian ramp.
- D. Yacht Avenue is currently zoned MU and should be down zoned to residential status either Rl or RS with the existing commercial enterprises grandfathered but no increase in density of living space.

# Recommendation Number III CAFRA II Regulations

The new CAFRA II regulations appear to be more relaxed and lenient in terms of measurable standards and percentages. The Commission recommends that the Master Plan continue to emphasize a strict enforcement ruling so that environmentally sensitive areas in the City continue to have the utmost protection. The proposed CAFRA II terms are highly arbitrary and may be open to a consensus attitude. Therefore, adhering to CAFRA I standards would be better for Cape May City.

Insuring the Preservation of Sensitive Areas

To insure long term preservation of valuable habitat areas, our municipality has established a zoning map under Ordinance 967-92.

Specific areas within the city limits have been designated as PW Preserved Wetlands.

The importance of this specialized open space serves a wide range of vital functions. Wetlands store water and help to control runoff and flooding. Wetlands provide wildlife habitat and micro-climate control such as air and water purification. They also contribute to protecting significant vegetation and trees.

Portions of the Freshwater Wetlands Act specifically recommend preserving habitats which support the life cycle of threatened or endangered species. The Freshwater Wetlands Act states, "Those preserved wetlands which serve as habitats for documented threatened and endangered species and which are suitable for breeding, resting, and feeding should remain as open space." Please see attached document that lists in a summary form the threatened and endangered species located within the Sewell Point area.

Due to the significance of this site, the Environmental Commission requests that the Planning Board investigate the use of extensive buffer requirements consistent with CAFRA's Coastal Zone Management policies and other wetlands regulations. We recommend appropriate buffers be implemented on presently PW designated zones with the city limits. These butters can extend up to 300 feet, the precise extent needs to be discussed. This buffer width requirement may need to be outlined in a new ordinance and be based upon the fact that Cape May City has received its Center's Designation under the new State Plan. The State Plan encourages local authorities to create rulings and enforcement for environmentally sensitive areas. Moreover, excluded from any new rules, could be projects with prior approvals.

# Recommendation Number IV Water:

- A. The Environmental Commission recommends that Cape May City still requires water conservation methods for the long term and **enforce the water conservation rules already on the books.**
- B. Continued new development will shorten the life of the present desal facility. Water produces increases energy costs and maintenance costs. Furthermore, because the City has a diversion permit we also are in need of a drought management element to our water conservation plan. This is due by the year 2003.
- C. If everyone were completely retrofitted, particularly hotels and motels, within the City limits, there would be a 40% reduction in water use. Furthermore, the Commission recommends that the simple conclusion must be made that we must all be conserving water each day. Too many in the City think that the desal plant has solved all of our problems. If new development occurs East of Pittsburgh Avenue, the City will need additional above ground water storage facilities and perhaps new skids on the desal plant.

- D. The Commission recommends that all City parks observe Cape May's water conservation ordinance and that citizens be encouraged to also follow this plan of not watering green areas between 10 am and 6 pm and only on their designated even or odd days depending upon where they reside. In addition, there should be no washing of sidewalks or driveways, use automatic rain sensors should be retrofitted on all sprinkler systems.
- E. The Water Conservation Garden on Madison and Cape May Avenues is a model garden. The plants have been especially selected to be drought resistant. Citizens should take the opportunity to grow as many of these species with an eye toward an attractive garden yet one which does not deplete our water supply.

## Recommendation Number V Ocean Waters Management:

A. The Commission recommends that the public beaches be litter free. We are concerned that our ocean waters maintain a quality for a swimmable condition for both residents and visitors. We need an ever present enforcement element along the beaches to ascertain that contamination of the ocean's waters will not be from non-source point pollution contributions. We also remain vigilant that the State or the US Government not reclaim the right to dump either sewage or chemicals in the ocean's waters and thus limit the productivity of the aquatic life and health of humans.

## Recommendation Number VI Energy Conservation and Stewardship

- A. Energy Conservation and Stewardship: The Commission continues to recommend to the public that they park and walk or ride a bike as often as possible within the City limits thus protecting our air quality and burning less fossil fuels.
- B. Create a delineated bike trail on the City's wider roads.
- C. The Commission newly recommends that should the 100 acres of Sewell Point open space be acquired and protected, part of this area should be designated as birding trails. Further the City may wish to consider, in the future, creating a solar collecting area as a part of a sustainable investment in renewable energy resources. The DEP is beginning to present and encourage green and clean energy. They have mapped out a plan as to how New Jersey can shape opportunities for solar energy within communities.

# Section 3 Update #1-September 2017

### Cape May Harbor

This area is sometimes called East Cape May. Formerly, coastal tidal marsh, this manmade harbor was dredged between 1903-1908. The dredged material was used as fill for the surrounding areas and the area we now call Village Green. Although there are many man-oriented activities going on around the harbor, a diversity of micro-habitats and associated wildlife still inhabit this area.

