



Hudson County, New Jersey  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
ADMINISTRATION ANNEX  
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**Immediate Release**

**Hudson County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution urging the State of New Jersey to hold Fossil Fuel Companies accountable for climate change adaptation and resilience costs**

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*Hudson County*- The Hudson County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution urging the State of New Jersey to hold fossil fuel companies accountable for climate change adaptation and resilience costs.

Hudson County is the most populated county in New Jersey, with approximately 672,000 residents, and is home to many businesses, arts and educational institutions, and historical landmarks

Hudson County and communities across the state of New Jersey are experiencing the increasingly severe impacts of climate change and rising global temperatures. The sea surface temperature in the Northeast United States has warmed faster than 99% of the global ocean since 2004. In New Jersey, sea levels are rising more than twice the global average.

Upgrading New Jersey's storm water, drinking water and wastewater infrastructure

systems would cost \$40 billion over the next 20 years statewide. During Hurricane Sandy, more than 10.9 billion gallons of sewage overflowed, and the costs of clean-up and remediation will continue to rise as storms increase.

Hurricane Sandy caused more than \$30 billion in damages within the State of New Jersey, destroying 72,000 homes statewide. Hudson County will experience more hurricane-induced flooding than any other county in the state, and could incur up to \$660 million in annual damages from rising seas and hurricanes as a result of climate change.

The cities of Jersey City and Hoboken, and the Township of Weehawken will spend \$230 million to protect their cities from devastating flooding during storms like Hurricane Sandy by 2022.

In September 2021, New Jersey experienced the highest number of deaths nationwide from Hurricane Ida, with some parts of Hudson County facing almost nine inches of rainfall.

Hudson County is projected to incur seawall construction costs at \$505 million by 2040 to protect against chronic flooding from rising seas, and the State of New Jersey is estimated to spend \$5.4 billion in equipment to cool schools as a result of climate-driven extreme heat.

In the United States, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from burning fossil fuels amounted to 76% of total human-caused greenhouse gases (GHGs) and NASA explains the “greenhouse effect” as when carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxides trap heat in the atmosphere and cause temperatures to rise, known as “global warming.”

Fossil fuel companies have produced, marketed, promoted, and sold fossil fuels over the last 50 years, without protecting or warning consumers about the known dangers, and have spent millions of dollars on campaigns to conceal and deny the truth to protect their own profits.

20 municipalities, six states as well as the District of Columbia, and an industry trade association throughout the United States have filed lawsuits against major oil and gas companies for the costs of adapting to climate damages those companies knowingly caused, and/or for defrauding consumers as to the risks those companies knew their products would cause.

Board Chairman Anthony Vainieri and the Hudson County Board of Commissioners, urge Governor Murphy to take legal action against the fossil fuel industry for their role in creating and perpetuating the climate crisis to ensure that the cost of adaptation and resilience does not fall solely on the shoulders of taxpayers.

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