

SUSTAINABILITY HERO

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Anne-Marie Peracchio

Past Chair, Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees
& Managing Director Marketing and Energy Efficiency,
New Jersey Natural Gas

Anne-Marie Peracchio joined the Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees in 2011 and has served as the Board Chair for the past three years. Smart and extremely capable, Anne-Marie has been key to the evolution of the Sustainable Jersey program and energy policy in New Jersey.

Anne-Marie’s leadership style is strengthened by her focus on civic responsibility. She is a natural mentor and has been on the Board of [Lead New Jersey](#) for six years. She participates on the Sustainable Jersey Energy Task Force and served on the Sustainable Jersey Executive, Development and Governance committees. She is the Executive Sponsor for Supporting Women’s Advancement and Growth (SWAG)—a Business Resource Group that serves as a positive, cohesive network of professionals that promotes career and personal development for women in alignment with New Jersey Resources’ commitment to stakeholders and its diversity and inclusion strategy.

As the Board of Trustees Chair, Anne-Marie represented Sustainable Jersey at countless events, posed in hundreds of certification and grant award photos and was diligent in overseeing the management of the organization. She explained, “I am proud to be a part of the Sustainable Jersey story and look forward to continuing to work toward the goal of a more sustainable New Jersey.” She added, “Sustainable Jersey is unique because participants care about the sustainability work being done. From the green team members, to the staff and Board, everyone believes in the mission and is striving to make a difference.” Anne-Marie is a true champion for Sustainable Jersey; she has tirelessly promoted the program’s resources and motivated and supported staff.

Anne-Marie has worked for over 28 years at [New Jersey Natural Gas](#) (NJNG) and is currently the Managing Director of Marketing and Energy Efficiency. She has been an active participant in the many committees and stakeholder groups the state created for advancing energy efficiency and for the development of Energy Master Plans. This included



a committee that aided with the transition of New Jersey's Clean Energy Program to utility control along with groups focused on national energy efficiency efforts such as the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, State and Local Energy Efficiency (SEE) Action Network and the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE). "The transition of New Jersey's Energy Efficiency Programs provides new options for customers while allowing for a fine-tuning of the programs," Anne-Marie noted. "I encourage everyone to reach out to their local utility to find out what is available now for saving energy and money, including stronger incentives and more features to support low- and moderate-income customers."



NJNG is a platinum sponsor of Sustainable Jersey and Sustainable Jersey for Schools. Anne-Marie said, "I'm proud of NJNG's partnership with Sustainable Jersey—now in its 13th year." She added, "I am especially pleased with the work and outcomes of two programs I have been involved with--the EmPowered Schools program and the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) Fellows."

EDF Climate Corps Fellows: Sustainable Jersey offers municipalities and school districts registered in Sustainable Jersey or Sustainable Jersey for Schools the opportunity to participate in the [Environmental Defense Fund's \(EDF\) Climate Corps Program](#). With the assistance of a trained EDF Climate Corps Fellow, typically an MBA or similar graduate student with in-depth training in energy project assessment and development, municipalities and school districts can jump-start their energy initiatives and identify funding resources to implement energy projects to make their facilities more energy efficient.

Anne-Marie championed the EDF Fellows program at NJNG and then worked with Sustainable Jersey to create an application process for the EDF Fellows to work with towns and schools. Since 2015, Sustainable Jersey, with the support of NJNG, has placed 22 EDF Fellows to assist a total of 26 school districts and 31 municipalities. Due to the success of the program, Sustainable Jersey has worked with additional partners to expand the program to other parts of the state, including some assistance reserved for environmental justice communities. She said, "The EDF Fellows are nothing short of phenomenal. The skills the graduate students bring to the table are just what municipalities and schools need to move forward. The EDF Fellows provide guidance and insight to help them address challenges and plan customized energy-efficiency solutions that help advance their sustainability goals."