This shallow body of water provides refuge to many of our well-known marine species (Flounder, blue claw crabs, striped bass, weakfish, tautog and clams, just to name some). Adults enter through the canal from Delaware Bay and through the Inlet from the Atlantic Ocean. They lay eggs in the shallow grassy areas in our back bays and creeks. Salt marshes provide the juveniles with food, shelter and protection.

Areas like this are important to continue the populations of these species and to our commercial and recreational fisheries. It has been designated as a critical wildlife area for migrating shorebirds by the NJDEP, non-game and endangered species division.

Harbor-front was destined to be developed. A group "Save Cape May Harbor" petitioned to save this portion from development. In 1992 this area was purchased with Green Acres funding by the City of Cape May. This same group established "The Nature Center of Cape May" under the direction of the Cape May City Environmental Commission and presently with leadership from New Jersey Audubon Society.

The Nature Center of Cape May is a family-oriented center on Cape May Harbor. Natural history programs serve the regional communities and seasonal tourists. The purpose of the environmental education programs is to increase awareness and understanding of coastal ecology and how it relates to human behaviors.

The Nature Center of Cape May provides many year-round environmental educational programs and materials for students, educators, special needs groups. NJAS members and the general public that will increase awareness and understanding of their relationship with the natural world.

The Brick House next to the Nature Center is leased by Rutgers University offices of their oyster research project. They stock bags of oyster shells in Cape May Harbor to attract "spat" (larval stage of oyster). They are trying to breed a disease-resistant oyster.

Please see attached Nature Center of Cape May 2017 Summer Programs brochure and Marine Species inventory.

# Section 3 Update #2-September 2017

## Species Inventory Along Cape Island Creek

The following informal inventory was collected during the spring and summer of 2015.

Species inventory of the wooded area between Lafayette Street and Cape Island Creek is a mixed habitat consisting of maintained recreational fields, upland hardwood forest, coastal maritime forest and saltwater marshland.

Trees:

American Holly Common ragweed

Black Cherry Dandelion
Hackberry Dusty miller
Mimosa English ivy

Norway maple Evening primrose Pitch pine Horseweed

Red cedar Japanese honeysuckle
Red maple Japanese knotweed
Sassafras Little bluestem
Sweet gum

Sweet gum

White oak

Milk purslane

Milkweed

Mugwort
Shrubs: Panic grass
Bayberry Phragmites
Beach plum Poison ivy
Common privet Porcelain berry
Marsh elder Prickly pear

Groundsel bush Queen Anne's lace

Rugosa rose Saltwort

Scrub oak Seaside goldenrod Winged sumac Seaside spurge

Seaside spurge
Sea rocket
Perennials: Smartweed
American beach grass Shepard's purse
American bittersweet Sweet clover

Asiatic bittersweet Switchgrass
Beach heather Virginia creeper
Beach pea Woodworm

Bladder campion Wood sorrel

Chicory

Common greenbriar Common mallow Common plantain

### Reptiles/amphibians:

American toad Black rat snake Chorus frog

Diamondback terrapin Eastern box turtle Fence lizard Fowler's toad Garter snake

Southern gray tree frog

Hog-nosed snake Spring peeper

#### Mammals:

Eastern cottontail
Eastern coyote
Meadow vole
Muskrat
Norway rat
Opossum
Raccoon
Red fox

Striped skunk

White-footed mouse

### Birds:

American bittern American robin Black backed gull Brown thrasher

Brown-headed cowbird

Cedar waxwing Clapper rail Common crow Common tern European starling

Fish crow Forester's tern Glossy ibis Herring gull
Horned lark
House finch
House sparrow
Laughing gull
Marsh wren
Mourning dove
Night heron

Northern mockingbird

Palm warbler Ring billed gull Rock dove

Savannah sparrow Seaside sparrow Snowy egret Song sparrow Tree swallow

Willet Whimbrel

Yellow-rumped warbler

Goldfinch
Gray catbird
Great blue heron
Great egret
Green heron
NJDEP Division of Fish & Wildlife Endangered & Nonage Species Program

<u>Endangered Definition</u> are those whose prospects for survival are in immediate danger because of a loss or change in habitat disturbance.

Threatened Definition species who may become endangered if conditions deteriorate,

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service NJ Field Office 646-9318

Passed in 1973 Endangered Species Act

Conservation of Habitat is key to protection of Th & E species - NJEC's leadership cites loss of 40% of bird habitat in the 1980's and 90's alone.

Stewardship of highest caliber is demanded to keep wildlife from diminishing at this rate.

