



Sustainable Jersey Program Overview

Updated February 21, 2024

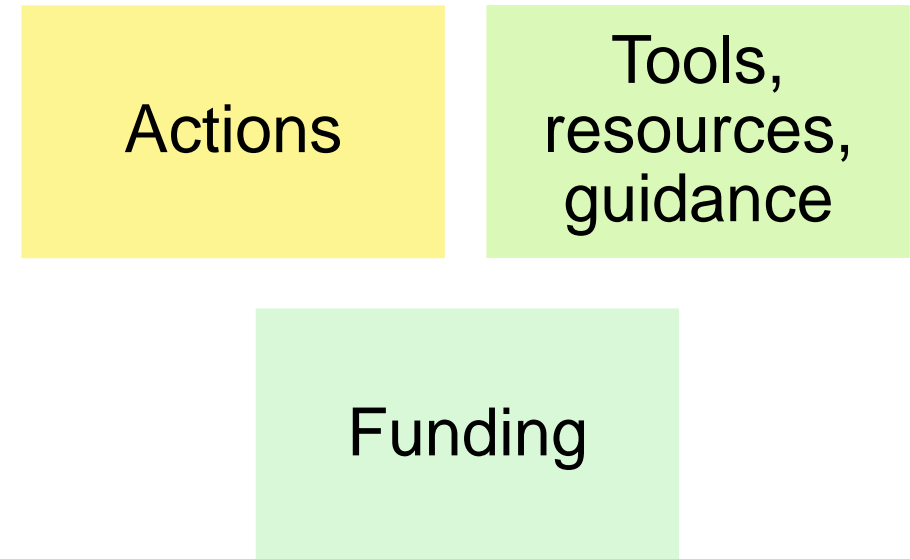


What is Sustainable Jersey?

A nonprofit organization that provides **tools, trainings and financial incentives** to support communities as they pursue sustainability programs.

\$7.6 million in grants to municipalities and schools through the Sustainable Jersey Grants Program for sustainability initiatives. Learn more:

sustainablejersey.com/grants



Statistics

2009
Program
Started

83%
Participating

91%
Population



130
Certified



68
Certified



5 Stars

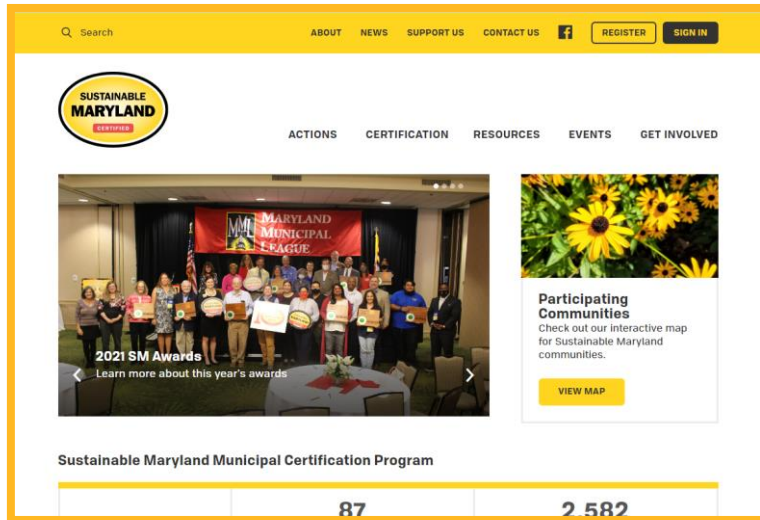
16,710
Actions
Implemented



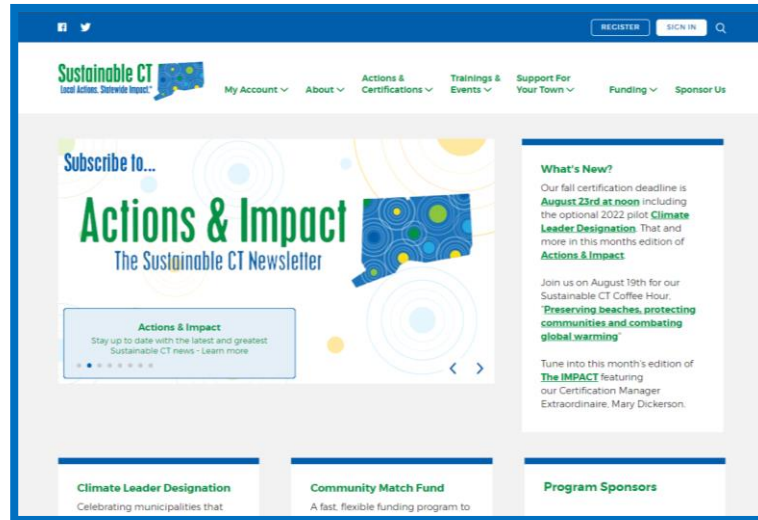
Statistics current as of 2/21/24



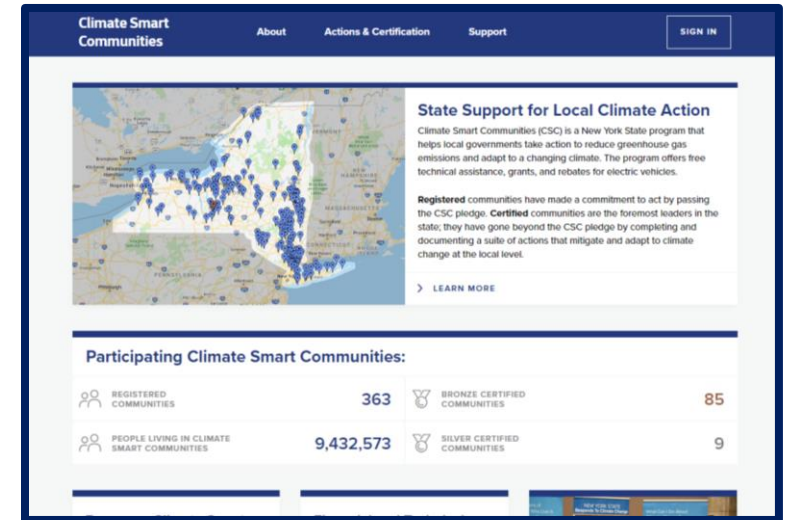
National Role Model



Sustainable Maryland



Sustainable Connecticut



New York State Climate Smart Communities

Read the report, "Statewide Change: One Community at a Time" [here](#)



Actions

Select actions from 17 different categories and over 140 actions



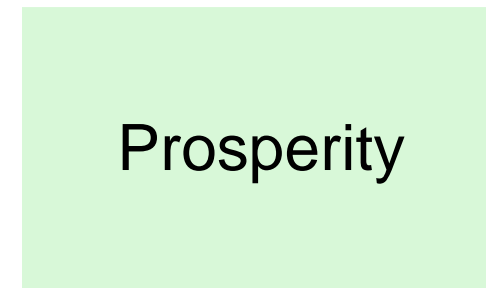
↑ BACK TO TOP	EXPAND ALL	COLLAPSE ALL
Arts & Creative Culture		
Brownfields		
Community Partnership & Outreach		
Diversity & Equity		
Emergency Management & Resiliency		
Energy		
Food		
Green Design		
Health & Wellness		
Innovative Projects		



Components of Sustainability

Action Sections

- What is it?
- Why is it important?
- Who should be involved?
- How long will it take and what will it cost?
- What to do and how to do it
- What to submit
- Spotlights
- Resources





Action Categories

- Arts & Culture
- Brownfields
- Community Partnership & Outreach
- Diversity & Equity
- Emergency Management & Resiliency
- Energy
- Food
- Green Design
- Health & Wellness
- Innovation & Demonstration Projects
- Land Use & Transportation
- Local Economies
- Natural Resources
- Operations & Maintenance
- Public Information & Engagement
- Sustainability & Climate Planning
- Waste Management



Actions to Consider

- Community Education & Outreach
- Community Food Pantry/Bank & Soup Kitchen; Community Garden, Farmers Market
- Building Healthier Communities; Safe Routes to School; Tobacco Free Community
- Environmental Commission & Site Plan Review; Community Forestry Management Plan & NJUCF Accreditation
- Municipal Communications Strategy; Digitizing Public Information
- Shredding Day; Household Hazardous Waste, Non-Mandated Materials Recycling, Recycling Depot



South Plainfield Clean Up Day

Just getting started?

View the ***Crossing the Finish Line*** webinar recording and presentation on the [Webinars](#) [page](#)

Actions in Action



Asbury Park Creative Assets Inventory



Berkeley Heights Tree Seedling Project



Brooklawn Shredding Event



Chatham Township Native Plant Sale



Egg Harbor City Creative Team



Caldwell Solar Panel Dedication



Mahwah Township Rain Garden



Pompton Lakes Street Smart Campaign



Lambertville City Reusable Bag Campaign



Certification



Certification Benefits



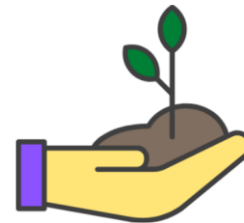
Save money. Get money.



Get recognized.
Promote your town.



Gain access to tools,
training and expert
guidance.



Conserve valuable
resources. Protect
the environment.



