



PROJECT PROFILES

The fourteen recipients of the 2009 Sustainable Jersey small grants include both large and small municipalities in urban, suburban, and rural settings and spanning eleven New Jersey counties: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Essex, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Union, and Warren. This diverse group of winners showcases the variety of actions being undertaken in pursuit of Sustainable Jersey Certification across the state. Projects awarded address a broad scope of issues such as energy, water resources, education, and community food production. Many awardees will implement public outreach campaigns, strategies for youth engagement and partnerships with community organizations.

Township of Hardwick (\$25,000)

The Hardwick Township Municipal Green Team will implement *Project Evergreen*, a series of public programs and partnerships that will serve as models of sustainability education in rural municipalities. Outreach events will include a "Green Architecture and Alternative Energy House Tour" and "FEED AND FILM: A Sustainable Potluck Dinner, Local Chicken Barbeque and Environment Film Night." Local schoolchildren will develop civic skills as participants in "Making Good Choices: A Mock Youth Planning Board" and engage in hands-on fieldwork through the "White Lake Water Monitoring Project." Additional actions for water quality will include the development of a Water Conservation Ordinance and construction of a Rain Water Garden. *Project Evergreen* represents a partnership between the Hardwick Township Municipality, the Hardwick Township Historical Society, seven neighboring municipal recreation commissions and a number of non-profits including Foodshed Alliance and The Nature Conservancy.

Township of Livingston (\$25,000)

The Township of Livingston will conduct a feasibility study regarding the adaptation of the municipal wastewater treatment plant to reclaim and reuse water for beneficial uses, such as landscape irrigation, street sweeping, sewer jetting and field maintenance. The Livingston Water Pollution Control Facility currently discharges approximately 2.5 million gallons of water per day into the Passaic River. Beneficial reuse of this water would conserve fresh water resources, provide an unrestricted water source during droughts and possibly postpone future expansions of water supply facilities. This project will continue the initiative of the NJDEP Division of Water Quality Reclaimed Water for Beneficial Reuse Task Force.

Town of Morristown (\$25,000)

The Town of Morristown will implement strategies to improve the urban tree cover in collaboration with Morristown Partnership and the sustainability-focused Morristown Step Ahead program. Sustainable Jersey support will widen the scope of a Community Forestry Plan already funded through a \$3,000 matching grant from the NJ Forest service. Expanding this initiative, additional funds will be invested in technical training and a computerized assessment of municipal trees along with public education and engagement in tree inventorying, maintenance and stewardship. Additionally, 100 shade trees will be planted as a "catch-up" investment in repopulating the dwindling urban tree canopy. These trees will provide for an immediate mitigation of green house gasses and enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors to Morristown.

City of Trenton (\$25,000)

The City of Trenton will develop a sustainability educational campaign in the East Trenton Neighborhood in partnership with four non-profits, an elementary school, a branch library and local churches. This educational and outreach campaign will include hands-on activities and the provision of energy improvements to show residents the multiple ways and benefits of incorporating “green activities” into their daily living. Project components will include a “Sustainable East Trenton” team of students, residents, and businesses, and an after school science program related to Assunpink Creek. The project will also encourage the utilization of PSE&G Energy Audits and the County Weatherization Program to help neighborhood residents and businesses save energy and reduce utility bills. Outreach programs will assist senior citizens and low-income residents with modest home repairs to enable participation in these energy programs. Non-profit partners include CityWorks, Isles, Inc., Better Community Housing and Habitat for Humanity.

City of Asbury Park (\$10,000)

The City of Asbury Park will support urban food production at the Cookman Ave Farm under the direction of The Garden of Joy and in collaboration with a broad range of community organizations and businesses. The farm will be modeled after other successful projects such as the Brick City Urban Farm in Newark. The rear portion of the 30' x 150' Cookman Ave site will be used to produce thousands of pounds of produce using specialized Earth Box containers. SPIN (small plot intensive) methods will be used to demonstrate the speed, flexibility and scalability of urban farming and community educational programs will complement the vegetable production.

Eastampton Township (\$10,000)

Eastampton Township will incorporate innovative and sustainable landscaping at the new Buttonwood Park Recreation Building with an educational and outreach component. A locally owned landscape company will create a low maintenance design that utilizes native species and rain gardens. Recycled wood chips from the township’s brush pick up program and compost from the leaf pick up program will be incorporated to the project. Residents will be engaged through the township website, the summer park program, senior programs, and at a “fun day” event.

