

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# **Sustainable Jersey™ to Honor the Top Green Municipalities and the First 34 Certified Towns at Awards Lunch**

## **November 17 at the New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City**

**Trenton, NJ (November 12, 2009)** – Sustainable Jersey will present the first-ever Sustainable Jersey Awards, during a luncheon held at the Sheraton Hotel in Atlantic City to eight visionary mayors who have demonstrated their town’s achievements in the Sustainable Jersey program. Awards will be given for innovation, leadership and collaboration in addition to four Sustainability Champion awards for the top certification point-getters. The event will also include recognition of the 34 extraordinary towns that have met the rigorous requirements to achieve Sustainable Jersey certification. These towns are the Sustainable Jersey pioneers that can forever boast that they were the first, having achieved certification in year one of the program.

New Jersey is the first state in the nation to have a comprehensive sustainability program for communities that links certification with strong state and private financial incentives, and a fully resourced program of technical support and training. “The Sustainable Jersey awards luncheon is one of the most important events of the year,” said Fred Profeta, Maplewood’s Deputy Mayor for the Environment and Chair of the New Jersey League of Municipalities’ Mayors Committee for a Green Future. “We have more than three-hundred and twenty people attending to salute the first-rate municipalities that have led the way in developing sustainability initiatives in New Jersey.”

Certified towns and award winners have excelled in areas such as improving energy efficiency and health and wellness, smart land use and transportation, reducing waste, sustaining local economies, protecting natural resources, and addressing diversity and equity. “These are exceptional towns with outstanding programs that set an example for all of us because they have taken the responsibility to cultivate a better environment,” said Randall Solomon, Sustainable Jersey program partner and Executive Director of the New Jersey Sustainable State Institute at Rutgers University.

In addition to the award presentations, key note speakers will include project partners Joseph Fiordaliso, Commissioner of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and John Watson, Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Eric Svenson, Vice President, Environmental Health and Safety for PSE&G as well as David Grant, President and CEO of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation that underwrites the program.

### **The 2009 Sustainable Jersey award winners are as follows:**

Sustainability Champion--Large Municipality Category:	Woodbridge
Sustainability Champion--Medium Municipality Category*:	Ocean City and Summit
Sustainability Champion--Small Municipality Category:	Woodbine
<i>* There was a tie in this category so two municipalities received the award.</i>	
Sustainable Jersey Leadership Award:	Maplewood
Sustainable Jersey Innovation Award:	Cherry Hill
Sustainable Jersey Collaboration Award:	Chatham Township and Chatham Borough

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**The 2009 Sustainable Jersey Certified Communities are as follows:**

1. Asbury Park City
2. Belmar
3. Berkeley Heights
4. Bernards
5. Bloomfield
6. Chatham Township
7. East Brunswick
8. Edison
9. Galloway
10. Hillsborough
11. Kearny
12. Lawrence
13. Leonia
14. Livingston
15. Manalapan
16. Manchester
17. Maplewood
18. Montclair
19. Montgomery
20. Morristown
21. Mt. Olive
22. Ocean City
23. Oceanport
24. Parsippany-Troy Hills
25. River Edge
26. Rutherford
27. Saddle River
28. South Orange Village
29. Summit City
30. Union
31. Woodbine
32. Woodbridge
33. Cherry Hill
34. North Brunswick

**About Sustainable Jersey**

Sustainable Jersey is a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey that want to go green, control costs and save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term. The innovative new program is an initiative of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities' Mayors Committee for a Green Future, the Municipal Land Use Center at the College of New Jersey, the New Jersey Sustainable State Institute at Rutgers University, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the Rutgers Center for Green Building, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, and a coalition of New Jersey non-profits, state agencies, and experts in the field. To learn more about the Sustainable Jersey certification visit [www.sustainablejersey.com](http://www.sustainablejersey.com). Program sponsors include the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, PSE&G, New Jersey Natural Gas, Church and Dwight, Covanta Energy, Nautilus Solar, the Smart Energy Group and CDS-Xerox.

**About the Sustainable Jersey Awards**

- **SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION AWARDS:** This award recognizes municipalities that have scored the most points in the Sustainable Jersey certification program in three population categories: small (0-5,000), medium (5,000-50,000) and large (50,000+).
- **LEADERSHIP AWARD:** This award recognizes one municipality that contributes most to the Sustainable Jersey program through demonstrated regional or statewide leadership. This award recognizes sustainability efforts that make the most of local resources through exceptional dedication and leadership.
- **INNOVATION AWARD:** This award recognizes one municipality that contributes most to Sustainable Jersey by pioneering or testing a significant innovation. The award recognizes creativity, originality, and forward-thinking that can lead to new best practices and strategies by which we pursue sustainability.
- **COLLABORATION AWARD:** This award recognizes two or more municipalities that worked in partnership to implement a program or project. This award recognizes that many sustainability issues must be addressed on a regional scale or require the pooled resources of more than one partner.
- **2009 SUSTAINABLE JERSEY CERTIFICATION:** The Sustainable Jersey certified municipalities submitted documentation that showed that they achieved the balance of the required certification actions, meeting the minimum of 100 action points. In addition to reaching 100 points, each community had to create a Green Team and select at least 2 out of 4 priority action options: Energy Audits for Municipal Facilities, Municipal Carbon Footprint, Sustainable Land Use Pledge, and Water Conservation Ordinance.

**Sustainable Jersey Awards Luncheon at the New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference**

**Date:** Tuesday, November 17, 2009, 12 Noon – 1:30 PM

**Location:** Sheraton Hotel, Crown Ball Room, 2nd Floor, Atlantic City, New Jersey

**Registration:** 94th Annual New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference and Sustainable Jersey Luncheon  
Registration Info: [www.njslom.org](http://www.njslom.org) > Annual Conference > 94th Annual Conference

**Press Coverage:** The event is open for press coverage.

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