Chatham Township
Environmental Commission
. . . Act Locally!

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
Meeting Agenda
Wednesday November 18, 2026, 7:15pm
58 Meyersville Rd. Chatham NJ 07928

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT: The meeting schedule for 2026 and January 2027 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building, in two newspapers and on the Chatham Township Environmental Commission website at https://www.chathamtownship-nj.gov/environmental. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: To undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources and air quality, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment. The Chatham Township Environmental Commission serves as the Chatham Township Green Team / Sustainable Jersey team.

DATES FOR CTEC AND GREEN TEAM FOR 2026 AND JANUARY 2027
The first or second Wednesday depending on the month:
January 14, 2026; February 4; March 4; April 8; ~~May 6~~; June 3; July-Meeting cancelled; August-No Meeting; September 2; October 7; November 18; December 2; January 13, 2027

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Roll Call of CTEC Members: Jessica Romeo (Chair), Lisa McHugh (Vice Chair), Phil Ankel (Planning Board liaison), Pat Wells, Amy Mason, Polly Brophy, Joanne White, Celeste Fondaco (alternate 1), Steve Gesell (alternate 2), Craig Alperowitz (Township Committee liaison)

2. Public Meeting Statement (see above).

3. Approve Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2026 meeting

4. Fall community workday and clean up recap. Great job Lisa and team!

5. Status report: revised tree ordinance discussion from 11/10/26 Township Committee meeting

6. Status report: artificial turf fields – incorporate a learning session into 2027 speaker series

7. Master Plan reexamination, update from 11/9/26 Planning Board meeting and discuss CTEC next steps

8. Action item: grant application for food waste / pilot composting program. See examples from Morristown and Veona

9. Community Engagement and Education for 2027 (aim for 4 programs/events, one each quarter)
   *Bio Blitz – must have some community component and educational opportunity
   *Screening of The Plastic Detox https://www.beyondplastics.org/campaign-toolkits/host-a-screening-plastic-detox with a speaker or two (eg: GSWA and someone in the medical profession)

10. Green Team updates – Activities that CTEC manages are all part of the Green Team, including Sustainable Jersey. Great success at the 2026 Sustainability Fair – thank you to Pat and team! Next up: Fall tritown Yard Sale set for 10/17 (rain date 10/18). Signups are open. Very successful year at the Monarch Waystation! CTEC has received a Jaycees Grant to enhance the Monarch Waystation; we have had a number of monarch caterpillars this summer. Jessica added multiple milkweed plants, joe pye weed, and other native plants on the monarch waystation list. Shunpike Grove restoration recap – it's been looking great this summer, the girl scout project was a wonderful enhancement to grow the projects. Quiet summer was well received. Planning is underway in earnest for the Green Fair CTEC and CBEC will co-host.

11. Discuss any upcoming training sessions or special meetings, workshops. (Link to ANJEC sessions https://anjec.org/conferences-workshops/) and review CTEC tracker to note events, programs, educational workshops, site visits, etc. Please keep this updated monthly. CTEC tracker .

12. **2026 events (running list, not complete): Assign 2026 events/programs to commissioners – MAP out 2027 events**
    -Host at least two educational seminars
    *2/5/26, Light Pollution w/ GSWA, Chatham Borough and Madison
    * 4/22/26, Your Extraordinary Caterpillar in partnership with the Library of the Chathams
    -Invasive Special Walk and Learn at the Green Village Pond Conservation Trail w/ Joanne on April 11 and 12th, 10:30am (*Joanne*)
    -Shunpike Trail understory project w/ Girl Scout Silver Award prospect; TBD for April
    -Spring yard sale tri-town yard sale w/ Great Swamp Watershed Association – 5/2/26 (rain date 5/3) *(Jessica)*
    -Plant sale w Great Swamp Watershed Association. Sale dates; April 1-21, 2026. Distribution date: May 2 at Colony Pool *(Jessica)*
    *seminar 1; Jan 27, 7-8pm (*Soft Landings Add Life Under Trees)*
    *seminar 2, Feb 24, 7-8pm (*TBC- Native Pollinator interactions)*
    *seminar 3, March 31, 7-8pm (*Plant for Pollinators Plant Overview and Prep)*
    -Fall Sustainability Fair Saturday + EV Expo , 9/19/26 9am-2pm *(Celeste and Pat)*
    -Fall cleanup event / Trail workday with info on invasive species and how they impact the ecosystem + Township Fall Festival
    -EV Expo with Madison and Chatham Borough – to be held on Bottle Hill Day, Saturday 10/3/26
    -Fall yard sale with Madison, Chatham Borough, Great Swamp Watershed Association - 10/17/26 (rain date 10/18) *(Jessica)*

13. 2026 Priority project list – discuss and capture for next meeting; assign workstream/teams.

14. Reports:
    a. Township Committee – Craig
    b. Zoning Board – Lisa
    c. Planning Board – Phil
    d. Open Space – Steve
    e. Education and Outreach – Joanne/Jessica
    f. Invasive Species – Jessica/Joanne
    g. Social Media – Jessica
    h. Website – Township
    i. Pollinator / Native Gardens – Jessica Romeo
    j. Grants – all

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW – Lisa has been doing a great job, attending site visits and preparing comments for Board of Adjustment and Planning Board applications.

ONLINE RESOURCES (update DS Feb 2026)

- NJDEP website for maps, parcels and environmental information at NJ-GeoWeb.
https://dep.nj.gov/gis/nj-geoweb/

- View parcel information for Morris County. Zoom in for parcels. Has owner information.
https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/7651b23561f54d4c8176d6df4b2207f0

- Old map of Morris County parcels. Parcel information is out-of-date but map is still very useful.
https://morrisgisapps.co.morris.nj.us/apps/parcelsearcher/

- Details about each parcel in Morris County.
https://mcweb1.co.morris.nj.us/MCTaxBoard/

- View open space and Green Acres properties at https://www.state.nj.us/dep/greenacres/ga50/docs/rosi.lite.pdf
and
https://www.state.nj.us/dep/greenacres/openspace.html

- Legiscan to view and track NJ bills in the legislature
https://legiscan.com/NJ/legislation

- Chatham Township permits that have been filed. Free but have to create an account.
https://www.sdlportal.com/

- NJDEP status of environmental permits that have been filed
https://dep.nj.gov/bulletin/

- NJ State Plan Map. Zoom to see streets. Planning Area 5 is the most environmentally restrictive.
https://dosopa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=fbb0c0a8c7ce4a31b05d123426c4a79a

- NJ State Plan. Updated 2025.
https://www.nj.gov/state/bac/planning/state-plan/development/

- NJ State OPRA records request
https://nj.gov/opra/

NOTES:

AI data center ordinance: towns that have passed ordinances and towns that are working on it. EC to raise at a Township meeting. 6/9/26

Mulch fire: can we ask the fire department / call the Chief – Craig to connect me

Bio Blitz in 2027, modified. Get 3 scientists for 2 hours. Is there a grant to pay for this? Jessica draft email to Z / legalities and compliance issues. Need a date for 2027. Joanne to propose dates at the July meeting.

Pollinator week in June – do social media posts / one each day. highlight pollinators, one per day. pollinator.org – download and print.