



Lead-Free NJ Advocacy and Steering Committee Meeting
1/16/25 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Icebreaker: Share a hope for 2025, personal or professional, in the chat (optional) - **Debbie**

Advocacy Agenda:

Goal: prepare for state budget and legislative advocacy


- **Community Hub Support requests - 15 mins (3:30 – 3:45) Rshan**
 - Paterson Alliance – Shanikwa Lemon (slemon@patersonalliance.org) – They recently hired a Lead Construction Manager and are starting a research project with Rutgers Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute. **Support request: seeking a contact who can help with community blood lead level testing in Paterson**
 - PRAC of Southern NJ – Geovanni Cantizano (gcantizano@pracnj.com) & Brandon Bermudez (bbermudez@pracnj.com) – They are working on outreach in Salem, new partnerships, and translating resources to Spanish. Welcome new team member Brandon.
 - East Trenton Collaborative – Shereyl Snider (ssnider@urbanpromisetrenton.org) – They are launching a two-year outreach partnership with the WE ACT Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (WE ACT TCTAC) and will host an environmental justice listening session with South Ward Environmental Alliance in June. **Support request: funding or food donations for the event.** On January 24, Shereyl will speak about ETC's partnership with Rutgers to an international audience.
 - The HUUB – Doug Farrand (doug@orangehuub.org) . They have incorporated lead exposure prevention education into their community garden and outreach programs. They will expand the work by engaging community fellows. Through the Filtered Not Bottled Grant Program, they will install water filters at their community building.
- **Lead Gubernatorial Candidate Education 15 mins (3:45 – 4:00) Debbie**
 - Review of key points from committees and proposed communications with candidates:
 - [Key points for Lead Governor's Platform](#)
 - East Trenton Collaborate and Clean Water Action are also reaching out to candidates
- **FY26 State Budget Advocacy 15 mins (4:00 – 4:15) Kelvin**
 - Timeline: Budget is released in February, agency hearings March – April
 - What questions do you anticipate having for the budget ([last year's questions](#))
 - Budget resolutions ([last year's resolution](#) - was not picked up)
 - [LFNJ Health Committee Testimony for DOH FY26 Budget](#)
- **Legislative Priorities for Spring 2025 15 mins (4:15 – 4:30) Yvette**
 - What bills should members prioritize? What strategies can members pursue?
 - **A2929:** Requires disclosure of lead drinking water hazards to tenants of residential units; prohibits landlords from obstructing replacement of lead service lines; concerns testing of residential units for lead drinking water hazards. **Deandrah**
 - The bill passed the Assembly, and is awaiting final vote in the Senate. The next Senate voting session that could potentially have the lead disclosure bill in it (S1034) will be on Feb 25.

- To support, you can contact your state Senator to tell them that this bill is a priority for you, and should be posted for a vote. Contact Deandrah (dcameron@nifuture.org) for guidance
 - **A4848:** Requires health care professionals to perform lead screening on pregnant persons under certain circumstances. **Elyse**
 - The bill passed the Assembly, and it waiting to be scheduled in a Senate Committee. Advocates want universal screening (which the bill doesn't require) but believe the bill is still a step in the right direction. Contact Elyse (epivnick@isles.org) to support.

Steering Agenda

Goal: Adopt 2025 Strategic Priorities

+ 2024-2025 LFNJ Strategic Work Plan

- Water Advocacy Committee 15 mins (4:30 – 4:45) **Rachel, Amy, Deandrah**
 -  2025 LFNJ LDW Strategy
- Housing Committee 15 mins (4:45 – 5:00) **Bert, Stephanie**
- Health Committee 15 mins (5:00 – 5:15) **Elyse, Sheila**

Member Share 15 mins (5:15 – 5:30)

- Federal-level water updates (shared by Cori Bell/NRDC):
 - Attempts to overrule the federal Lead and Copper Rule ([Announcement](#) | [Resolution](#))
 - [Illinois program to install filters in the home](#) (Medicaid expansion waiver) [Blog](#)
- (Shared by X Braithwaite) Community Engagement Campaign: The [Tea on Toxic Beauty](#) [Clean Water Action]
 - [Webinar on 2/3 6-7:30 PM: Hidden Costs of Beauty](#)
- [Safe Water, Save Lives in NJ Incarceration Facilities](#) [Clean Water Action]
 - Workshop on 2/20 6-8 PM (153 MLK Drive, Jersey City, 07305)
- (Shared by Sheila Caldwell) This event coming up RISE UP! Advancing Black Maternal Health Equity in New Jersey : Upcoming Events : News & Events : Central Jersey Family Health Consortium - <https://cjfhc.org/news-events/upcoming-events.html/event/2025/04/10/rise-up-advancing-black-maternal-health-equity-in-new-jersey/504569>
- (Shared by Jim Nelson, Jersey City Together Education Team) This Saturday new drinking fountains at our final 3 schools with water system improvements will be tested. We are planning to celebrate completion of this six-year effort to remediate ALL 40+ JCBOE public schools and Early Childhood Learning Centers during the week of World Water Day. (Tentatively March 20). Welcome! Contact JimNelsonGlobal@gmail.com
- <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/east-orange-slash-orange/sections/community-life/articles/several-local-groups-among-the-200-organizations-to-endorse-the-peoples-organization-for-progress-martin-luther-king-jr-march-of-resistance>
- Idea to pursue Thriving Communities Environmental Justice Grants to advance our shared goals in community hubs. Each HUB backbone could write one up to \$350K given planning work that has gone on to date. Can learn more here. <https://fordhamclimatej.grantplatform.com/>

Updates

- 2024 Highlights: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/15ryBAuVPj/>
- [Shereyl Snider Awarded Governor's Environmental Excellence Award](#)
- Shanikwa Lemon Awarded Community Partner Award by Innerfaith Performing Arts Center, Inc.
- [LFNJ Statement on State of the State address](#)
- Virtual panel filmed for virtual Lead & Healthy Housing Conference
- EPA Grant Application

- [New NJ Lead Laws Factsheet](#)
- [New 8 Steps to Advocate for Lead Service Line Replacement](#)
- [Lessons Learned: Two Years of Accelerating Lead Service Line Replacement in New Jersey](#)
- Community hub meeting
- Factsheet

Committee Resources:

- Last meeting notes: [10.16.24 LFNJ Advocacy Coordinating Committee Notes](#)
- [9.19.24 LFNJ Steering Committee Meeting Notes](#)
- [LFNJ Operating Procedures](#)
- [Newsletters](#)
 - [2024 July membership meeting](#)
 - [Lead-Free NJ committees](#)
 - [NJ Lead Policy Track](#)
 - [Legislative Advocacy Calendar example](#)