# Section 4 Update-September 2017

#### **Water Resources**

The Environmental Commission of the City of Cape May, along with the West Cape May Environmental Commission and the Cape May Point Environmental Commission, sponsored a joint meeting during the fall of 2016 at the West Cape May Fire Hall.

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce Mr. Carl Behrens, Water Superintendent City of Cape May. His remarks centered on the Desalination in New Jersey; the Cape May Experience. He carefully created the background for the need of and service of desalted water in the region. He discussed "What is Ground Water?" and the history of why Cape May needed a desalination plant. He discussed his job at the Water Treatment Center and encouraged all to visit the building at Canning House Lane. He also brought to the attention of the group that there are still many water conservation ordinances that need to be adhered to by the public. He referenced Water Conservation (Adopted by Ord. No. 946-92, Sec. 17-22 of the 1997 Revised General Ordinances)

Further, Mr. Behrens took time to answer all questions presented by the attendees and encouraged the Commission members to continue to educate those in their towns, both residents and visitors on how to save water and adhere to the ordinance.

# Section 5 Update-September 2017

The Environmental Commission has been advocating for landscaping for birds, butterflies and other wildlife. We have a Water Conservation Demonstration Garden that we sponsored in the early 1990s on the corner of Cape May Avenue and Madison Avenue, known as the Mike Shouvlin Garden. Native plants specifically feed birds and serve as a shelter for migrating species.

On November 19, 2014 the Environmental Commissions of West Cape May, Cape May Point and Cape May City joined together to present the program on the History and Lifecycles of Honey Bees. The program presented guest speakers Gary Schempp, beekeeper, and Ali Moussalli of Beach Plum Farm who gave information about their bee project.

A representative from State Senator Jeff Van Drew's office offered information on the honey bee protection legislation that has been proposed.

For more information people can visit <u>www.BusyBeesNJ.com</u> to learn how to save the honey bee.

# Section 6 Update-September 2017

#### Wetlands-East Cape May-Sewell Point

Over 70 acres of land still undeveloped. This tract supports 12 T & E species. It's been designated as critical wildlife habitat by the state. It contains over 90% wetlands and rivals Higbee Beach in terms of ecological significance.

Originally part of a \$20,000 land purchase in 1955 (included Village Green area), it was denied a state CAFRA (Coastal Area Facilities Review Act) permit due to the presence of wetlands. It is now in litigation and the owners are suing. Presently, many residents and visitors are very involved in stopping the development. If you read the local papers, keep a watch for current developments on the issue. What you can do is to help support the conservation of this area. A trail presently exists adjacent to the Lutheran Church at Cape May Avenue and Pittsburgh Avenue.

The Sewell Point Sanctuary is truly a gem. It represents a commitment to the future of Cape May as a natural amenity and resource for many plant and animal species. The presence of high quality wetlands and existing habitat indicate that recreation in the Sewell Point Sanctuary should be passive - with seats, strolling paths, boardwalks, overlooks, shelters, etc. The site can also offer educational opportunities where visitors can learn about and even interact with other species. Walking tours and volunteer restoration activities/workshops on the site might prove very appealing.

Like Cape May's other attractions, the Preserve could be an unusual, unique focus for the town's tourism and also a "quality of life" amenity for its citizens.

## Section 7 - Contaminated Sites Cape May City

A. Jersey Central Power and Light – former manufactured gas plant (MGP) located at Lafayette and St. John Streets. The plant was operated from 1853-1937. Several investigations have been conducted from 1985-1996, detailing soil contamination and concerns for the Wetlands and Cape Island Creek. Residential properties abutting the (MGP) facility were of serious concern as well as the playground and nearby properties. Constituent contaminates include: volatile organic compounds, phenols, arsenic, zinc, lead, cadmium, and polycyclic aromatic HC's.

Remediation and site clean-up has lingered. Some monitoring wells are placed throughout the area and adjacent to Cape Island Creek. Some clean-up is deemed complete. On file in the Clerk's office are vast files and correspondence and remedial investigation reports by GEI consultants and Jersey Central Power and Light.

B. This list of past contaminants was provided by Cape May City Mayor Inderwies in 2006. The Mayor formerly served as Cape May City's Public Works Superintendent. These are historical sites not present today.

Schellenger's Landing-old gas pump for boats
Quinn's Service Station-Madison & Lafayette Streets
Kabbala Motors-now PNC Bank-Washington & Madison Streets
McManus' Mobil-now Sturdy Bank-Washington & Franklin Streets
Lehman's Esso-now Irish Shop-Lafayette Street
Next to Wawa-Washington Street & Texas Avenue

C. The most recently discovery of a chemically contaminated site in Cape May City occurred in 2006. The motel "Coachman's" on Beach Drive has some historic soil contamination. Please see Environmental Commission's list of questions to CAFRA agency 2006.

