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- One, Two Punch: Trouble in the Pines & Great Egg Harbor River
- Waves of Action Year-End Celebration a Success
- What's Going on with Port Ambrose?

## January 2014 Highlights

- TAKE ACTION TO HELP YOUR OCEAN:**
1. Have a wonderful holiday!
  2. Visit [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org) to give the gift of a clean ocean and help COA win \$1,000!
  3. Read COA's 12 Days of Green Giving series at [CleanOceanAction.blogspot.com](http://CleanOceanAction.blogspot.com).

LABEL

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**Look Inside to See How You Can Help  
COA Win \$1,000!**

**Donate Before December 31  
We'll Send You a COA  
Vintage Bumper Sticker!**



## TRIBUTES



- In Memory of Dery Bennett
- In Memory of Samuel Karinja
- In Memory of Margaret T. Klus
- In Memory of Carol Anne Ross
- In Honor of Barbara Bennett
- In Honor of Ray Dodd
- In Honor of Sandy and Rav Freidel
- In Honor of Cindy Zipf

## SPOTLIGHT ON FUNDING FOR NATURE AND RESILIENCY

### Funding Source Updates

Community Development Block Grants, called "CDBG" funds, are available for states. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which administers over \$15 billion in Sandy disaster recovery money, recently announced their second round of grant-making. This time, HUD is making over \$4 billion available to NJ, NY, and New York City.

The announcement of funds, made just before Thanksgiving, also contains several new requirements. HUD is calling for much more emphasis to be placed on resiliency, green infrastructure, and climate change adaptation; HUD is also mandating the development of a risk assessment – to study where along the coast lie the highest levels of vulnerability. For the first time, the state plans for spending money (which must be submitted soon in order to get funding) must be subject to public review, comment, and hearings. Stay tuned to learn more.



The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation ([www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)) recently announced over \$100 million in grants are available – with an application deadline of January 31, 2014. NFWF is a non-profit foundation created by Congress to facilitate investments in protecting fish and wildlife, and restoring their habitats. As such, NFWF hopes this fund will support projects that reduce communities' vulnerability to the growing risks from coastal storms, sea level rise, and flooding while strengthening natural ecosystems. Eligible grantees include any non-profit organization (i.e., a group with 501(c)(3) status), local governments and agencies, tribes, state agencies, and academic institutions. Collaboration, innovation, and youth and veteran involvement are also stated goals of these funds – with award amounts in the range of \$100,000 to \$5 million. Apply today!

## WAVES OF ACTION YEAR-END CELEBRATION A SUCCESS



Clean Ocean Action convened 110 volunteers, COalition members, and community organizations for the conclusion of the Waves of Action For The Shore program at McLoone's Pier House in Long Branch on Saturday, December 7.

The Conference celebrated COA's year-long Sandy response initiatives, highlighted the extraordinary success of volunteers and project leaders, and included panel discussions with distinguished speakers. Discussions included, 'What Do Communities Need Now and How Can Volunteers Help?' along with 'What Resources are Available for Resiliency and Environmental Stewardship?'

Many thanks to Waves of Action Conference speakers, panelists and moderators:

- US Representative Frank Pallone, New Jersey, 6th District
- Brian Thompson, NJ Reporter for NBC New York
- Britta Wenzel, Save Barnegat Bay Executive Director
- Emilio DeLia, New Jersey Recovery Fund Project Manager
- Frank Lawrence, Sea Bright Volunteer Coordinator
- Joe Reynolds, Bayshore Regional Watershed Council Co-Chair
- Justin Auciello, Jersey Shore Hurricane News Founder
- Lauren Townsend, NJ Director US Strong
- Sean Dixon, COA Coastal Policy Attorney
- Suzanne Golas, csjp, WATERSPIRIT Executive Director
- Tom Dallessio, Director of NJIT Center for Resilient Design

COA released results of a summer-long survey on sea level rise and accountability. During the Clean Ocean Action Shore Tips (C.O.A.S.T.) campaign this past summer, 173 citizens were surveyed to gauge public opinion about sea level rise and climate change, the impacts from Superstorm Sandy, and what citizens believe elected officials and the general public should do in response to sea level rise and climate change. The results are clear: the majority of the public believe that sea level rise exists and that a broad array of both citizen action and government actions are needed to reduce the impact. The sea level rise survey and report were produced by Macailagh McCue, 2013 C.O.A.S.T. Intern, 2014 Masters degree candidate, James Madison University and are available at [CleanOceanAction.blogspot.com](http://CleanOceanAction.blogspot.com).

