

# **Sustainable Jersey Certification Report**

This is the Sustainable Jersey Certification Report of Franklin Lakes Boro, a Sustainable Jersey bronze certified applicant.

Franklin Lakes Boro was certified on December 12, 2019 with 225 points. Listed below is information regarding Franklin Lakes Boro's Sustainable Jersey efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

### **Contact Information**

The designated Sustainable Jersey contact for Franklin Lakes Boro is:

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## **Actions Implemented**

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Franklin Lakes Boro was approved for in 2019 appears below. Note: Standards for the actions below may have changed and the documentation listed may no longer satisfy requirements for that action. Additionally, points associated with actions prior to 2013 certifications may not be accurate.

### **Animals in the Community**

Pledge Supporting NJ Wildlife Action Plan \*Retired 12/31/22\*

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Franklin Lakes is a suburban community that still has a diversity of wildlife within the Borough. It is the Borough's desire that, by supporting the Wildlife Action Plan residents will learn the need to deal rationally and humanely with the wildlife that surrounds us. We are trying to increase the number of bees and butterflies by making the environment friendlier. We have a number of beekeepers in town and the Girl Scouts are planting Milkweed to help the

Monarch butterflies survive. Admittedly, these are small efforts, but we are also trying to maintain needed habitat, increase open space and protect waterways from pollution. There are education programs in the schools where students learn about wildlife and the need for us not to be afraid of deer, wild turkeys, foxes, bears or coyotes or eliminate them from the community, but to deal with them as part of our environment. Uploaded is the Mayor and Council's resolution supporting the Wildlife Action Plan, the Environmental Commission's memo to boards and committees, and the Borough Administrator's emails disseminating the resolution to the Planning Board, Zoning Board, Environmental Commission, Animal Control Officer and department heads.

PDF: PLEDGE SUPPORTING NJ WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN DOCUMENTATION
WORD: PLEDGE SUPPORTING NJ WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN DOCUMENTATION
PDF: PLEDGE SUPPORTING NJ WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN DOCUMENTATION

### **Community Partnership & Outreach**

### **Green Team**



Bronze Required

**Program Summary:** The Franklin Lakes Green Team - Updated 2.19.19 with a new resolution by the Mayor/Council and a letter of verification from Mayor Bivona. The environmental commission continues to solicit citizens and students to become members of the Green Team. In addition to the commission, there are administrators, religious leaders in the community, students, our recycling coordinator, an environmental studies graduate and several retirees. The Green Team is essential for the sustainable programs that the borough is attempting to accomplish. As we add new actions, we find new talents and interests such as the borough's emergency management team and the community garden helpers and its liaison with the local churches. The 2.19.19 resolution and a list of the Green Team members is part of the supporting documents for this action.

WORD: CREATE GREEN TEAM DOCUMENTATION
PDF: CREATE GREEN TEAM DOCUMENTATION
PDF: CREATE GREEN TEAM DOCUMENTATION

### **Community Education & Outreach**

20 Points

**Program Summary:** In the winter of 2014 the environmental commissions of Franklin Lakes, Oakland and Wyckoff organized a committee to work on a FLOW environmental film festival. The committee viewed a number of films and finally decided on four they wanted to present to the community. They were presented in the Wyckoff Public Library on four consecutive Thursday evenings. A discussion by knowledgeable people followed each film along with coffee and cookies. In October, 2015, ANJEC gave all three environmental commissions an achievement award for the two film festivals. The three environmental commissions have continued to present four films during the spring FLOW Green Film Festivals. The flyers announcing film titles, dates and times are attached. After each film which drew around 40 guests there were group discussions o

the subject matter. There were 30 to 40 guests at each film. In 2019, the EC's were joined by the Ramapo/Indian Hills HS Green Teams.

PDF: COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH DOCUMENTATION
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### **Emergency Management**

### **Emergency Communications Planning**

15 Points

Program Summary: A copy of the Franklin Lakes Emergency Plan has been uploaded since the Reviewer Feedback of 6/28/2019 which asked that the plan be added to support this action. Franklin Lakes has an active, well-trained and effective Office of Emergency Management. It ensures that the Borough has a current Emergency Operations Plan in place and coordinates with all Borough Emergency Services the necessary response to protect lives and property in any emergency situations. The team consists of a coordinator, four deputy emergency management coordinators and more than 45 licensed HAM radio operators. It also has a large (more than 100) Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), County Animal Response Team (CART) and OEM auxiliary. They can all be contacted immediately should a disaster occur. The OEM communicates with residents via telephone and e-mail. The Emergency Notification System allows the OEM to call and text registered numbers and residents with Nixle, Swist911 and the Borough e-blasts. The OEM has its own building in the center of the Borough that is fully equipped with necessary electronic devices and an emergency vehicle. The OEM also advises residents when the Emergency Stations in town are open and the locations of water and ice during prolonged incidents. The attached documents show how the Borough residents are made aware of the OEM and its services, the instructions given to members of CERT and a picture of its building in town.

