



Sustainable Jersey Certification Report

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

Stratford Boro was certified on October 14, 2014 with 150 points. Listed below is information regarding Stratford Boro's Sustainable Jersey efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Jersey contact for Stratford Boro is:

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Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Stratford Boro was approved for in 2014 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.

Community Partnership & Outreach

Create Green Team

10 Points

 Bronze Required

Program Summary: The Stratford Green Team is a collaborative effort in which community volunteers and local business partners work together with municipal representatives to foster full community involvement in reaching sustainable environmental and fiscally responsible goals. The goals of the Stratford Green Team are to identify concrete actions to become a sustainable

community, provide clear guidance to enable residents mark progress on each action and to improve efficiency and cut waste in the community. The Stratford Green Team held its first meeting on December 6th 2010 and a resolution was passed by the town of Stratford on December 14th 2010 recognizing the Stratford Green Team as an established organization with the community. On October 1st 2011, at the Stratford Fall Festival, the Borough of Stratford's Sustainability Partnership Agreement was officially introduced. The Agreement was signed by key members of the community, town and state, including the governor and other state representatives. The Stratford Green Team has participated in many local events in town. The Green Team was a substantial part of the Stratford Fall Festival 2011 in organizing a Green Fair component to the festival. In April of 2011 the Green Team was represented in the School PTO Vender Fair. We also participated in a charity walk for a local resident in November and we were present in the town Christmas Tree Lighting in early December. The Stratford Green Team has also worked with the Stratford School District to help set up the Stratford School Green Teams. We helped to educate and promote recycling, organizing a tree planting, gardening and clean-up events. The Stratford Green Team is dedicated in its drive to become a certified sustainable community which will provide a better place for us and future generations to live and grow.

PDF: [STRATFORD GREEN TEAM RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [STRATFORD TIMES SUMMER 2011 GREEN TEAM](#)

PDF: [2012 2013 GREEN TEAM DOCS](#)

Energy

Fleet Inventory

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: The Borough of Stratford has a small fleet of borough-operated vehicles. The Police department represents the majority of the fleet. The public works department makes up the rest of the equipment. The police department is the only department that has a written maintenance procedure. The police replacement rotation is set up in a certain manor to get the most life out a patrol vehicle to minimize the burden on the borough. The replacement of a cruiser takes is around ten to twelve years. How this works is the newest cars are run around the clock since it is the most fuel-efficient and is most likely not going to have mechanical issues. The Fleet makeup contains both SUV and sedans. The SUV do patrol but they are reserved for certain officers or certain situations. The SUV's are ran twenty-four hours when we have storms such as Sandy or big snowstorms. The public works is strictly trucks that vary in size but they are the proper size for the jobs needed. The trucks tow a lot of equipment, and haul different material, nothing more than they can handle. The only time that the public work trucks are ran around the clock is when there is a snowstorm and they have to clear the roads or in a storm they are working to keep the storm drains clear to avoid as much flooding as possible. As for maintenance records they are not any for the public work trucks. They do not have records because they do not send the trucks out to be worked on they are able to do most of the work right in the shop. If it is a major repair that they do not feel comfortable to do themselves then it sent out to an auto shop.

EXCEL: [FLEET INVENTORY DOCUMENTATION](#)