Programs to Save Money & Energy

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Clean Energy Program

- Contact Sustainable Jersey's Senior Energy Program Manager, Nancy Quirk, at quirkn@tcnj.edu or 609-771-2902 for more information





Certification Requirements



- Total of at least 150 points
- Mandatory Green Team
- Implement 2 of 14 priority actions
- Actions completed in 6 of 17 categories



- Total of at least 350 points
- Mandatory Green Team
- Implement 3 of 14 priority actions
- Actions completed in 8 of 17 categories



Priority Actions

- Community Energy Plan or Climate Action Plan *NEW 2024*
- Community Equity & Diversity Profile
- Diversity on Boards & Commissions
- Energy Efficiency for Municipal Facilities
- Energy Tracking & Management
- Fleet Inventory
- Green Business Recognition Program
- Municipal Carbon Footprint
- Municipal Water Story
- Natural Resource Inventory
- Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal
- Recycling and Waste Reduction Education & Compliance
- Sustainable Land Use Pledge
- Water Conservation Ordinance





What Does Certification Mean?



Bronze

- Made a commitment to Sustainability
- Created internal organization (green team)
- Succeeded in implementing first significant actions

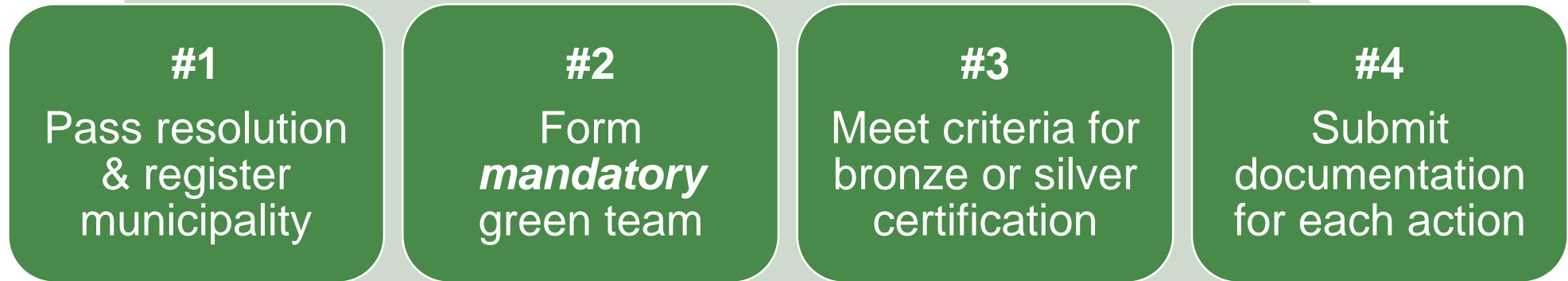


Silver

- Beyond getting started
- Making significant progress in a number of categories toward sustainability
- Statewide leader



Certification Steps



***Certification awarded after review and verification*



What is a Green Team?

- Leads and coordinates the sustainability activities of the community
- Develops plans, implements programs, and assists with educational opportunities that support the creation of a sustainable community
- Diverse group of members encouraged
- Aspire to create a team representing the demographics of the town
- Can be part of an existing group, like an Environmental Commission
- **Learn more about green teams:**
sustainablejersey.com/resources/green-team-resources/





Gold Star Standard



All certified municipalities are eligible to earn Gold Star recognition for reaching high levels of achievement in key dimensions of sustainability.

All standards require the completion of base certification actions, AND the Gold Star action(s)

Learn more:

sustainablejersey.com/actions/gold-star-standards/



Energy



Health



Water



How can you get involved?