To see COA's Waves of Action video, visit [ForTheShore.org](http://ForTheShore.org).

## CITIZEN ACTION

Zach McCue, [Citizens@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:Citizens@cleanoceanaction.org)

### Update: What's Going on with Port Ambrose? New York Happenings



While efforts to oppose offshore LNG are underway in the New Jersey Legislature, COA's friends and COalition partners in New York have continued to pressure New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and the State of New York to reject Port Ambrose.

Last week partners Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy and Food and Water Watch delivered over 50,000 comments on the proposed New York State LNG rules, which vaguely and inadequately regulate everything from an LNG pumping station to an offshore port.

In addition to a recent op-ed published in the Albany Times-Union from a firefighter opposing Port Ambrose, New York groups continue to host screenings of the HBO documentary "Gasland II." The latest screening was hosted in Manhasset, and if you are on Long Island and are interested in setting up a screening of "Gasland II" please contact Eric Weltman at [eweltman@fww.org](mailto:eweltman@fww.org).

On December 3, over 700 activists attended a rally in Midtown Manhattan outside Governor Cuomo's birthday fundraiser. Dozens of organizations came together uniting students and concerned citizens to get the 'no LNG' message across. As well as urging the Governor to ban fracking, activists collected petitions opposing Port Ambrose and chanted to the Governor to veto offshore LNG.

Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy is also working to introduce a resolution opposing Port Ambrose in the New York Legislature. COA has already seen support from Asm. Phil Goldfeder and Asm. Harvey Weisenberg on the issue and is looking to gain traction in Albany as has been done in Trenton.

**Next Up:** New York groups are organizing a rally outside Governor Cuomo's State of the State Address in Albany on Wednesday, January 8. Buses will run from Long Island, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Westchester and beyond. Anyone interested should contact Clean Ocean Action at (732) 872-0111 or Eric Weltman from Food & Water Watch at (718) 943-9085.

### New Jersey Happenings

This month in New Jersey, the State Senate's Environment and Energy Committee unanimously passed a resolution opposing Liberty LNG's Port Ambrose. The resolution, SR120, called on the federal government and Governor Christie to deny Liberty Natural Gas's application. Introduced by Senator Jennifer Beck (R-11) and co-prime-sponsored by Sen. Christopher Connors (R-9), the bill was unanimously approved by committee members and is now headed for a vote by the full NJ Senate. The date for the vote is not set, but it must happen before January when the current legislative session ends.

The Senate Resolution's companion in the state Assembly is AR205, introduced by Assemblyman Sean Kean (R-30) and cosponsored by Asm. Brian Rumpf and Asw. DiAnne Gove (both R-9), as well as Asm. Ruben Ramos (D-33). Hopefully, the Assembly Resolution will be heard by the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee before the end of the year, for a vote by the full Assembly by mid-January.

In support of this effort, COA drafted a letter calling for bi-partisan support for passage of both resolutions. The letter, which is available online at [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org), was signed by 25 organizations representing a broad array of environmental and community interests from the region.

## SCIENCE AND POLICY

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Photo Credit: Media.Philly.com

### One, Two Punch -- Trouble in the Pines and Great Egg Harbor River

A proposal by South Jersey Gas is threatening the nationally and internationally protected NJ Pinelands and the nationally recognized Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreation River. The plan is to build a 22-mile natural gas pipeline through the Pinelands Forest Management Area to provide fuel to BL England, an aging, 50-year-old power plant on the shore of the Great Egg Harbor. Of additional concern is that BL England uses an antiquated once-through cooling system (now prohibited in new plants), which annually pulls billions of gallons of natural river/bay water and destroys billions of fish eggs, larvae, and important marine life. The agency in charge, The Pinelands Commission, is considering a Memorandum of Agreement that would allow the pipeline to move forward.

Over 200 citizens attended a NJ Pinelands Commission public hearing to debate the issue. Scores of organizations and citizens defended the environment, while others see the project as a jobs program. A decision by the Commission is expected in January.

Clean Ocean Action has challenged the allowance of the power plant to use a once through cooling system. For more information about the project, contact Pineland Preservation Alliance 609-859-8860 or visit them at [PinelandsAlliance.org](http://PinelandsAlliance.org).