Food

Community Gardens

10 Points

Program Summary: The Stratford Community & School garden is located in one of the courtyards at the Stratford Yellin Elementary School. This action was started and designed by the Yellin's Green Team Faculty Advisor, Barbara Carlson. Shortly after the start of the Garden in the Spring of 2010, the students joined forces with the Stratford Green Team and Municipality. The garden is support by the Yellin Green Team, the Stratford Schools, students and staff (including the summer programs), parents of Green Team members, the Stratford Green Team, as well by the Stratford mayor and Public Works. We have also had good support from organizations like Lowes, Target, The Girl Scouts, the Rutgers University Cooperative Extension, Master Gardeners Assoc., and the AmeriCorp WaterShed Ambassador Program. We estimate that 180 work hours was consumed in the past year creating, planting and maintaining the school garden. Volunteers of all of the groups listed above contributed to this time. Some plants were given in kind with a valued of \$150 worth of donations. Additionally, with a grant from Lowes, we purchased another \$300.00 worth of plants. We spent about \$800.00 on garden supplies, including tools and a shed. Part of the shed was paid through the Lowe's grant, however the Stratford School District also provided in kind donations for the shed at a value of \$200.00 dollars. Additionally the school's maintenance staff built the shed totaling about 20 hours of work. Workers also provided approximately 40 hours of service for the creation of the rain garden. The approximate value of staff labor contributions from the school district was about \$1,000.00 During the 2012-2013 School year Barbara Carlson created lesson plans which she used to help with providing education around gardening and the impact of water These plans were shared with the students at Yellin School. During the year, the Stratford Public Works helps maintain and clean the area around the garden. We have harvested a wide assortment of crops: zucchini, peppers, tomatoes, basil, eggplant, and cucumbers and pumpkins.

PDF: [COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL GARDENS DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT](#)

Innovative Projects

Innovative Community Project 1

10 Points

Program Summary: The Borough of Stratford, has been doing an annual event for collecting concrete. Each June (full month) a dumpser is placed in the Borough parking lot to allow the residence of Stratford to dump any concrete they have. Each year the dumpster if filled.offering the residence of Stratford a full size dumpster

WORD: [OTHER DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [OTHER DOCUMENTATION](#)

Innovative Community Project 2

10 Points

Program Summary: As a new group we were faced with many challenges even with the support from the municipality. We performed a brain storming session, resulting with a concept of developing connections and sharing what existing resources our community had to offer. The outcome was what we now referred to as the Stratford Sustainability Partnership Agreement. The purpose of the Stratford Sustainable Partnership Agreement is to raise the consciousness and commitment to green initiatives among those we consider key partners: elected officials at all levels, school administrators, business executives and faith-based organizational leaders. Simply put, our goal for the partnership is for each partner to explore incorporating the benefits of green options in current and future operations/planning then working with the partners to use the power of synergy to make it happen expeditiously and economically. At the same time by gaining support from our partners, when actions come up that would pertain to them or that they would have the needed skills, knowledge, etc., they would commit those resources to help the Green team accomplish the task at hand. We learned a lot along the way from creating to implementing this project and realized that is project will always be an evolving never ending project. Evolving due to the fact that we will always have leadership changes from organizations, elected officials, old business leaving and new business coming to town. We also figured that if we managed this correctly, this will be the core foundation in which our Green team will be successful. We use the term successful as in the ability to expanded outreach efforts, and continuing to take on and complete more actions making our community a better place to live in. We believe this project is a perfect example of Sustainability.

PDF: [PROJECT BACKGROUND](#)

PDF: [PARTNERSHIP AND ELECTED SUPPORT](#)

PDF: [COMMUNITY CONNECTION PRESENTATION](#)

EXCEL: [COMMUNITY TRACKING SHEET](#)

Land Use & Transportation

Sustainable Land Use Pledge

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: On January 8th, 2013 the Town Council pass resolution 2013:26 which authorized to Approve Pledge of Support to Sustainable Land Use. The resolution was discussed at the Monthly Town Council Agenda Meeting and Joint Land Use Planning Board on 01/03/2013 and 12/27/2012 respectively and again at the Town Council Meeting on 01/08/2013. The resolution was distributed to the various boards listed above at thier regularly scheduled monthly meetings in March 2013. Stratford Borough would like to acknowledge that many of the issues addressed in this resolution are already incorporated into the master plan. Most recently we have been working on redevelopment plans on the two brown field sites which incorporates a mix use of the sites and one of which proposes a transportation project for a connective roadway connecting the Lindenwold speed line to Kennedy Hospital and UMDNJ. The Borough has hired Bach Associates

for this visioning process. As of August 2013 the visioning process is near complete awaiting final review then approval from the council.

