



New Report: Statewide Change, One Community at a Time

This week, Sustainable Jersey released the Statewide Sustainability Report examining the emerging phenomenon of state-local sustainability programs in the United States. This study identifies twelve statewide programs across the U.S. that recognize local governments for achieving voluntary sustainability standards. Sustainable Jersey is a leader among this group, with the largest number of participants and fastest growth rate.

Funded by the Surdna Foundation, this study was guided by a working group comprised of representatives of five state-local sustainability programs including: Minnesota GreenStep Cities, Sustainable Maryland, Sustainable Pennsylvania, Wisconsin Green Tier Legacy Communities and Sustainable Jersey. Key personnel from Green Cities California, Clean Energy Communities (CT), the Florida Green Building Coalition, Massachusetts Green Communities, Michigan Green Communities, Climate Smart Communities (NY) and Go Green Virginia also contributed to the report. These groups have now come together and are forming a national network to share resources and best practices and to enhance our collective positive impact.



Read the report [HERE](#). Read the blog: [Creating a National Network of State-level Sustainability Programs](#).

32 Sustainable Jersey Grants Awarded to NJ Municipalities

On April 12, 2016, \$200,000 in Sustainable Jersey Small Grant awards funded by the PSEG Foundation was announced. The grants will fund the implementations of a variety of sustainability projects across the state including reclaiming paved surfaces for community gardens, protecting community tree cover, water conservation, green infrastructure, natural resources protection, park revitalization, promoting healthy lifestyles, and green team capacity building. Learn more about the projects funded [here](#).



Union Township receives Capacity Building Grant

Session Spotlight: Interested in Moving Your Town Toward Zero Waste?

REGISTER Today!

This year, with the help of our task forces, we have been digging deeper into the Energy and Waste dimensions and exploring what communities can do in these areas to help put New Jersey on the right track towards meeting our goals.

Breakout Session: Moving as a Society Toward Zero Waste

New and evolving technology is essential to achieving zero waste. Learn about potential technologies that can help deal with food waste, glass, and non-traditional plastics in the waste stream and what could make sense at the local level to start moving in the right direction.

Read all of the breakout session descriptions [here](#).



Venue Sponsor



Is Your Town Posting Important Information on its Website?

In an ever increasing Digital Age, residents are turning to online resources to get the information they need. If your town is providing essential information regarding public services on the municipal website, along with an online system for citizens to request services, report issues, and/or make payments, you could earn 10 points toward your certification by completing the [Online Municipal Public Service Systems action](#). This is just one of five actions in the new Public Information & Engagement suite.

Reminder: Certification Application Deadline Sunday, June 5 at 11:59pm!

Upcoming Sustainable Jersey Trainings

Funding Walkable and Bike Friendly Communities

Creating walkable and bikeable communities is a successful strategy for maintaining and restoring economic vitality and improving public health in a community. On March 31, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) announced the solicitation for the 2016 Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program. **Applications are due June 27.** Attend the workshop to learn more about this and other upcoming funding opportunities. Tips and strategies for preparing successful grant applications will be shared and representatives from NJDOT will be available to answer questions. For more information about the grant, see the Funding & Technical Assistance Opportunities block below.

Thursday, May 5, 2016, 10:00am - 12:30pm

Passaic County Community College, Hamilton Club Building, 2nd Floor Seminar Room

32 Church Street, Paterson, NJ 07505

[REGISTER](#)

May 9, 2016, 10:00am - 12:30pm

Edward J. Bloustein School, Room 369

33 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

[REGISTER](#)

May 11, 2016, 10:00am - 12:30pm

Rutgers-Camden Campus Center, West AB Conference Room

326 Penn Street, Camden, NJ 08102

[REGISTER](#)

Building Local Resilience to Climate Change: Tools & Sustainable Jersey Actions for Communities

This Sustainable Jersey Resiliency Program workshop will review tools and actionable steps that communities can take to be more prepared and resilient to the impacts of climate change. These are some of the most current resiliency tools available to New Jersey municipalities. Topics to be covered include the N.J. Municipal Resilience Cycle, coastal and tidally influenced vulnerability assessments, extreme temperature event plans, emergency preparedness self-assessments ("Getting to Resilience"), emergency communications for vulnerable populations, and more.