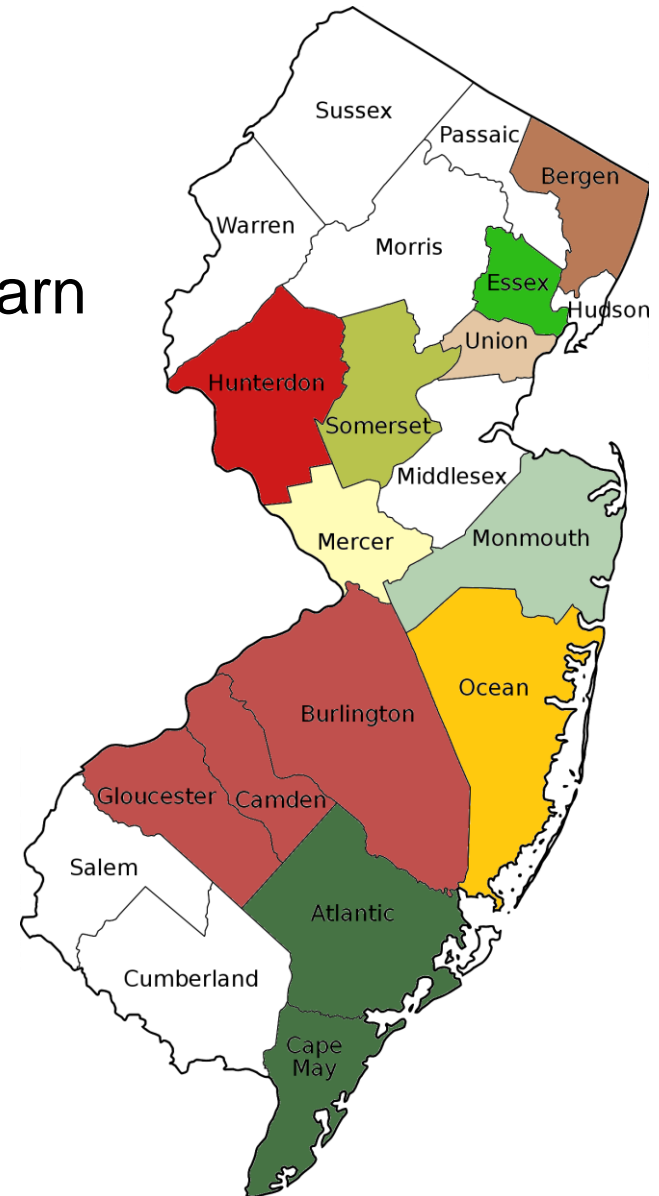


Regional Hubs

Ten hubs around the state to help green teams build capacity through training, best practices resources and networking. Learn more sustainablejersey.com/get-involved/

Benefits

- Peer mentoring
- Project collaboration
- Online communication platform
- Network of Leaders
- Quarterly Events
- Help Peers Get Certified
- Technical assistance & administrative support from SJ





Participants Map Search

Use the [Participating Municipalities & Approved Actions](https://sustainablejersey.com/certification/search-participating-municipalities-approved-actions) (*sustainablejersey.com/certification/search-participating-municipalities-approved-actions*) page to find examples of documentation from certified towns and connect with municipal green teams

Search by action

By Certified Action

Arts & Creative Culture

- Establish a Creative Team
- Creative Assets Inventory
- Creative Placemaking Plan
- Municipal Commitments to Support Arts and Creative Culture
- Utilizing Your Creative Assets

View certified towns approved for that action

MUNICIPALITY	COUNTY	CERTIFICATION
Asbury Park City	Monmouth	SILVER
Atlantic Highlands Boro	Monmouth	BRONZE
Belleville Twp	Essex	BRONZE
Bogota Boro	Bergen	BRONZE
Bordentown City	Burlington	SILVER
Bradley Beach Boro	Monmouth	BRONZE
Brigantine City	Atlantic	BRONZE
Cape May City	Cape May	SILVER
Chatham Boro	Morris	SILVER

View certification report for example documentation

Bordentown City
Certification Level: Silver
Certified On: October 28, 2022
Total Points: 615
Certification Report: [View Report](#)
Applicant Profile: [View Profile](#)



Sustainable Jersey Support



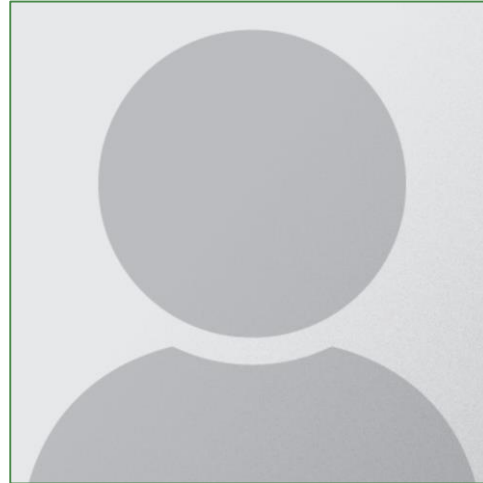
General Inquiries

Maureen Jones
Program Coordinator
info@sustainablejersey.com
609-771-2938



Regional Hubs & Health Gold

Lauren Skowronski
Assistant Director
skowronl@tcnj.edu
609-771-3129



Energy Actions & Energy Gold

Nancy Quirk
Energy Senior Program Manager
quirkn@tcnj.edu
609-771-2902



Water Gold

Anne Heasly
Program Manager, Policy &
Planning
heaslya@tcnj.edu
609-771-2865



Waste Actions

Samantha McGraw
Senior Department
Administrator
mcgraws@tcnj.edu
609-771-2855



Thank You

Sustainable Jersey Underwriters and Sponsors

Program Underwriters



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Corporate Sponsors

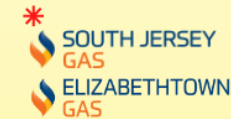


Sustainable Jersey for Schools Underwriters and Sponsors

Program Underwriters



Corporate Sponsors



*Digital Schools Underwriters and Sponsors