



Sustainable Jersey

ORGANIZATION BACKGROUNDER

Sustainable Jersey is a nonprofit organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support communities as they pursue sustainability programs. Currently, 460 of New Jersey's 565 municipalities are participating in the municipal certification program and 373 school districts and 1,025 schools are participating in the new Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification program. By supporting efforts to reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions, improve access to education, stimulate local economies, increase resiliency and progress toward an equitable society, Sustainable Jersey is empowering communities to build a better world for future generations.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Certification Focus: Only NJ municipalities apply for certification. In October 2014, [Sustainable Jersey Schools](#) was launched to provide a certification program for NJ public schools.

Free: No registration fee or certification fees are charged.

Voluntary: Participation is strictly voluntary and never mandated.

Specific Menu of Actions: The program provides applicants with a clear mission and a menu of sustainable actions to achieve. [Sustainable Jersey Actions](#)

New Jersey Based and Consensus Driven: The technical content of the program's actions are developed with the help of 15 task forces that comprise New Jersey state local officials, experts, non-profit groups, and members of the business community. Recommended best practices/actions are vetted with local government officials.

Program Training, Workshops and Technical Support: Training, monthly workshops and technical support is provided to communities in order to build general capacity and effectiveness of local governments and green teams for implementing the program.

Green Teams: The only required action to become certified is to have a green team. The green team is appointed by the municipal governing body and includes representatives from the Environmental Commission, Operations and Maintenance, Planning and Zoning, and other relevant municipal departments as well as volunteers from the community and key constituencies such as the business community, faith based groups, and school groups.

PARTICIPATING TOWNS

459 towns are registered and working towards certification in the municipal certification program. That is 81% percent of towns from the 565 municipalities in New Jersey. Nearly 90% of New Jersey's population lives in registered/certified Sustainable Jersey communities

CERTIFIED TOWNS

219 municipalities are currently certified: 155 towns are certified at the bronze-level and 64 towns are certified at the silver-level.

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SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM	Sustainable Jersey provides funding to local governments for sustainability projects. To date, over \$6,300,000 has been awarded through the 2009-2021 Sustainable Jersey Grants Program. Over 1,100 grants have been given to New Jersey municipalities and schools for sustainability projects to make communities more livable, environmentally friendly and prosperous.
HISTORY	Launched in February 2009, Sustainable Jersey began as a collaborative effort between the New Jersey State League of Municipalities' Mayors' Committee for a Green Future and the Sustainability Institute at The College of New Jersey, in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. In 2012, Sustainable Jersey evolved from a partnership into a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a Board of Trustees.
AWARDS & HONORS	<p>2020 Sustainable Jersey was a member of the team awarded the Marty Epstein Advocate of the Year Award for the Complete Streets Guide</p> <p>2019 Sustainable Jersey was awarded the NJLM Distinguished Public Service Award</p> <p>2018 New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Recycling Award for Leadership</p> <p>2017 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award</p> <p>2017 American Association Excellence in Planning Award</p> <p>2016 American Planning Association Leadership Award</p> <p>2015 APA-NJ Civic Leadership Award</p> <p>2012 Sustainability Award from the Economic Development Association of NJ</p> <p>2011 U.S. EPA Environmental Quality Award</p> <p>2010 National Ashoka/Community Matters Changemakers Strong Communities Award</p> <p>2010 NJ Joint Legislative Resolution from the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly</p>
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	<p>Clinton Andrews, Ph.D., Professor, Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University</p> <p>Carolyn Brown-Dancy, Director, Environmental Health & Safety-Sustainability, Atlantic Health System</p> <p>Anthony Cancro, Township Administrator, Plainsboro Township</p> <p>Mark A. Citron, Partner, Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr</p> <p>Michele Critelli, Long Branch Board of Education</p> <p>Richard Dovey, President, Atlantic County Utilities Authority</p> <p>Kendra McQuilton, Chief Executive Officer, The ECG Group</p> <p>Caroline Ehrlich, Chief of Staff, Woodbridge Township</p> <p>Edward Mahaney, Jr., Ph.D., Former Mayor, City of Cape May</p> <p>Wanda Monahan, Esq., Law Offices of Wanda Chin Monahan, LLC</p> <p>Pamela Mount, Former Mayor, Lawrence Township</p> <p>Anne-Marie Peracchio, Dir., Conservation and Clean Energy Policy, New Jersey Natural Gas</p> <p>William Pikolycky, Mayor, Woodbine Borough</p> <p>Edward Potosnak, Executive Director, New Jersey League of Conservation Voters</p> <p>Michael Schmid, P.E., Division Manager – Central Division, PSE&G</p> <p>Gary Sondermeyer, Vice President, Bayshore Recycling</p> <p>Lester E. Taylor III, Esq., Partner, Florio Perrucci Steinhardt Cappelli Tipton & Taylor LLC</p> <p>Sarah Weidel, Business Development Manager, NRG Princeton</p> <p>Ex-Officio: Paul Baldauf, Assistant Commissioner, Air Quality, Energy and Sustainability, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection</p> <p>Ex-Officio: Kelly Mooij, Director, Division of Clean Energy, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities</p> <p>Ex-Officio: Mike Cerra, Executive Director, New Jersey League of Municipalities</p> <p>Ex-Officio: Lawrence S. Feinsod, Ed.D., Executive Director, New Jersey School Boards Association</p> <p>Program Senior Staff: Randall Solomon, Executive Director, Sustainable Jersey</p>

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**CURRENT
PARTNERS**

Sustainable Jersey: Sustainable Jersey's partners include the New Jersey State League of Municipalities (NJLM), Sustainability Institute at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Clean Energy Program (NJCEP). Program underwriters include the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Clean Energy Program (NJCEP), the PSEG Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The Sustainable Jersey Grants program for municipalities is funded by the PSEG Foundation, the Gardinier Environmental Fund, and the Exelon Foundation. Platinum sponsors are South Jersey Gas, New Jersey Natural Gas and the PSEG Foundation. The Gold Sponsor is Elizabethtown Gas. Silver Sponsors are Atlantic Health System, Bayshore Recycling, the First Energy Foundation, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, LINK by Superpedestrian, New Jersey Aggregation, New Jersey American Water, NJM Insurance Group, Northfield Ban, Ocean Wind, and Solar Landscape. The Bronze Sponsors are Anbaric, Bryan Electric, Covanta, Good Energy, Greener By Design, iCapital Network, Red Oak Power, Republic Services, and Samsara.

Sustainable Jersey for Schools is underwritten by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Clean Energy Program, the PSEG Foundation, and the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA). The Sustainable Jersey for Schools grants program is funded by the PSEG Foundation, NJEA, and the Gardinier Environmental Fund. Platinum and Founding sponsors are New Jersey Natural Gas and South Jersey Gas. The Gold and Founding Sponsor is NJM Insurance Group. The Silver Sponsors are Solar Landscape and Investors Bank. The Bronze sponsors are The ECG Group, Gabel Associates, and Maschio's Food Services.

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