#### D. Herbicides and Pesticides

Manual vegetation control using weed whips and mowers are the method of choice for the Road Department of Cape May County.

A resolution passed by the Freeholders on July 24, 2001 and directed to the NJ Department of Transportation states that the county's Integrated Pest Management Plan has reduced the use of chemical pesticides throughout all the county facilities and grounds and has also resulted in significant savings by reducing chemical usage. The resolution encourages the NJ Department of Transportation to adopt a formal herbicide management plan to better monitor

chemical usage, identify weed problems before spraying of herbicides, and manage some areas without the use of chemicals. The resolution concludes with the statement "The Board believes that the ultimate outcome of a formal plan would be in the best interest of public health as well as strengthening the protection of the environment."

Drainage ditches are just one of the regulated areas under NJSA 7:7A-1.4 Pesticide Control Regulations. Aquatic pesticide permits 7:30-9.3 outlines strict procedures required to obtain these permits.

(C) States, "Prior to the start of any treatment signs shall be posted.....see entire text of copied law. These procedures may prove to be difficult to monitor. Therefore, because Cape May City houses many areas where drainage ditches occur, the City may want to also pass a resolution reflecting Cape May County's mow and mulch policy in order to contain unwanted weeds.

The City's Environmental Commission and the NJ Audubon Society created position papers suggesting responsible land stewardship action was necessary by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during the Restoration Project of Aerial Spraying to eliminate phragmites. Please see all attached correspondence, including Cape May City Council's Resolution opposing aerial spraying.

# **Section 8 - Energy Conservation**

Whereas The City of Cape May has and is promoting efficient use of small wind energy systems and solar energy, because wind and solar energy supply are abundant, renewable and non-polluting energy resources

Cape May has authorized and established regulations to promote safe, effective wind energy and solar systems on municipal buildings - such as the Life Guard Station on Beach Avenue, The Public Works Building at Canning House Lane and the Nature Center of Cape May. The Cape May City Elementary School has sited a wind turbine as a learning tool for the students and is key to adhering to the elements of New Jersey's Energy Master Plan.

Furthermore, the following list of schools are in the U.S. and have turbines that are designated on the Register of Historic Places.

Cape Cod Regional Technical School MA K-12
Martha's Vineyard Regional School MA K-12
Carlton Elm School, Salem MA K-12
Key West FL School K-12
Education Center Raleigh NC
Phelps Career High School, Washington DC
Portsmouth Abbey School RI K-12
Rensselaer Polytechnic University Troy NY
Science Museums of Virginia (Education Center) Richmond, VA
Southampton College of Long Island, NY
WM Fleming School Roanoke VA K-12

I found them on this website: http://www.windpoweringamerica.gov/schools/projects.asp

#### **Solar Energy**

Solar Energy helps to create jobs depending on foreign oil and assists in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Renewable solar energy siting in Cape May is permitted in any zoning district, as it reasonably blends into the natural setting.

Various manufacturers are presently creating solar glass tiles and roofing materials that mount on top of the homeowner's existing roof and convert sunlight into electricity. One sun company is Tesla. They create thin tiles containing solar cells sandwiched between layers of tempered glass. Warranties included are 30 years and various physical damages from hailstorms, etc. Climate friendly initiatives must be extended to all homeowners in Cape May. The Historic Presentation Commission, an advisory board only, should not deny energy saving devices to those who are committed to helping reduce the risks of raising seas and storm intensity.

Much of the City is located within the one-hundred-year floodplain as delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency mapping. Zoning regulations require that the lowest floor level of any building be not less than ten and one-half feet above mean sea level to minimize property damage. The City should continue to enforce flood protection standards for development and implement flood protection/mitigation projects as funding allows. Benefits would include maintaining the City's reduced flood hazard insurance rates.

The Environmental Commission recognizes that by assessing many different climate data, for example that in Columbia University's Climate System Research Project "Annual minimum air temperature will continue to rise a few degrees per year in the Northeast portion of the U.S. Given this warming trend, flood surges and storm weather events could place Cape May City in harm's way. Our commission strongly recommends increasing the height and length of the present sea wall as priority #1 for mobilizing against extreme weather events. Our recommendation: Grants for this type of infrastructure improvement must be given priority over all other grants to keep Cape May "High & Dry".

# **Green Buildings**

Green Building and Sustainability - Please refer to Resolution #103-05-2011.

FedCenter.gov/grants

Directs for Green Building Grants for Construction Projects and Renewable Energy and Alternative Energy

Better Building Case Studies

Other Grants - EPA

Green Infrastructure Funding Opportunities Weatherization Opportunities

Grants for Green Roofs

Grants for Eco-friendly Homes GreenBuildings.com

Free

and Book Beginners Guide to Green Building (Free)π