

# Fertilizer Bills in NJ Legislature Reiterate PurGen Argument

---Barb Conover

In mid August, the NJ Legislature passed four bills that would help save Barnegat Bay, including a pair (Senate and Assembly) that addresses fertilizer runoff.

We should incorporate this information in our argument against PurGen, (the proposed coal energy and fertilizer plant for Linden NJ — see previous newsletters and [www.stoppurgencoalplant.org](http://www.stoppurgencoalplant.org) for more information) which has been described to me by an NRDC staffperson as “the first China-scale fertilizer plant ever to be built in the U.S.” Peter Montague, of the COALition to Stop PurGen, argues that the fertilizer-plant aspect may be the strongest pure-environmental objection to the PurGen.

Below is an excerpt from a press release sent by the NJ Sierra Club about the four bills just passed that would protect Barnegat Bay. I've excerpted the sections regarding a bill to reduce nitrogen fertilizer use.

*For Immediate Release*

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*Contact Jeff Tittel, NJ Sierra Club, 609-558-9100*

## Committees Pass Four Bills that will Save Bay

*Toms River, Ocean County* – Today the Assembly and Senate Environment Committees passed a suite of bills that will help protect Barnegat Bay. After years of inaction, the four bills on the Barnegat Bay are welcomed as first steps to protecting the resource.

“Together, these four bills are a major step forward to protect Barnegat Bay,” NJ Sierra Club Director Jeff Tittel said. “There’s still a lot of work to be done...”



## PurGen Coal Plant

The proposed PurGen coal energy and fertilizer plant is wrong for so many reasons. Please learn more and get involved to stop PurGen. 🐦

The bills include statewide requirements for slow release nitrogen in fertilizers (S1411/A2290)...

The fertilizer bill was the most controversial of the group and passed the Assembly by 5 yeas and 2 abstentions. It passed the Senate by 4 yeas and 1 abstention.

“We still have a lot of obstacles of overcome,” Tittel said. “Special interests will try to kill the fertilizer bill by piling on misinformation. The fertilizer bill is needed to help protect the bay and waterways and throughout New Jersey.”

## Statewide Fertilizer Bill (S1411/A2290)

- Fertilizer runoff from lawns contaminates the Bay with chemicals and nutrients. The excess nitrogen creates algae blooms which reduce oxygen levels in the water and block sunlight. This creates a habitat that is inhospitable to sea grass and marine life, but is ideal for sea nettles and jelly fish.
- This bill would reduce the levels of nitrogen and prohibit phosphorus (with some exceptions) allowed in fertilizer sold at retail and used by professional landscapers in New Jersey. It would also require public education on the over-use of fertilizers, prohibit fertilizer application during winter and require less harmful forms of nitrogen be used in fertilizers.

# New Report Shows CCS Isn't a Solution to Climate Change

---NOAH / Friends of the Earth Denmark.

*Copenhagen, Denmark, June 2, 2010* — The technology known as ‘Carbon Capture and Storage’ (CCS) cannot deliver the reductions in CO2 emissions that the proponents of CCS are claiming, according to a report published today by NOAH / Friends of the Earth Denmark.

If CCS is chosen as a major strategy to mitigate carbon emissions from coal power plants and coal fueled industries, nearly 90% of emissions expected between 2010 and 2050 from the large coal fueled plants would reach the atmosphere anyway, according to the new report.

Palle Bendsen, spokesperson for NOAH / Friends of the Earth Denmark said, “When CCS technology is observed over time and across the sectors where it is planned to be applied – when we watch the whole film as opposed to the single snapshot of one power plant or a single year in the far future – it is obvious that CCS cannot deliver. Institutions like the International Energy Agency and IPCC must take into consideration the whole picture and review their assessment of this dubious technology.” 🐦

Read the rest of this article at [stoppurgencoalplant.org/new-report-storing-co2-underground-will-add-to-co2-in-the-atmosphere](http://stoppurgencoalplant.org/new-report-storing-co2-underground-will-add-to-co2-in-the-atmosphere)