

STATUS UPDATE: Water Conservation Ordinance

Aug. 18, 2010

Sustainable Jersey is pleased to release, for comment, a draft version of a pioneering water conservation ordinance. The most current research and science now suggest that last year's version (2009) of the ordinance will not lead to the kinds of water savings that correlate to sustainability. The new draft ordinance represents a significant change from the previous version, and we welcome your feedback on the new draft at this time (Send feedback to rubyp@tcnj.edu). We will provide the new water conservation ordinance with full guidance for the 2011 certification round and recommend that municipalities wait to adopt the fully revised and updated version next year.

As the new ordinance is not yet finalized, it is not eligible for points in 2010, however we will accept the old 2009 ordinance for points and as a priority action towards 2010 certification to help municipalities complete their certification applications in time for the September 15th deadline. We uploaded a slightly updated version of the 2009 ordinance in case you need it for this year's certification deadline.

While we want to avoid creating obstacles to municipalities pursuing certification this year, we do not recommend adopting this 2009 ordinance on good policy grounds. Again, if you have not already passed it, we strongly recommend that you wait until 2011 to pass the new ordinance. Sustainable Jersey will only award points for the 2011 water conservation ordinance starting next year.

Sustainable Jersey is committed to providing municipalities with the best possible guidance on sustainability actions. Thank you for your patience while we continue to create and finalize this state of the art ordinance.