PDF: [SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLEDGE DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLEDGE EMAIL](#)

Natural Resources

Community Forestry Management Plan & NJUCF Accreditation

20 Points

Program Summary: The Stratford Shade Tree Commission (SSTC) was created by borough council nearly forty years ago; Since 1999 Stratford has received continuous, annual designation as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Commission. We are pleased to be among those municipalities that can now offer a reasoned estimate of the tree canopy percentage in the borough. The SSTC employed the US Forest Service's i-Tree software program, specifically the i-Tree Canopy program in computing an estimate of its tree canopy percentage. Stratford has a five-year community forestry plan with implementation in progress to work toward the achievement of the canopy cover implementation goal. The plan was adopted by the commission, approved by Stratford Borough Council and signed and certified by Stratford's mayor in 2010; it was approved by The New Jersey Community Forestry Program. The commission and the borough have also received continuous annual recertification through state approval of its Annual Accomplishment Plan, which documents progress toward plan objectives. The plan is targeted for updating and renewal in 2015

PDF: [COMMUNITY FORESTRY PLAN AND CANOPY GOAL DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [TREE COVERAGE GOAL DOCUMENTATION](#)

Tree Maintenance Programs

10 Points

Program Summary: The Stratford Shade Tree Commission and the Borough of Stratford work in together to implement their Tree maintenance program utilizing the Borough Public Works, outside companies, and Atlantic City Electric when and if needed. The funding for the tree maintenance program is predicated on the basis of availability of resources, including dedicated line item funding for the Stratford Shade Tree Commission's (SSTC) activities, emergency funds, such as clean-up and tree and stump removal resultant from storms, and in-kind activity by the borough's Department of Public Works ("DPW"). The total funding has remained viable through the SSTC's and the borough's successful efforts to secure corporate and state funding. The Stratford Shade Tree Commission and the Borough of Stratford removed a total of fifty-six trees from 2010-2012, and replaced thirty-eight of the removals, for a net change of (18) in the community forest inventory

WORD: [TREE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS DOCUMENTATION](#)

Sustainability & Climate Planning

Community Asset Mapping

10 Points

Program Summary: The Borough of Stratford, in partnership with the Stratford Business and Civic Association and the local office of Prudential Fox & Roach Realty, creates and distributes a calendar on to all Stratford residents and businesses, which contains our Community Asset Map.

PDF: [COMMUNITY ASSET MAP](#)

WORD: [COMMUNITY ASSET MAP DESCRIPTION](#)

Community Visioning

10 Points

Program Summary: The Stratford Green team hosted public workshops consisting of 20 community members on average during the months of March, April, and May 2012. Participants ranged from students to seniors and represented businesses, faith groups, education, community groups, and local government. Everyone came to the workshops with their own unique set of talents, backgrounds, and opinions, but they were united in their desire to foster and improve the community. The Stratford Green Team conducted the Vision process using the Charrettes Model. The mission was to provide open forums to gather input from the community at large to assess/gauge how we are as a community today and how they would like to see Stratford in the Future with the goal in mind to build a healthy physical environment, a strong local economy, and an equitable society with the formation of a shared vision for sustainability. A wheel of influence was created to move the vision forward with the goal of engaging key groups/organizations, and community members to join in and expand the reach of these initiatives. Key groups/Organizations recognized during the workshops included: Stratford Shade Tree Commission, Stratford land use Board, Town Council, Mayor and Borough Clerk, Parks and Recreations, Historical Society, Stratford School Board, Superintendent, and the Stratford Business and Civic Association. Initial meeting dates, as well as preliminary goals and agendas for group/organization were also developed. The Community Vision was presented to the Town Council on Tuesday January 8th, 2013 by outlining the process used, participants, methods of communication used and the time frame it took. The final vision statement was officially approved by Stratford Borough's Town Council (Resolution 2013:27) and endorsed by the Stratford Green team. The approved vision was distributed to all municipal boards and commissions, and shared with all organizations that participated.

WORD: [COMMUNITY VISIONING DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [COMMUNITY VISIONING DOCUMENTATION](#)