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Hammonton Green Committee receives Bronze Level status

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HAMMONTON — Dan Bachalis and the Hammonton Green Committee are not easily satisfied, and they will continue their work educating and showing the town how to live in a more environmentally conscious manner, and also save the community money.

The organization, which Bachalis chairs, was honored at the Hammonton Town Council's January meeting for attaining Bronze Level status from Sustainable Jersey, but the Green Committee already has its sights set on achieving Silver Level status.

"The primary goal goes back to our formation in response to the mayor's committee on climate change and that is to help the town, not just the government, but the wider Hammonton community, to

reduce the amount of carbon we produce," Bachalis said. "An additional goal which follows the first in a way and expands, is to demonstrate and encourage ways of loving that are more sustainable environmentally than the things we might be doing now."

There is a criteria set by Sustainable Jersey, which awards points for environmentally-friendly achievements.

"I think it is an outstanding achievement," said Hammonton Councilman Michael Torrissi, who works closely with the Green Committee. "They put in a lot of hard work,

time and effort."

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The Green Committee's accomplishments include but not limited to the Green Day event, putting on various educational seminars and workshops, created a rain garden behind the library, the farmer's market, adopting a stretch of road near Hammonton Lake Park and the annual cleanup at the lake.

Bachalis is quick to credit committee members, a long list of local organizations and the citizens of Hammonton for helping the effort to start and gain steam over the years.

He appreciates how much the town has backed the committee's effort to help the environment.

"I think it's going pretty well," Bachalis said. "Would I like to go faster? Sure. I would like to cross the finish line this year, but we are really happy with the progress we have made.

"We made progress across the board as a community. There are dozens of groups that have done things and are doing things in a way that shows that we can be green without being radical. We don't have to be extreme to be green."

Through the effort the town is becoming more conscious of helping the town environmentally.

"We have seen a real positive response," Bachalis said. "We have seen a growing response every year to the kinds of issues we raise. There is a growing environmental consciousness in town. I think it has taken off leaps and bounds."

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