



Establishing Your Sustainable Jersey Green Team

Green teams can either be established by a resolution or ordinance

The municipal government by resolution or ordinance should **officially authorize the establishment of the Green Team**. The **purpose, roles, and responsibilities** of the Green Team should be defined. Communities can also work with existing community organizations to implement a municipal sustainability program. Municipal governments will need to adopt a resolution or ordinance recognizing the collaboration between the local government and the nonprofit organization. The resolution should authorize the partner to pursue Sustainable Jersey certification on behalf of or in partnership with the community. For example, Lawrence Township and the nonprofit Sustainable Lawrence are collaborative partners in developing and supporting sustainability initiatives in their municipality.

Resolution Vs. Ordinance

- Forming a Green Team by **resolution** requires the municipality to pass a new resolution re-establishing the Green Team each time the term of appointment for the Green Team members expires. In doing this, it ensures the activities of the Green Team are sanctioned and supported by the municipality. Maintaining the support of the municipality is also a requirement of certification, so the most recent, up-to-date resolution (or another article such as a proclamation or letter of intent renewing municipal support for the Green Team) must be submitted to Sustainable Jersey upon applying for certification if the initial term of appointment in the resolution has expired.
- An **ordinance** establishes the Green Team as a committee that is an integral part of the municipality, both formally and institutionally. Furthermore, an ordinance ensures that the Green Team membership remains active and involved and eliminates the need to issue future resolutions, proclamations, or letters of intent renewing municipal support for the Green Team. For these reasons, we **recommend** adopting an ordinance to establish a Green Team.

Green Team Structure, Members, and Title

Green teams take a variety of **structures**, contain wide-range of **members**, and often have an assortment of names. A Green Team can be:

- A standalone committee with range of members (E.g. - small committee of municipal employees, volunteer-based group, members of the planning, zoning board, Environmental Commission, DPW, local business owners and residents, etc.)
- A non-profit that assumes the lead. However, you should ensure that it has representation from, and ability to coordinate with, municipal government. Examples include [Sustainable Cherry Hill](#), [Sustainable Lawrence](#), [Sustainable Princeton](#), [Sustainable Mullica](#).
- An existing municipal Environmental Commission or other existing body that assumes the responsibilities of the Green Team.
- A sustainability subcommittee of an existing municipal Environmental Commission or other existing body that also has additional members from the recommended member list.

The structure and establishment of the Green Team can vary, as such, the title or name of the committee or group that has the “Green Team” responsibilities can be and most likely will be customized to your community. More important than the name and structure of the Green Team, is the membership. The most effective Green Teams are those that have **diverse members** to incorporate wide range of perspectives, expertise, and interests.

Ideally, team members have both the influence to move your program, and have the time, skills, and motivation to serve on the Team. Strive to ensure that team members represent an appropriate cross section of the community. For Green Teams that will address municipal operations (recommended!), consider including representatives from relevant departments such as facilities, maintenance, purchasing, planning, engineering, health/social services, and recreation. Green Team members should also be recruited from the skilled residents, citizens, and businesses, civic, nonprofit, and faith-based organizations in the community. Consider recruiting members from the list below:

- Mayor
- Council
- Business Manager
- Zoning Board
- Environmental Comm.
- Planning Board
- Purchasing Dept.
- Buildings & Grounds
- Parks & Recreation
- Shade Tree Comm.
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Youth representatives
- Local Businesses
- Chamber of Commerce
- Civic Organizations
- Faith Communities
- Concerned Citizens
- Nonprofits
- School Board
- County Departments