

# Upper Saddle River Town Square

to encourage greater community involvement

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[Saddle River Valley Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt — NEW DATE Sat. April 7th, 10 AM →](#)



## Feedback **Understanding Sustainable Jersey**

Posted on [Friday, March 30, 2012](#) by [Karen Miller](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Many of you have read that Upper Saddle River has recently earned its bronze certification with Sustainable Jersey; a program for NJ communities to follow to become leaders in environmental sustainability. This significant achievement was earned by accomplishing rigorous and important environmental actions within the Sustainable Jersey framework. I applaud the Borough's dedication to maintaining our beautiful town and to being responsible stewards of the environment. Because further actions within the program will be an on-going municipal effort, I thought I would give an overview of the program and describe the Borough's notable accomplishments to date.

Once a municipality decides to go for certification, a green team is established to drive and manage the program. The green team consists of representatives from various community committees, boards and entities to ensure a coordinated municipal effort. In the case of USR, the Green Team has been directed under the determined leadership of Environmental Committee Chair, Barbara Sena.

The Green Team, representing a wide range of community interests, selects which actions to pursue in order to reach certification. Each completed action earns a determined amount of points. Bronze certification required completing 2 out of 7 priority actions and reaching a total of 150 points within 6 of 16 sustainable categories.

## THINKING ABOUT MAKING A COMMENT?

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## RECENT COMMENTS

- [Mark North](#): More have to help Arnie. I was raking the paths in Lions Park for five years. Lets...
- [RitaHagen](#): Shared services should be considered. There is a 14 member northwest Bergen town...
- [Arnie Friedman](#): I would like to see the Tree Farm remain an open space. I think a passive use...
- [Angela Sacco Torres](#): I would encourage all community members to attend the budget meeting on...
- [TJ Baan](#): I am strongly opposed to shared (diluted) services. USR already has the infrastructure...

Once certified, communities can apply for grant opportunities offered by Sustainable Jersey and its partners.

The following is a very brief overview of USR's actions and accomplishments:

- **Education for Sustainability:** Establishment of an on-going river assessment program and River Day for Cavallini 6th graders
- **Green Challenges and Community Programs:** Unplugging Electronics, Cancelling Catalogs, Composting and Switching to energy efficient light bulbs
- **Benchmarks for Borough Hall, DPW, and the Police Buildings:** Tracking and assessing energy usage and costs to help identify opportunities for improved energy and cost efficiencies
- **NJ Healthy Town Certification:** Only 10 municipalities have been certified as a NJ Healthy Town. USR achieved its certification by successfully implementing the Mayor's Wellness Program.
- **No Idling Actions** including a new USR policy, resolution, signage and awareness program.
- **An active Environmental Committee** which participates in USR Day, River Day. etc. and which has launched numerous environmental initiatives such as cut it and leave it, pesticide reduction and USR make it count.
- **Upper Saddle River Shade Tree Commission-Community Forestry Plan and Canopy Goal**
- **Sustainable Planning Community visioning report – Vision 2020 and Vision 2020 update**
- **Waste Management –** establishment of a recycling depot, USR Make it Count Campaign, promotion of waste management efforts, environmental movie series launch – Bag It etc.
- **Community Paper Shredding Day**
- **Waste Reduction –** Cut it and Leave it program, A Green Landscapers Packet, promotion of initiative etc.
- **Innovative Demonstration Projects –** solar panel installation at Cavallini School

As a member of the Green Team I can tell you that reaching certification requires completion of very worthwhile initiatives. I urge residents to go to [www.sustainablejersey.com](http://www.sustainablejersey.com) and click on participating communities on the top of the screen, find USR's green balloon and proceed to read our Borough's complete report.

Karen

Written by: Karen Miller on Friday, March 30, 2012.

This entry was posted in [Green](#), [Quality of Life](#), [What's New?](#). Bookmark the

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## USR COMMUNITY

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- [Bergen Highlands United Methodist Church](#)
- [Church of the Presentation](#)
- [Northern Highlands Regional High School](#)
- [Old Stone Church](#)
- [Saddle River Cultural Center](#)
- [Saddle River Valley Lions Club](#)
- [Saddle River Valley Newcomers Club](#)
- [St. Gabriel the Archangel](#)
- [Upper Saddle River Ambulance Corps](#)
- [Upper Saddle River Educational Foundation](#)
- [Upper Saddle River Fire Department](#)
- [Upper Saddle River Historical Society](#)
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