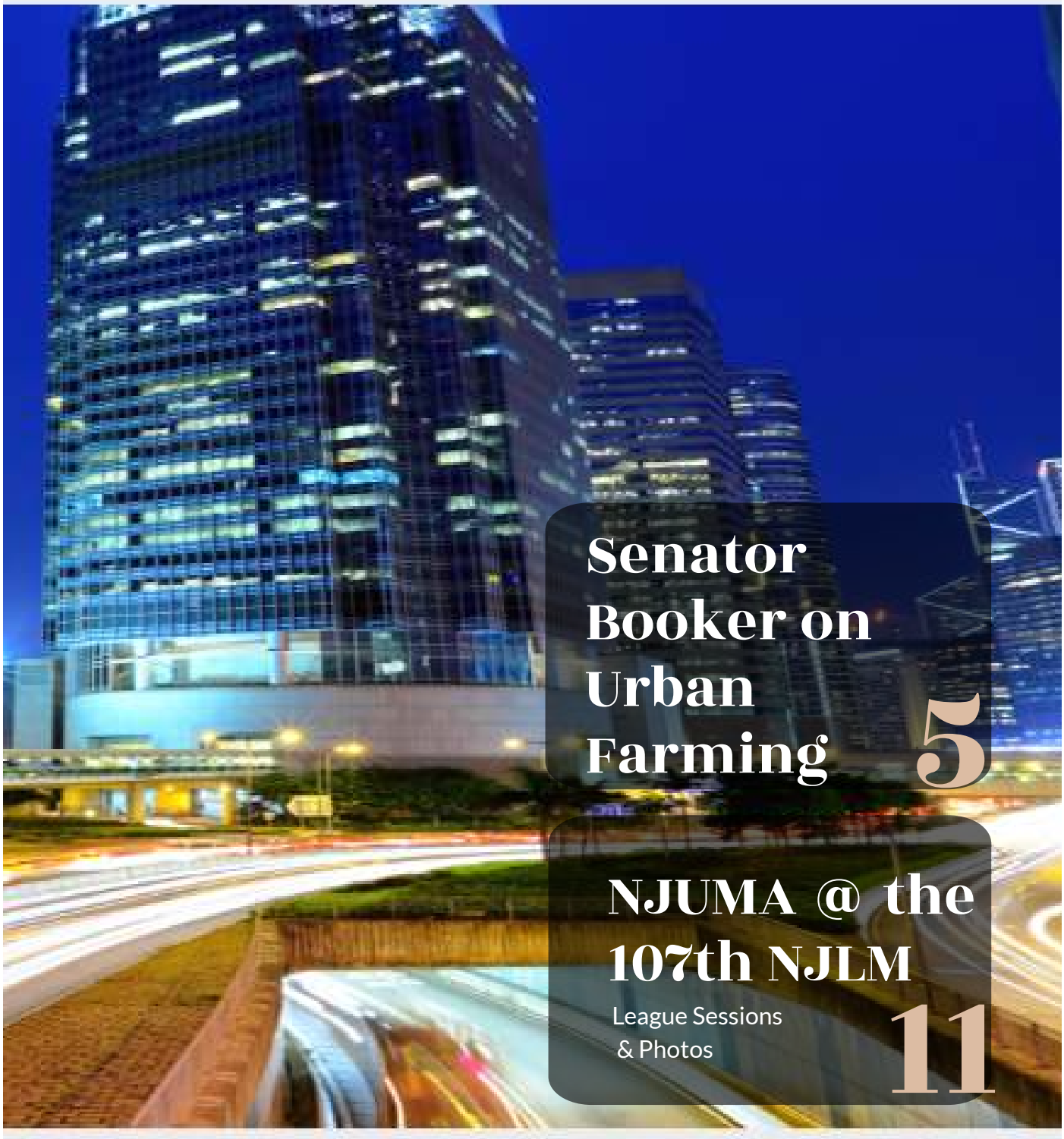
NEW JERSEY URBAN MAYORS ASSOCIATION

The Official Publication of the Urban Mayors Association

URBAN MAYORS PRESS

WINTER 2022 I VOL. 7

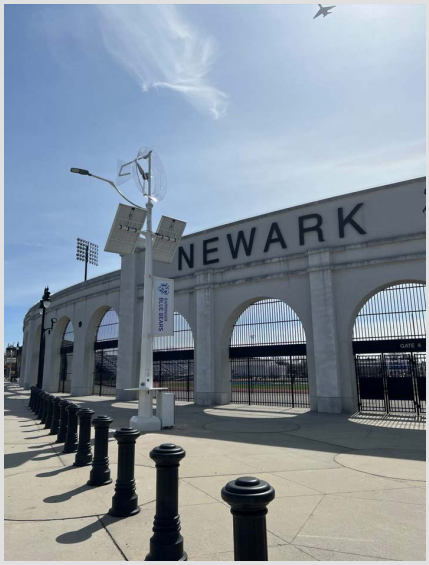


Smart and Resilient Campus Lighting Helps Newark Students to a Brighter Future

By Latoya Wilson, MPA, Founder of WCRC

The Newark Board of Education has always invested in its campus infrastructure, using cutting-edge technologies where appropriate, to provide its students and staff with the best facilities and educational experiences possible. Over the past few years, the school district has sought to further decarbonize its operations, increase its resiliency, improve security, and when possible, leverage that effort to also provide its students with "STEM learning experiences" that will broaden their understanding and appreciation of today's evolving energy situation.

Consistent with this, Newark Schools has installed several solar/wind-powered off-grid campus lights that provide resilient, zero carbon emission lighting and "auxiliary power" for purposes such as USB charging stations. Newark School partnered with Aris Wind to provide its "Smart Pole" to address these needs, AND also provide a valuable STEM teaching tool to introduce students to the world of energy efficiency and conservation, solar energy, wind power, energy storage and the IT technology that enables this information to be broadcast to the classroom environment.



The three Newark School campus sites, Science Park High School, Technology High School, and the Newark School Stadium, are shown below. Further, Newark Schools is now planning with Aris Wind's STEM Coordinator, Latoya Wilson, of Wilson Career Readiness Consultancy to launch a STEM/Renewable Energy teaching tool that will incorporate these Smart Poles into science education programs. Newark's students will be able to understand how the operation, components, and data of Smart Poles play a role in addressing climate change by providing a cleaner alternative to generate streetlighting. The goal is to enable students to learn more about clean energy and resiliency solutions to climate change that they can see and touch in their schools and communities, hopefully motivating their interest in a career path that is directly involved with sustainability.

Fortuitously, the key aspects of Newark Schools' "Smart Pole" work, namely sustainability, resiliency, education and career development, are also objectives of recent major legislation at both the federal level and state level. The Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and climate change provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act paved the way to expand these resources on the national level. Meanwhile, New Jersey became the first state to include climate change curriculum in K-12 by launching New Jersey Climate Change Education Hub. As such, if your municipality wishes to follow Newark's example in this type of project, recent changes in federal/state energy policy are likely to help achieve those objectives

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