PDF: EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLANNING DOCUMENTATION

WORD: EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLANNING DOCUMENTATION

PDF: EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLANNING DOCUMENTATION

#### Food

**Community Gardens** 

10 Points

Program Summary: On March 21, 2016 Pastor Alison Philip of the Franklin Lakes Methodist Church spoke before the Franklin Lakes Environmental Commission and asked for its support in obtaining a small piece of municipal property on which to build a community garden. The church garden was proving to be too small and the church wanted more space to increase the amount of vegetables it could send to the Paterson based Center for United Methodist Aid to the Community (CUMAC). The small church garden supplies over 400 pounds of vegetables to low income people in Paterson, NJ. The Environmental Commission offered its complete support and help in the project. In April, 2016 the Borough Council approved the church's request and gave the church 400-square foot area on McBride Field a large park-like area in the center of town. The church supplied the fence, a local Boy Scout built the beds as an Eagle Scout project and the Environmental Commission aided in the administrative work. The garden opened officially on Sunday, October 8, 2017 with remarks by the Mayor, the chair of the Environmental Commission and the local Boy Scout troop. In its first two seasons, the community garden has produced over 600 of vegetables per year. The Environmental Commission and Pastor Philip work together to staff the garden and to publicize its good works to the people of Franklin Lakes and members of the Environmental Commission have toured the Food Pantry in Paterson to bring information back to our residents.. The supporting documentation: News article regarding development of the garden; letter from Pastor Philip thanking town for garden and residents' work; picture of the garden; solicitation for community garden workers and picture of Pastor Philip, her daughter Eve and chair of the environmental commission picking spinach. A recent letter from Pastor Philip to Mayor Bivona has been uploaded. It details the pounds of vegetables (900) that have been gathered thus far in the season and the members of the community who have participated. A troop of Girl Scouts under Heather Costabile made the garden a weekly project. I have also uploaded copies of the brochures available in the Community Garden mailbox on site and the weekly newspaper notice to the public urging people to help. The last upload is information about the Garden from the FL website under the Environmental Commission. It directs residents to the sign up for volunteers.

PDF: COMMUNITY GARDENS DOCUMENTATION
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### **Health & Wellness**

### **Building Healthier Communities**

20 Points

**Program Summary:** FRANKLIN LAKES PROFILE Franklin Lakes is a suburban community in northwest Bergen County with a population of 10,590. It has an active Recreation Commission which is responsible for many of the health and wellness program in the Borough. The programs for youth, employees, seniors and the general population, as well as certification in the Mayors Wellness Campaign are documented below.

PDF: BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES DOCUMENTATION

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#### **Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Public Places**

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Franklin Lakes has had a no smoking restriction on all recreational fields owned by the Borough since 2007. In 2014, through information from GASP and conversations between them and the Franklin Lakes Mayor and Council, the Borough officials were persuaded that the Borough should become smoke free, both in its buildings and on in all parks and recreational areas. The Ordinance was adopted on December16, 2014. Signs were posted on and in all municipal buildings and at recreational facilities. A letter was sent to all departments notifying Borough employees of the no smoking ordinance and advising them of cessation programs should any of them smoke. I have uploaded all of the documentation referring to the Ordinance, the Borough code, and a copy of the no smoking sign that has been posted in all public buildings and at recreational areas.

WORD: SMOKE-FREE AND TOBACCO-FREE PUBLIC PLACES DOCUMENTATION

### **Land Use & Transportation**

### **Sustainable Land Use Pledge**

10 Points

😭 Bronze Priority 😩 Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** The Sustainable Land Use Pledge first passed by the Mayor and Council in 2012 has been updated and was passed at its meeting of May 7, 2019. The Borough has used the Pledge to guide its current development and its efforts to expand its commitment to ongoing sustainability in spite of pressures for development and the necessity of providing for Affordable Housing. The Borough is presently revising its zoning to accommodate the Affordable Housing which is required by the State in a way that does not compromise our determination to work for sustainable land use. I have uploaded the updated Pledge and a memo from the Borough Administrator notifying the relevant boards, commissions and administrators to honor the pledge wherever applicable.

