

Appendix J

New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan: Statewide Policies - Agriculture

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NEW JERSEY STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

Statewide Policies

15. Agriculture

Promote and preserve the agricultural industry and retain farmland by coordinating planning and innovative land conservation techniques to protect agricultural viability while accommodating beneficial development and economic growth necessary to enhance agricultural vitality and by educating residents on the benefits and the special needs of agriculture

Sustainable Agriculture and Comprehensive Planning

Policy 1 Agricultural Land Retention Program Priorities

Funds for farmland retention should be given priority in the following order, unless a county or municipal farmland preservation plan has been prepared and approved by the State Agriculture Development Committee (in which case, priority shall be based on said plan):

1. Rural Planning Area
2. Fringe and Environmentally Sensitive Planning Areas
3. Metropolitan and Suburban Planning Areas

Policy 2 Preservation of the Agricultural Land Base

Consider the expenditure of public funds for preservation of farmland as an investment in public infrastructure and thereby emphasize the public's interest in maintaining long-term agricultural viability.

Policy 3 Coordinated Planning

Coordinate planning efforts of all levels of government to ensure that policies and programs promote agriculture.

Policy 4 New Development

Plan and locate new development to avoid negative impacts on agriculture.

Policy 5 Creative Planning and Design Techniques

Encourage creative land planning and design through tools such as clustering, phasing and density transfers, purchase and donation of development rights, agricultural enterprise zones and districts and the provision of self-contained community wastewater treatment systems to serve Centers, to accommodate future growth in ways that maintain the viability of agriculture as an industry, while avoiding conflict with agricultural uses.

Policy 6 Agricultural Water Needs

Include consideration of the water needs of the agricultural industry in water supply planning at all levels of government.

Agriculture and Economic Development

Policy 7 Provision of Capital Facilities

Provide adequate capital facilities including grain storage and food processing facilities to enhance agriculture in rural areas.

Policy 8 Access to Capital

Improve access to capital funds, including rural revolving loan funds and rural venture capital networks, operating funds and portfolios that reduce the reliance on land as an asset for collateral or retirement.

Policy 9 Enhancing the Agricultural Industry

Promote economic development that supports the agricultural industry on municipal, county and statewide levels.

Policy 10 Diversify the Rural Economy

Promote beneficial economic growth that recognizes the need to provide the essential facilities and infrastructure to diversify the rural economy. Provide opportunities for business expansion, off-farm employment, on-farm income generating enterprises such as agricultural-related educational or recreational activities and environmental activities such as leaf composting.

Policy 11 Enhance Agricultural Marketing

Enhance marketing programs to promote the sale of New Jersey agricultural products.

Policy 12 Simplify the Regulatory Process

Adapt the permitting, licensing and land-use planning and regulation processes to be sensitive to agricultural needs, to enhance the industry and to facilitate new agricultural development.

Policy 13 Local Ordinances and Building Codes Sensitive to Agricultural Use

Promulgate local ordinances and state building code and fee criteria which are sensitive to the special purposes of agricultural construction and seasonal use.

Policy 14 Right to Farm

Coordinate actions of state and local government to encourage the maintenance of agricultural production by protecting farm operations from interference and nuisance actions when recognized methods or practices are applied, and to ensure that the numerous social, economic and environmental benefits of agriculture serves the best interests of all citizens in the state.

Policy 15 Aquaculture

Recognize aquaculture as an agricultural activity.

Agriculture and Environmental Protection

Policy 16 Promote Agricultural Management Practices Encourage the use of agricultural management practices to ensure sustainable and profitable farming while protecting natural resources.

Policy 17 Incorporate Agricultural Land in Recycling of Organic Materials

Use appropriate agricultural lands for the recycling of non-farm generated biodegradable and organic materials.

Human Resources

Policy 18 Housing Supply and Financing

Use federal and state funding to expand the supply of decent, safe and reasonably priced housing that will benefit those employed in agriculture.

Policy 19 Vocational and Technical Training

Create and expand access to training and technical assistance for agriculture and agriculture-related businesses.

Policy 20 Agricultural Education

Create and expand agricultural education and leadership opportunities through basic skills training, and vocational and entrepreneurial training on the secondary, county college and university levels.

Policy 21 Encourage Young and First-time Farmers

Coordinate federal, state and local financial incentives and tax and regulatory policies to encourage more individuals to enter the agricultural industry.

Policy 22 Promote the Value of Agriculture

Educate New Jersey residents on the economic and environmental value of sustainable agriculture in New Jersey and its important contribution to the state's quality of life.

Policy 23 Agro-tourism and Eco-tourism

Expand opportunities for agro-tourism and eco-tourism.



<http://www.state.nj.us/osp/plan2/p2full/2statewide/2bpoli15.htm>