Tuesday, May 17, 2016, 9:00am - 11:30am

Middlesex County Fire Academy

1001 Fire Academy Drive, Sayreville, NJ 08872

[REGISTER](#)

Friday, May 20, 2016, 9:00am - 11:30am

ACI IA Environmental Park

600 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

[REGISTER](#)

Other Upcoming Events

Creating, Branding and Promoting Local & Regional Destinations Workshop

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' Main Street New Jersey and Improvement District Programs are hosting this workshop to help communities realize maximum potential in the local economy. Learn key strategies and tactics for building communities as destinations and then promoting them effectively. Topics covered during the workshop can help your town complete the four Local Economies [actions](#).

Wednesday, April 27, 2016, 9:00am - 4:30pm

Grant Plaza

619 East Landis Avenue, Vineland, NJ 08360

[REGISTER](#) - 10% discount for Sustainable Jersey Green Teams

Incorporating Health into Planning and Decision-Making Training

The New Jersey Health Impact Collaborative (NJHIC) will lead an introductory training on health impact assessment as a tool to promote community health and equity in planning processes and decision-making. Participants will engage in group exercises related to HIA steps; discuss opportunities and challenges to integrating health into planning and policy processes; and learn about new statewide collaborative initiatives and emerging tools to build capacity for health advancement in planning and support health in all policies. This

course will meet the requirements for Sustainable Jersey's new [Health in All Policies Professional Development](#) action. Send three people from your municipality and earn 10 points toward certification. See the action for details. For more information, visit the NJHIC [website](#).

Friday, April 29, 2016, 9:00am - 3:00pm

Rutgers University Inn & Conference Center
178 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

[REGISTER](#)

Tuesday, May 10, 2016, 9:00am - 3:00pm

Rutgers Eco Complex, Auditorium
1200 Florence-Columbus Boulevard, Bordentown, NJ 08505

[REGISTER](#)

For a list of all other upcoming events, visit the Sustainable Jersey [Events & Trainings](#) page

Funding & Technical Assistance Opportunities

2016 Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) Grants

The SRTS grant program is funded through the Federal Highway Administration's Federal Aid Program and is being administered by the NJDOT, in partnership with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), and the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization (SJTPO). Proposed projects must be located within two miles of a school that serves students in grades K-8. Funding for the 2016 SRTS Program will be available for the construction of infrastructure projects only, such as the installation of sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes, multi-use paths, traffic calming measures, and other means to ensure the ease and safety of children walking or biking to school. For this solicitation, Urban Aid Communities determined by the Department of Community Affairs, and municipalities containing Schools Development Authority (SDA) Districts outlined by the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, may apply for design as well as construction funds. Any municipality, school district, or county is eligible to apply for funding. Non-profit organizations are not eligible as direct grant recipients for this solicitation. However, non-profit organizations may partner with a local public agency that will assume responsibility and administration for the grant. For more information visit their [website](#).

The grant opportunity will also be highlighted at Sustainable Jersey's upcoming **Funding Walkable and Bike Friendly Communities** workshops. [Register](#) today to learn more about this and other funding opportunities. Tips and strategies for preparing successful grant applications will be shared and representatives from NJDOT will be available to answer questions.

Application Deadline: Monday, June 27

2016 ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Project Grants

ANJEC is now accepting applications from environmental commissions for grants of up to \$1,500 each for local open space stewardship projects. To view samples of previous grant projects, click [here](#).

[Application Deadline: April 30, 2016 at 4:30pm](#)

New York / New Jersey Aquatic Trash Prevention 2016 Grant Program

The New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC), in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state partners, is inviting proposals for projects to be funded under the New York / New Jersey Aquatic Trash Prevention Grant Program. EPA is providing these financial resources for projects aligned with the goal of EPA's Trash Free Waters program, for watersheds in both New York and New Jersey. NEIWPCC will distribute \$365,000 in grant funds, designed for individual grants of at least \$45,000. For more information, visit their [website](#).

Application Deadline: May 10, 2016 at 11:59pm

Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge

Over the next several years, small and mid-sized municipalities will have the opportunity to compete in an innovative \$1.5 million challenge to develop practical strategies for measurably improving health outcomes while promoting health and wellness, equity and social interaction.

The Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge is the product of an innovative collaboration among the Aetna Foundation, the American Public Health Association and the National Association of Counties. The competition aims to encourage communities to develop and share effective strategies that improve health across a range of domains. For more information, visit their [website](#).

Application Deadline: May 31, 2016

Green Communities Grant Application

Communities that need assistance in creating a Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP) are eligible for the Green Communities Grant. The grant is offered every year for municipalities and counties. Currently the grants are up to \$3,000 with a 100% match, that can be made of in-kind and volunteer hours at the federal volunteer rate. For more information visit their [website](#).

For a list of other funding opportunities, visit our [Grants Portal](#)

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