PDF: SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLEDGE DOCUMENTATION
PDF: SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLEDGE DOCUMENTATION

### **Natural Resource Inventory**

20 Points

🙎 Bronze Priority 🙎 Silver Priority

Program Summary: The Franklin Lakes Environmental Resource Inventory was completed in August, 2009 by Princeton Hydro LLC. A decision was made by the Mayor and Council in 2015 to update the ERI in 2019. A copy of that resolution has been uploaded. Boswell Engineering was contracted several months ago to update 10 of the data layers that are a part of the original report. That work has just been completed and the new maps are now available on the Borough's website. Please visit this website to view the maps: https://www.franklinlakes.org/eri

**PDF: PLANNING BOARD RESOLUTION** 

**WORD: NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY DOCUMENTATION WORD: NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY DOCUMENTATION PDF: NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY DOCUMENTATION PDF: NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY DOCUMENTATION** 

#### **Environmental Commission**

10 Points

Program Summary: The Franklin Lakes Environmental Commission was reactivated by former Mayor Maura DeNicola in 2008. Thomas Lambrix was appointed the commission's chair. Under his leadership the commission engaged in a number of wide-ranging activities. The commission secured a grant to help pay for an updated Environmental Resource Inventory. It was completed in 2009 and was adopted as the official guide for the Borough's future development. The charts displaying aspects of the Borough were publicly displayed at the library. The commission started a campaign called "Say Not to Plastic Bags." It has distributed brochures detailing the damage done by plastic bags and reusable bags with the FL logo. High school and middle school students have helped in the canvassing of local shopping centers. The commission also helped establish the Community Garden which produces vegetables for CUMAC the food pantry in Paterson. The commission led discussions with the Franklin Lakes DPW which resulted in the establishment of the Borough's first Recycling Depot. Members of the commission also assisted the Mayor and Council in negotiating a new Garbage and Recycling contract which will increase recycling and reduce the cost of waste removal. It helped in the hiring of the borough's first recycling coordinator and the chair meets regularly with her to discuss ways to improve and increase recycling. The commission continues to reach out to the local schools. It has a Ramapo High Student representative and students from the high schools and the middle school participated in the annual cleanup day and the fall festival. This year is the 6th annual FLOW Environmental Film Festival that includes members of the Wyckoff and Oakland environmental commissions. Three of the films are shown at the local library but the fourth is at the high school and is coordinated by students. There is a 2018 list of accomplishments by the commission and the goals we hope to accomplish in 2019.

**PDF: ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ESTAB** 

**WORD: ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION DOCUMENTATION WORD: ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION DOCUMENTATION** 

#### **Tree Protection Ordinance**

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Franklin Lakes is a suburban community with a canopy cover of about 65%. There has been pressure for greater development in the past twenty years which led to the passage of Ordinance No.1562 in March 2013. This ordinance amends provisions in prior legislation relating to land use, soil removal and trees. The following are the main provisions of Ordinance No. 1562. The Borough is also a Tree City and has its own Tree Farm. 1. The ordinance calls for the hiring of a tree specialist who is responsible for conservation of tree and soil in the Borough. 2. It creates a Shade Tree Commission that has full and exclusive control over planting and care of ornamental trees and bushes. It may require the removal of trees that harbor contagious diseases. It can oversee the care of new trees and require buffers where they are newly placed. 3.Tree removal and replacement. Perhaps the most important part of the ordinance because it prevents the removal of trees without a permit, prohibits more than 10% of tree removal from private property within a 5 year span. Trees must be properly planted and cared for, and violators must pay a fine of between \$200 and \$1500, imprisonment or community service for illegal tree removal. 4. The ordinance also prohibits soil removal of 100 cubic yards or more without a permit. 5. Developers or builders must replace lost trees to the Borough's satisfaction. The Borough has uploaded the 2013 Tree Ordinance, as well as two photos: the sign indicating that Franklin Lakes is a Tree City, and the Shade Tree Commission's Tree Farm. A signed copy of the Tree Protection Ordinance has been uploaded. It has been in effect since 2013 and is a part of the Borough's present Community Forestry Management Plan.

IMAGE: TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCE DOCUMENTATION
PDF: TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCE DOCUMENTATION
IMAGE: TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCE DOCUMENTATION

### **Community Forestry Management Plan & NJUCF Accreditation**

20 Points

**Program Summary:** The Franklin Lakes Shade Tree Commission was established in 1996 primarily to manage the removal of diseased elm trees. Since then its focus has shifted to the protection of existing tree resources as development of new and bigger housing and the accompanying removal of trees has increased. An ordance was passed to prevent the indiscriminate, unnecessary and excessive removal of healthy trees that also allows the borough to regulate and track tree removal. The borough holds money in escrow until developers and builders replace the trees they have taken down. Several diseases have also invaded the borough trees and the tree specialist, Kris Hasbrouck has informed residents on the necessary measures to help rehabilitate vulnerable Ash trees as well as others. Last year, Franklin Lakes applied for and received a \$25,000 grant from the NJ Urban & Community Forestry Service to reforest areas of the borough where trees have been lost. Planting will take place this spring. Verification of this forestry action has been uploaded.

