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Regarding "Sandy shows Jersey still vulnerable" (Opinion, Nov. 5):

Thank you for publishing New Jersey Sierra Club Director Jeff Tittel's op-ed on how climate change makes weather more severe (what climate scientists call "the weather on steroids") and the severe damage climate change has done to New Jersey over the last five years.

The best way to slow climate change is to reduce emissions from the use of fossil fuels. The best way to reduce these emissions is to charge polluters for polluting.

After all, the air is public. Why should anyone be allowed to pollute it for free given that their pollution affects everyone else? Once polluters are charged a fee for polluting, they will cut back or switch to cleaner sources of energy.

Until then, the rest of us are paying to clean up after them. We pay to clean up after climate change weather events and wildfires. We pay for their pollution when our insurance premiums increase, and when food prices increase due to droughts and heat waves.

Enough giving polluters a free ride. They are not entitled to it.

Make polluters pay for their pollution.

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The writer is a member of Citizens Climate Lobby, a national organization of volunteers lobbying for legislation to stabilize our climate.

http://www.northjersey.com/news/opinions/177809211_Herald_News__Letters__November_8__2012.html?mobile=1