EmPowered Schools Program: Anne-Marie is a champion of K-12 school energy education. The [EmPowered Schools](#) program, formerly known as PowerSave Schools, provides free support and resources to educate students about energy efficiency and save money on a school's energy costs. Sustainable Jersey partners with NJNG, South Jersey Gas, Elizabethtown Gas, PSE&G and the [Alliance to Save Energy](#) to bring the EmPowered Schools program to schools within their service territories. Students lead the charge to find energy savings in their school and to inspire their families to reduce their energy usage too.



Anne-Marie said, "A favorite memory is the time that an incoming EDF Fellow went to Mount Arlington Public School to learn about the energy efficiency challenges. The students, participating in the EmPowered Schools program, provided the tour to the EDF Fellow and the Direct Install contractor. The students gave an impressive walk through of the work they accomplished through the EmPowered Schools program. It was a wonderful intersection of the EDF Fellows and EmPowered Schools programs that resulted in tangible benefits to the school district and community."

The EmPowered Schools activities parallel Sustainable Jersey for Schools [actions](#), allowing schools to earn points toward certification while also saving money and energy. To apply for the program, visit: [NJ EmPowered Schools Program Application](#).

“It is a great program for energy conservation in both the near and long terms because it engages students and puts their environmental leadership front and center,” said Anne-Marie. “We hope to advance energy-saving efforts and encourage others to incorporate energy efficiency as a standard practice.”

LEAD New Jersey: Anne-Marie has served on the Board of [Lead New Jersey](#) since 2016 and is a member of the 2015 Lead NJ class. Lead NJ brings together a select group of leaders to learn about the issues facing New Jersey and to link them with other professionals working throughout the state. Anne-Marie explained, “As a participating Fellow, I met people of all backgrounds and different sectors. We worked to find common ground and to understand each other’s perspectives as we learned about public policy across a broad range of topics. Today, Lead NJ connects me to a network of over 1,700 Fellows that I can use in my work and beyond.” To learn more about Lead New Jersey, visit the [webpage](#).



Education and Experience: Anne-Marie received a Bachelor of Science degree with a double-major in accounting and philosophy from the University of Scranton. After graduation, she spent three years as an auditor at KPMG Peat Marwick. Anne-Marie returned to school to get a Masters of Business Administration from Monmouth University. She started at New Jersey Resources (NJR) as an Internal Auditor and then advanced into roles in the Regulatory Affairs Department at NJNG. She served as the Director of Regulatory and then transitioned to be the Director of Conservation and Affordability for NJNG, including leading company efforts to support New Jersey’s Clean Energy Program.

Anne-Marie was promoted to the Director of Conservation and Clean Energy where she was responsible for the development and implementation of NJNG’s customer conservation programs. She managed the team implementing the energy-efficiency program-The [SAVEGREEN Project](#). She identified opportunities to help drive cultural changes within NJNG to support a concerted effort to help the customers use less energy. NJNG is a subsidiary of NJR. Anne-Marie serves on NJR’s Corporate Sustainability Council which works with the Office of Sustainability to help achieve NJR’s emissions reduction and sustainability goals across the company. NJR’s recently set a target for Net-Zero emissions from its New Jersey operations, building on its goal of a 60 percent reduction by 2030 – goals that align with New Jersey’s Global Warming Response Act, which calls for an 80 percent reduction in New Jersey’s greenhouse gas emissions from 2006 levels by 2050. More information on their commitments and actions, including NJNG’s new Green Hydrogen project, can be found [here](#).

More About Anne-Marie: Anne-Marie grew up in Rockland County, New York with her two siblings and parents. For over 27 years, Anne-Marie has lived in Wall, New Jersey with her husband. They have two children, a 19-year-old son who is a sophomore at Saint Joseph’s University and a 22-year-old son who is a graduate of Lehigh University and is now studying as a Schwarzman Scholar in Beijing, China. She is an avid walker who makes sure to get her 10,000 steps each day. Her advice for the future: “As we face increasing sustainability challenges, we need each individual to do their part in in moving the needle on energy efficiency and more. We cannot leave these problems for government and industry to handle alone. The power of collective responsibility will produce meaningful, measurable impacts in our communities, both in the short and long term.”