Borough of Highland Park (\$10,000)

Highland Park will create school-based organic edible gardens. Replacing portions of lawn on school grounds, four gardens—one each at Irving (grades preK-1), Bartle (grades 2-5), and the Middle (grades 6-8) and High (grades 9-12) schools—will be constructed, planted, and maintained with the participation of each school’s student population and young people hired for summer “green jobs.” Garden produce will be incorporated to the school cafeteria menus whenever possible. Composting school food waste for use in the garden, as part of a curriculum module about composting, will be another component of the project.

Borough of Lindenwold (\$10,000)

The Borough of Lindenwold will create a Sustainability Master Plan Element that includes the development of ordinances related to energy use. Borough officials will work with the citizens of Lindenwold to create a sustainability plan that seeks to reduce the community’s ecological footprint and considers all aspects of sustainability including land use, green building ordinances, open space conservation, transportation, roadway improvements, energy, and recycling. To maintain the character of neighborhoods while encouraging sustainability, new ordinances may address components of green building design and requirements related to small wind turbines and solar panel installations.

Maplewood Township (\$10,000)

The Green Team of Maplewood Township will connect low income households to energy efficiency measures by promoting the Comfort Partners Program of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. Following a

population analysis to identify target households, volunteers from Maplewood's Environmental Advisory Committee, the Hilton and Hillcrest neighborhood associations, local faith communities, and school organizations will mobilize to promote the project. Students served by the non-profit organization YouthNet will learn about energy efficiency principles and convey this knowledge to their families and friends. YouthNet students will also reach out to their neighbors through door-to-door campaigns.

Borough of Milltown (\$10,000)

The Borough of Milltown will complete Municipal and Community Carbon Footprints to better understand the current usage of energy in all its forms. Analyzed data will show total energy use by the Municipality and its greenhouse gas equivalent, and the same for the whole community of the Borough of Milltown. These footprints will provide a baseline from which a Climate Action Plan can be developed to target efforts to rapidly reduce energy usage at the municipality and at the community level. An outreach campaign will educate the public about the results and serve as a catalyst for community actions toward sustainability.

Township of Ocean (Monmouth County) (\$10,000)

The Township of Ocean in Monmouth County will implement RecycleBank, a rewards and loyalty program that creates incentives for residents to increase the amount of material set out for curbside recycling. Based on the amount recycled, households can accumulate rewards points of up to \$400 per year that can be redeemed at various local and national retailers. An aggressive and comprehensive community outreach program will communicate the benefits of participation. Ocean's RecycleBank project hopes to significantly increase the amount of recyclable material that is diverted from landfills, creating a substantial savings to both the township and its residents.

City of Somers Point (\$10,000)

The City of Somers Point will construct rain gardens to capture and treat polluted rainwater runoff. Three sites (the Senior Citizens Center, the Library and Kennedy Park) will demonstrate installations under different conditions of light exposure. Elementary school children will participate in garden design and the selection of native plants with assistance from the Somers Point Garden Club. Following site preparation by the public works department, the gardens will be planted by teams of schoolchildren, senior citizens and community volunteers. Educational signage will be posted and ongoing care for the rain gardens will be integrated into the school curriculum.

City of Summit (\$10,000)

The City of Summit will implement a city-wide Green Business Recognition Program to encourage local businesses to adopt sustainability practices, and to encourage residents to patronize participating businesses. The effort coordinates with the Central Retail Business District Master Plan and the Action Plan for a Sustainable Summit. In addition to attracting new green sector businesses, a Green Business Recognition Program will offer a rewards system to encourage existing local businesses to use sustainable materials, reduce environmental impacts, lower energy consumption and boost economic efficiency. Through a buy local campaign and marketing of the downtown shopping center as a Green Business District, Summit hopes to entice more diverse businesses to rent space and encourage locally owned retail stores.

City of Vineland (\$10,000)

The City of Vineland will purchase and install a 50' tall, 3.7 kw wind turbine for Landis Sewerage Authority to reduce the local carbon footprint. An active participant in the City of Vineland Sustainability Team, the Landis Sewerage Authority aims to become the greenest wastewater treatment plant in New Jersey. As the owner and operator of its own electrical utility, the city will benefit directly from reduced load on the electrical grid. This project will serve as a model demonstration of small-scale generation of wind energy.