



Sustainable Jersey

ORGANIZATION BACKGROUNDER

Sustainable Jersey is a nonprofit organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support communities as they pursue sustainability programs. Currently, 447 of New Jersey’s 565 municipalities are participating in the municipal certification program and 302 school districts and 775 schools are participating in the new Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification program. By supporting efforts to reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions, improve access to education, stimulate local economies, increase resiliency and progress toward an equitable society, Sustainable Jersey is empowering communities to build a better world for future generations.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Certification Focus: Only NJ municipalities apply for certification. In October 2014, [Sustainable Jersey Schools](#) was launched to provide a certification program for NJ public schools.

Free: No registration fee or certification fees are charged.

Voluntary: Participation is strictly voluntary and never mandated.

Specific Menu of Actions: The program provides applicants with a clear mission and a menu of sustainable actions to achieve. [Sustainable Jersey Actions](#)

New Jersey Based and Consensus Driven: The technical content of the program’s actions are developed with the help of 19 task forces that comprise New Jersey state local officials, experts, non-profit groups, and members of the business community. Recommended best practices/actions are vetted with local government officials.

Program Training, Workshops and Technical Support: Training, monthly workshops and technical support is provided to communities in order to build general capacity and effectiveness of local governments and Green Teams for implementing the program.

Green Teams: The only required action to become certified is to have a green team. The green team is appointed by the municipal governing body and includes representatives from the Environmental Commission, Operations and Maintenance, Planning and Zoning, and other relevant municipal departments as well as volunteers from the community and key constituencies such as the business community, faith based groups, and school groups.

PARTICIPATING TOWNS

447 towns are registered and working towards certification in the municipal certification program. That is 79% percent of towns from the 565 municipalities in New Jersey. Nearly 89% of New Jersey’s population lives in registered/certified Sustainable Jersey communities

CERTIFIED TOWNS

200 municipalities are certified: 152 towns are certified at the bronze-level and 48 towns are certified at the silver-level.

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

Sustainable Jersey provides funding to local governments for sustainability projects. To date, over \$4,200,000 has been awarded through the 2009-2018 Sustainable Jersey Grants program. Over 700 grants have been given to New Jersey municipalities and schools for

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sustainability projects to make communities more livable, environmentally friendly and prosperous.

HISTORY

Launched in February 2009, Sustainable Jersey began as a collaborative effort between the New Jersey State League of Municipalities' Mayors' Committee for a Green Future and the Sustainability Institute at The College of New Jersey, in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. In 2012, Sustainable Jersey evolved from a partnership into a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a Board of Trustees.

AWARDS & HONORS

2017 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award
2017 American Association Excellence in Planning Award
2016 American Planning Association Leadership Award
2015 APA-NJ Civic Leadership Award
2012 Sustainability Award from the Economic Development Association of NJ
2011 U.S. EPA Environmental Quality Award
2010 National Ashoka/Community Matters Changemakers Strong Communities Award
2010 NJ Joint Legislative Resolution from the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly

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Ex-Officio: Paul Baldauf, Assistant Commissioner, Air Quality, Energy and Sustainability, NJDEP
Program Senior Staff: Randall Solomon, Executive Director, Sustainable Jersey

CURRENT PARTNERS

Sustainable Jersey's partners include the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, Sustainability Institute at The College of New Jersey, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Clean Energy Program. Program underwriters include the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Clean Energy Program and the Surdna Foundation. The Sustainable Jersey Grants program for municipalities is funded by PSEG Foundation and the Gardinier Environmental Fund. South Jersey Gas, PSEG and New Jersey Natural Gas are Platinum Sponsors. NJM Insurance Group and Bayshore Recycling are Silver Sponsors, and our Bronze Sponsors are Covanta, New Jersey American Water, Greener by Design, AT&T, Elizabethtown Gas, Jersey Central Power & Light, Powur, and Good Energy.

Sustainable Jersey for Schools is underwritten by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Clean Energy Program, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and the New Jersey Education Association. The Sustainable Jersey for Schools

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Grants program is funded by the PSEG Foundation, New Jersey Education Association the Gardiner Environmental Fund. The Founding Sponsors are South Jersey Gas, New Jersey Natural Gas and NJM Insurance Group. The Silver sponsor is PSEG, and the Bronze sponsors are BioShine, Gabel Associates, and Schneider Electric

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