PDF: COMMUNITY FORESTRY PLAN AND TREE COVER GOAL DOCUMENTATION

PDF: COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN AND NJUCF ACCREDITATION DOCUMENTATION

PDF: COMMUNITY FORESTRY PLAN AND TREE COVER GOAL DOCUMENTATION

### **Public Information & Engagement**

### **Municipal Communications Strategy**

10 Points

Program Summary: The communications team in the Borough Administrator's office is responsible for sending out information of all kinds from Borough Hall. We have many outlets which we use to distribute information to our residents, such as our weekly eblast, the latest buzz eblast, special event eblasts, website, press releases, Nixle, flyers and social media updates. The communications team manages the content on the Borough's website, coordinates all outreach about Franklin Lakes to our residents, press and media, and represents the city and the public at various committees and meetings on the local, county, and state level. As far as renewable resources go, the communications department is largely paperless, apart from the yearly Calendar mailing to residents. Public Communications channels which are used by the Borough of Franklin Lakes include: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, press releases to local papers, municipally controlled mailing and email lists, Nixle, municipal public access channel, Online and traditional community posting boards, Schools, BOE, PTA. The Borough of Franklin Lakes website is maintained on a regular basis. Our website includes email addresses and phone numbers for all municipal departments, contact information for emergency services (police, fire, EMS), a place to find updates and current news related to the municipality, an events calendar, links to social media account, email sign ups, a search box, a suggestion box.

PDF: MUNICIPAL COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY DOCUMENTATION

### Improve Public Engagement in Municipal Government

15 Points

**Program Summary:** The Borough of Franklin Lakes has established several effective strategies for the public to become more involved in municipal government. Residents can sign up on the municipal website to receive our weekly eblast which is full of valuable information for things happening in and around town. The Borough also regularly and broadly publicizes the date, time, and location of all regularly scheduled public meetings, such information can be found on our weekly eblast, as well as in our town calendar which is accessible via our home page. Our website also includes all department contact information and hours. In addition, the eblast includes a copy of the agenda for the upcoming Mayor and Council Meeting. Also, all meeting agendas and minutes are published on the Borough website and kept up to date, such information is available for public viewing at all times. The website for the Borough of Franklin Lakes (https://www.franklinlakes.org/) offers a quick link where residents can sign up for the weekly Eblast that the Borough sends out on Friday of each week. The eblast has an abundance of

information, including a section which lists all of the weekly meetings that are open to the public. The eblast also includes the agenda for the Mayor and Council meeting which takes place twice a month. In addition, each Mayor and Council agenda includes notification at the bottom that states the following: To receive notice of upcoming Mayor and Council meetings, with a link to the agenda, sign up for the Borough's weekly e-blast on the Borough website, www.franklinlakes. org. We have posted the email addresses for elected officials on our website. In addition, we hold meet and greet events which we call Meet the Mayor. We created a Senior Transportation Survey and circulated it via email and on our website.

PDF: IMPROVE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTATION

### **Online Municipal Public Service Systems**

15 Points

**Program Summary:** The Borough of Franklin Lakes is committed to providing consistent communication and easy and efficient interaction for the residents of the Borough to create a sustainable community. We have a very user friendly website which encourages interaction with the Borough. We focus on providing municipal services in a more efficient way to our residents. From the homepage, visitors can view department information (including contact information) and hours, register for Nixle or our eblast, pay their taxes on-line, view the Borough Calendar, view forms/application, report an issue which is monitored through an automated tracking system, or get information on recycling, just to name a few.