## EDUCATION

Catie Tobin, [Education@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:Education@cleanoceanaction.org)

### COA and Sustainable Jersey Partner for a Greener, Bluer Future

Clean Ocean Action is proud to announce that the first phase of its Municipal Blue Star Program will begin in 2014. Through the Blue Star initiative, Clean Ocean Action is encouraging coastal communities to focus on a bluer future by using the water quality improvement actions of the Sustainable Jersey program.

Sustainable Jersey is a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey that want to go green, save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term. The certification program promotes Energy Tracking and Management, and Green Building and Environmental Sustainability, among others.

The Municipal Blue Star Program is inspiring towns to link the benefits of Sustainable Jersey certification with improvements and enhancements of waterways, which are essential to the quality of life in all communities and to a robust economy. Polluted run-off, sea level rise, extreme weather, and flooding threaten the extraordinary benefits of clean water. COA's goal is to provide towns with the suggestions needed to sustain waterways and the benefits they offer to create healthier communities.

If you have any questions about creating a healthier, bluer future for your community while also serving as a statewide model for other municipalities, please contact Clean Ocean Action at [education@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:education@CleanOceanAction.org).

## SUPPORTING COA'S WORK

Diana Reinhardt Paradis, [Development@cleanoceanaction.org](mailto:Development@cleanoceanaction.org)

### COA Needs You to Win \$1,000!



If you are thinking of donating to Clean Ocean Action, you can increase your impact and help us win \$1,000! We only need 50 friends to donate **ANY amount** to COA using The Jersey Give Back Guide, we will receive \$1,000 from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. The Dodge Foundation is a premier philanthropic foundation that has been improving New Jersey's environment, arts, and animal welfare for 40 years.

The Dodge Foundation developed The Jersey Give Back Guide as 'a way for everyone (that means you!) to be a philanthropist right in your own community, whether you have \$5 or \$5 million to give.'

If you would like to participate, visit [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org) and click 'Jersey Give Back Guide' and hit 'Get Busy Giving.' Watch the Jersey Give Back Guide machine work (its fun!). Click on the fish that says 'Environment' and select COA, then make your donation of **ANY amount**. For information or to make a contribution to protect the ocean, visit [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org).

### Shop Clean Ocean Action This Holiday SEASON and Benefit Your Ocean

This holiday SEASON, COA is proud to have several retail partners who care about our ocean. Please think of them when doing your holiday shopping and give the gift of a clean ocean!

- Visit **Pride Fishing and Tackle** in Red Bank for the best fishing gear – if you mention Clean Ocean Action, 10% of the purchase price will be donated.
- Ben Wurst of **ReClaimed** will donate a portion of the proceeds from his "into the blue" prints series – find them at [reclaimednj.com](http://reclaimednj.com).
- **Paul Sansone** will donate to COA with a new car purchase at any of his dealerships. Visit [Charity.EZReferralNetwork.com](http://Charity.EZReferralNetwork.com) to take advantage of this program.
- Marty at **Cece Surf Wax Co.** will donate 10% of proceeds to Clean Ocean Action. For more information, visit [cecessurfco.com/](http://cecessurfco.com/).

These are just a few of the ways you can shop at great merchants for the holidays and benefit Clean Ocean Action. Visit COA's homepage for additional ways to support ocean protection work at [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org).

### A Special Thank You to 2013 Volunteers



Throughout the year, COA has had so much for which to be thankful. After returning to the office at Building 18 on Sandy Hook with ultimately no damage from Superstorm Sandy and getting to meet so many new faces through the Waves of Action program, COA is privileged to have worked with you and so many incredible community leaders to improve and protect coastal areas.

It is because of the support and dedication of COA's volunteers and their families that COA has been successful. Waves of Action placed nearly 14,000 volunteers at 281 projects in 70 towns across NY and NJ. Whether you helped tear down drywall, build a rain barrel, pick up debris from a beach, or staff a Clean Ocean Action table at a festival, we thank you. COA's volunteers at events like the Back to the Beach Ball, Beach Sweeps, Student Summit, Seaside Sunset, and the Waves of Action Conference showed our communities' commitment to not only helping Clean Ocean Action, but to protecting and preserving the ocean.

As COA embarks on our 30th Anniversary in 2014, we want to wish you and your families a Happy New Year and say "Thank You" for all you have done in 2013!