



Remembering a Sustainability Hero

It is with great sadness that we wish to inform our Sustainable Jersey colleagues and friends of the passing Art Ondish, Sustainable Jersey Board member and Secretary, and esteemed Mayor of Mount Arlington.

Mayor Ondish was a true leader who had a passion for public and community service. He was part of the original cadre of visionary mayors that founded the Sustainable Jersey program. Mayor Ondish was a key thinker and doer during every phase of the growth of the Sustainable Jersey movement. In the early days, he spent countless hours meeting with local officials to promote Sustainable Jersey and was instrumental in the program's acceptance in rural parts of New Jersey.



We will always remember him as someone who passionately worked for causes in which he believed while respecting the fundamental humanity and goodness of everyone he met. His support and commitment to our program will be greatly missed but his legacy of leadership, commitment to great causes, and his grace shown during difficult times, should serve to inspire our work forever. In October 2015, Mayor Ondish was recognized as a Sustainable Jersey Hero. Read his inspiring story [here](#).

New! March Sustainability Hero

The March 2016 Sustainability Hero is Diane Landis, the Executive Director for Sustainable Princeton. Read how Diane led Princeton to achieve silver-level Sustainable Jersey certification and the Sustainable Jersey Leadership Award. See how the Neighborhood Ambassador Program, The Washington Post, the Princeton Schools Garden Coop, the Colorado Springs Food Rescue, Cooperative 518 and EnergySmart Homes and Buildings fit into the story on the [Sustainable Jersey Heroes page](#).



To capture the stories of our local leaders, we recognize a monthly Sustainability Hero. If you would like to nominate someone on your green team, municipal staff, school staff or task force that's a sustainability hero, complete the [submission form](#) and e-mail it to us at info@sustainablejersey.com.

Did You Know the New Jersey Prevention Network Can Assist with Completing Sustainable Jersey Actions?

The New Jersey Prevention Network (NJPN) is a public health agency working to create healthier communities by reducing the burden of substance abuse, addiction and other chronic diseases. NJPN can assist with a variety of actions such as [Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Public Places](#). Many towns in New Jersey have a smoke free ordinance, but may not be aware of it. The network has a list of towns that have this ordinance and is also readily available to help with the development of one. Completion of this action can earn a municipality 10 points toward its certification.

NJPN can also assist with Sustainable Jersey's priority action, [Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal](#). The Network works with Statewide Regional Substance Abuse Coalitions who have the resources to help implement this action. Regional Coalitions can help market and organize a take-back day, and establish permanent drop boxes in police departments and other locations in the community. Some coalitions may have financial resources while others can provide technical assistance to municipalities in coordinating their efforts. Call the network at 732-367-0611 to find out who your contact is.

Take a advantage of these great resources now!

Remember the initial Certification Application Deadline is Sunday, June 5!

Does Your Municipality Need Technical Assistance with Energy Related Initiatives?

Sustainable Jersey is partnering with the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) to provide a powerful program to assist municipalities and school districts within the NJNG service territory in implementing Sustainable Jersey energy actions.

The program will provide a trained EDF Fellow, typically a MBA or similar graduate with specialty training in energy project assessment and development, to work for 10 weeks (40 hours per week) during the summer of 2016 at no cost to the municipality or school district. For more information visit the [school](#) or [municipal](#) websites.

Application Deadline: Friday, March 18 at 11:59pm



Sustainable Jersey's Re-vAMPed Municipal Energy Actions

Over the past year, Sustainable Jersey has implemented changes to the Energy program actions including the implementation of new renewable energy actions and revisions to the slate of Energy Efficiency actions to award points based on energy savings. These changes up the ante in requiring ongoing tracking of energy progress. They also reward higher performance with more points. Implementing the new actions will result in municipalities having a much more sophisticated internal capacity to pursue energy and cost savings.

Learn about how these changes may affect your municipality's certification application and what you can do to maximize your energy related points.

You will not want to miss this webinar if your municipality has been approved for the On-Site Solar, Energy Audits for One Building, or Inventory and Upgrade All Buildings actions, or you are planning to apply for certification in 2016.

Wednesday, March 16, 2016, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

[REGISTER](#)

Other Upcoming Events

Planting the Right Tree in the Right Place the Right Way Seminar

The New Jersey Tree Foundation and PSE&G are offering a FREE seminar on Planting the Right Tree in the right Place, The Right Way. The training will also cover the importance of utility mark-outs prior to planting, Emerlad Ash Border, vegetation management policies, and grants that are available. This training earns CEUs needed for towns that wish to apply for Sustainable Jersey's [Community Forestry Plan and Tree Cover Goal](#) action. For more information and to RSVP, visit their [website](#).

Friday, March 25, 2016, 8:30am - 12:00pm

Edison PSE&G Training Center
234 Pierson Avenue, Edison, NJ 08837

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](#).

Thursday, 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](#)

New Jersey WasteWise Business Network Meeting

Attend the next meeting of the NJ WasteWise Business Network and learn about electronic waste and paint recycling, giving new life to industrial junk, transforming edible and inedible residual bionutrients into valued resources, strategies for successful waste reduction and recycling programs in the business sector, and implementing sustainable janitorial services.

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

Funding Opportunities

Get Active NJ Grants

The New Jersey Prevention Network, through funding from the New Jersey Department of Health, Office of Tobacco Control, Nutrition and Fitness, will provide technical assistance, training and incentives to assist municipalities to find ways to educate stakeholders on policies that can help promote walking and the many benefits this can have on their communities. Funding for these activities may be eligible for points in the Sustainable Jersey Health & Wellness category of actions. For more information visit their [website](#).

Application Deadline: March 28, 2016

2016 Community Stewardship Incentive Grant Program

The NJDEP Community Forestry Program is proud to announce the release of \$2.3 million dollars in grant funding through the 2016 Community Stewardship Incentive Grant program. Funding is available for three types of municipal tree projects: tree resiliency planning, tree hazard mitigation activities; and reforestation and tree planting projects. For more information, visit their [website](#).

Application Deadline: April 12, 2016

U.S. EPA Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program

\$26 million in funding is now available for the U.S. EPA Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program. This program is funded through the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA). The program is soliciting proposals nationwide for projects that achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions in terms of tons of pollution produced by diesel engines and diesel emissions exposure, particularly from fleets operating in areas designated by the Administrator as poor air quality areas. Two webinar information sessions will be held on March 8 and 10 at 2pm. For more information, visit their [website](#).

Application Deadline: Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 4pm

2016 ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Project Grants

ANJEC is now accepting applications from environmental commissions for grants of up to \$1500 each for local open space stewardship projects. To view samples of previous grant projects, click [here](#).

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

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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