PDF: ONLINE MUNICIPAL PUBLIC SERVICE SYSTEMS DOCUMENTATION

#### **Waste Management**

### **Community Paper Shredding Day**

5 Points

**Program Summary:** The Borough of Franklin Lakes has committed to improving its recycling rates through education, specifically e-blasts, newsletters, film nights, exhibitions and Shred Day Events. The last of these have been held for several years and are organized by the Recycling Coordinator and the DPW in conjunction with All Shred and Waste Management. The event is held at the Borough's DPW where the forecourt is large enough for the shredding truck to park and

residents to drive through (Document 'Shred Day picture'). The Shred truck parks on the left hand side of the forecourt and residents drive past the truck, circle round park in next to the truck. Once there, DPW & Waste Management staff check there is no unwanted material with the paper, unload the paper into bins and the bins are lifted up and emptied into the truck where they are shredded. The truck contains a camera to observe the shredding if residents require that. On the day of the event there are signs directing participants to the location of the truck. Shred day is promoted solely through the Town's website, weekly e-blasts and the police sign in the few days before the event takes place. An example of the e-blast is shown in Document 'Shred Day E-blast'. The Borough also publicizes the county shredding events on the website reminding residents when and where they are taking place. The Borough holds two shred days a year, one in April and the second in October. They are advertised in the Borough E-blast which has been uploaded. The tonnage from the two shred days this year, 4/5/19 and 10/11/19 have been verified by Frank J. Vitarelli of Safe Guard Document Destruction, Inc. 877 301-5800.

**WORD: SHRED DAY PICTURE** 

PDF: COMMUNITY PAPER SHREDDING DAY DOCUMENTATION
PDF: COMMUNITY PAPER SHREDDING DAY DOCUMENTATION
PDF: COMMUNITY PAPER SHREDDING DAY DOCUMENTATION

### **Recycling Depot**

10 Points

**Program Summary:** In 2014 the Borough of Franklin Lakes started renovating its Recycling Center (drop off area). At that time the facility consisted of two small dumpsters for commingled items, one for paper and cardboard, a trailer for electronic items and a walled in area for metal. Access was 8 am to 3 pm Monday to Friday. The dumpsters frequently overflowed leaving the area unsightly to local residents. See pictures from original submission. The new depot was moved to a different location within the DPW where there was more space. In August 2014 the area was leveled, the area fenced on three sides and existing dumpsters moved to the new area. A ramp installed to make it easier to access the dumpsters. (Picture Recycling Center August 2014) In September 2015, concrete pads were put down and two 35 yard dumpsters installed in the recycling depot, one for cardboard/paper and one for commingled. The existing container for electronics is still in use and there is an open space for metal and appliances. (Picture Recycling Center Cardboard, Metal and Electronic) In 2016 three bins for the collection of textiles and one for books were added. (Picture Recycling Center Commingled and Textile). The Recycling center has been open to the public continually during these renovations. 2019 - It is now gated at night and weekends to prevent abuse by those dropping off unrecyclable junk. The center located at 500 DeKorte Drive behind the police department easily accessible from the street where the police station and borough hall are located. Residents are informed about the center through the borough website and annual newsletter (See 2018 - 2019 Recycling Newsletter which explains about the center and a number of other facts about recycling. It also asks residents to cut down on plastic bags. Residents also now have access to the Recycle Coach from which they can get instantaneous information regarding recycling in the borough.

IMAGE: RECYCLING CENTER DIRECTIONS
PDF: RECYCLING DEPOT DOCUMENTATION

IMAGE: RECYCLING CENTER COMMINGLED AND TEXTILE

IMAGE: RECYCLING CENTER CARDBOARD, METAL & ELECTRONIC

Program Summary: The Franklin Lakes Environmental Commission has acknowledged the issues surrounding the use of plastic bags and is working directly with the Borough to promote the use of reusable bags. Primarily, the Environmental Commission determined that in order to achieve a compliance with this program, the residents of Franklin Lakes needed to be educated on the harmful effects that plastic bags have on the environment. The Commissioners developed a flyer entitled "Say No To Plastic Bags", which graphically described the dangers of plastic bags. While it is not the town's intention to impose a ban on plastic bags as some communities have previously done, the Borough hopes to have near compliance within the coming year. During the winter of 2018, the environmental clubs of the Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High Schools and Bergen County Academies became involved in eliminating plastic bags, and they visited the Bergen County Border Freeholders in an attempt to establish a county-wide law advocating for the abolishment of plastic bags. Soon after this, a distribution program was enacted, which included having two sizes of Franklin Lakes reusable bags made, as well as the informative flyers. Throughout the spring and summer of 2018, the members of the Environmental Commission and volunteers began distributing free Franklin Lakes' reusable bags and flyers at the town's 4 major local shopping centers, the Municipal Building where it is on display, and the Borough's outdoor movie nights. Residents are urged to stop by the Municipal Building and pick up their free reusable bags. The supporting documentation includes a "Say No To Plastic Bags" flyer, as well as a model of the town's reusable bags.

PDF: REUSABLE BAG EDUCATION PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION

IMAGE: REUSABLE BAG EDUCATION PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION