



## New! January Sustainability Hero

The January 2018 Sustainability Hero is Kristin Wenger the Co-Director of Arts Ed NJ. Read about how Kristin has spent over thirty years making arts education a priority in New Jersey. See how the NJ Arts Education Census Report, i-STEAM, the Susan G. Komen North Jersey Affiliate and Skidmore College fit into the story on the [Sustainable Jersey Heroes page](#).

To celebrate the stories of our local leaders, we recognize a monthly Sustainability Hero. If you have recommendations for 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](mailto:info@sustainablejersey.com).



## Take a Dip in the Funding Pool



**PSEG**  
We make things work for you.



Is your municipality or school ready to test the sustainability project waters? Sustainable Jersey is pleased to announce that the PSEG Foundation is contributing \$200,000 to support a grants program cycle for municipalities and \$100,000 to support a grants program cycle for schools.

The municipal cycle will award four (4) \$20,000, eight (8) \$10,000 and twenty (20) \$2,000 grants to support efforts related to Sustainable Jersey [actions](#). For more information, click [HERE](#). **The application deadline is Wednesday, February 28, 2018.**

The schools cycle will award four (4) \$10,000 grants to school districts or schools, and thirty (30) \$2,000 grants to support efforts related to Sustainable Jersey for Schools [actions](#). For more information, click [HERE](#). **The application deadline is Friday, February 9, 2018.**

### Grant Tip: Review the Evaluation Criteria

Are you curious what makes a good grant project proposal? Often the proposals that score the highest strongly reflect the [evaluation criteria](#). Please take the following into consideration when crafting your proposal.

- **\$10,000 project proposals:** Evaluated based on the project description; project team members; action plan and timeline; community engagement; impact on the community and budget.
- **\$2,000 project proposals:** Evaluated based on the strength of the work plan that will guide the green team's activities; likelihood of success as demonstrated by a reasonable budget; and the demonstrated commitment of the green team and municipality to move forward with sustainability efforts.

## Recorded Webinars

Two informational webinars were held to review the online application process, requirements, and tips for successful applications.

### Sustainable Jersey Municipal Grants Webinar

View the recording and presentation [HERE](#)

### Sustainable Jersey for Schools Grants Webinar

View the recording and presentation [HERE](#)

## Sustainable Jersey Upcoming Webinars

### Alternative Fuel Vehicle Options for Municipalities and Schools

This webinar will share opportunities for alternative fuel vehicles for your fleets and community. Learn how communities are promoting options from electric vehicle car-sharing to electric school bus fleets. With New Jersey receiving \$72M in the Volkswagen emissions settlement, proposals for projects are being accepted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Eligible vehicle classes include school and other transit buses, class 4 - 7 vehicles which would include garbage trucks and other service vehicles typically used by municipalities. Funding is also available for EV charging stations. Proposals are due January 31, 2018. For more information, click [HERE](#).

**Thursday, January 11, 2018, 1:00pm - 2:00pm**

[REGISTER](#)

### Moving Up to Silver Certification

Is your municipality interested in attaining silver certification? If so, then you should attend this webinar to get tips from silver certified municipalities and Sustainable Jersey staff on how to make the transition, and the actions that can set you on the fast path to silver!

**Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 1:00pm - 2:00pm**

[REGISTER](#)

### Stay in the Game! Strategize Your Recertification

Is your town's certification expiring in 2017, and/or does your municipality wish to maintain its green team activities and certification? Now is the time to start planning for recertification! This webinar will provide helpful information to help you avoid a lapse and/or maintain your certification including: an overview of the certification cycle for the year; an update on new and existing action including a change to non-expiring actions, and an explanation of variable point actions; suggestions to prevent leaving actions "on the table"; accessing and using your online application; why actions are not approved.

**Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 1:00pm - 2:00pm**

[REGISTER](#)

### Making a Game Plan for Getting Certified

Calling all registered towns! Have you been thinking that 2018 is the year your town will join the 208 Sustainable Jersey certified municipalities that are making progress toward a more sustainable future? Would you like to receive the prestigious Sustainable Jersey certification at this year's League of Municipalities Conference? This webinar will share proven strategies and tools to help map out a path to certification within six to twelve months. Learn how to mobilize your green team, navigate the Sustainable Jersey website, select "start-up" actions, get assistance completing actions from non-profits and other groups, track your progress and more!

**Wednesday, February 21, 2018, 1:00pm - 2:00pm**

[REGISTER](#)

## NEW! December Sustainable Jersey Success Story

### BLOG: How Sustainable Jersey became my brand and achieved my campaign promises

Every month Sustainable Jersey publishes a blog highlighting the successes of the program on the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation's Blog. In December's success story, Woodbridge Township Mayor John E. McCormac, explains the benefits of Sustainable Jersey to mayors in Connecticut as they celebrate the launch of Sustainable Connecticut, which is modeled after Sustainable Jersey. Read the compelling, convincing and inspiring speech given by Mayor McCormac [here](#).

All previous Sustainable Jersey blogs can be found on the [Media & Communications page](#).



## Mayors' Climate Summit

Mayors and community leaders across New Jersey have taken up the challenge of addressing climate change and implementing sustainability practices at a local level. Please join us to discuss what we must achieve locally, and understand the specific steps we can take today to succeed. It is vital for our mayors and communities to take a leading role in preserving the environment and protecting the public health of our citizens. The day will consist of three panels of experts, resource organizations, and local leaders discussing a pathway forward to enable New Jersey to succeed in meeting the challenges presented by climate change. This event is hosted by Mayor Phil Kramer of Franklin Township, Mayor Bruce A. Harris of Chatham Borough, and brought to you by NJ League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, Rutgers University Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy, and Sustainable Jersey. For more information click [HERE](#), and download the flyer [HERE](#).

**Saturday, February 3, 2018, 8:30am - 1:30pm**  
Rutgers University Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy  
33 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
[REGISTER](#) - Early Bird: \$10 before January 29



## Sustainable Jersey Regional Hub Event

### Sharing Positive Energy

Energy efficiency measures are one of the best ways to reduce your town's greenhouse gas emissions. Join the Atlantic-Cape May Hub to learn about strategies for your town to move the commercial and residential sectors towards greater energy efficiency. You will hear about incentives from utilities and the NJ Clean Energy Program, and case studies from the ground. Sustainable Jersey's Energy Program Manager, Nancy Quirk, will also discuss an overview of the [Gold Standard in Energy](#), which includes solar and electric vehicle strategies for you municipality.

**Wednesday, February 21, 2018, 6:00pm - 8:00pm**  
NJM Insurance Group  
840 12th Street, Hammonton, NJ 08037  
[REGISTER](#)



Registration is now open for the 2018 Rutgers Environmental Stewards Program. Since 2005 the program has trained volunteers in areas concerning climate change, soil health, alternative energy, water resource protection, invasive species, habitat conservation, pollinator health, environmental policy and more. Green team members frequently attend the training to enhance their environmental knowledge and many focus their project for the program on Sustainable Jersey actions. Funds from the current Sustainable Jersey grants cycle can be used for this training. Classes start in late January and February in Passaic, Union, Somerset and Atlantic Counties. For more information visit their [website](#).

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## Green Team Resources

### Home Energy Upgrades for You and Your Residents

If your environmental/green team is looking to obtain points towards the Sustainable Jersey Residential Energy Efficiency Outreach action to promote [Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®](#), please contact Kimberly Hoff at [Kimberly.hoff@NJCleanEnergy.com](mailto:Kimberly.hoff@NJCleanEnergy.com) or call her at 732-218-3410. Kimberly is a Market Outreach Manager with *New Jersey's Clean Energy Program™* and can meet with your team to brainstorm on the best way to reach your residents.

New Jersey's [Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program](#) (HPwES) offers generous rebates and low-interest loans to homeowners to upgrade their homes to more energy efficient and comfortable dwellings. HPwES, which is administered by the Board of Public Utilities and its [Clean Energy Program](#), has upgraded the energy efficiency of over 30,000 homes in NJ since 2006. HPwES not only saves energy and money, it also addresses health and safety issues prior to making a home more energy efficient.

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## Funding Opportunities

### Volkswagen Settlement Project Proposals

New Jersey, as a potential beneficiary of the Trust established pursuant to the national Volkswagen settlement, intends to use its allocation from the mitigation trust to efficiently implement projects that reduce oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions in a cost effective and technically feasible manner. New Jersey has issued a solicitation for project proposals to ensure that a broad range of ideas are considered. Opportunities for public input will be provided in the coming months. For more information about eligible projects, visit the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's [website](#).

**[Application Deadline:](#) January 31, 2018**

### Deadline Extended: Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities has established a compressed natural gas (CNG) grant program available for Class 5 through 8 vehicles. The \$200,000 grant program will fund the incremental cost of a CNG powered vehicle over the equivalent diesel vehicle. Awards will be capped at \$25,000 per vehicle and \$50,000 per applicant and will be processed on a first-come-first-served basis until funding is exhausted. Eligibility is open to vehicles registered in New Jersey. Eligible applicants for the grant program include municipalities, political subdivisions, incorporated nonprofit entities, corporations and limited liability companies or partnerships registered to do business in New Jersey. For more information, visit their [website](#).

**[Application Deadline:](#) April 2, 2018**

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**Mark Your Calendars!**

See below for important dates of Sustainable Jersey events, trainings, funding opportunities, and more!

- **Jan. 11:** Alternative Fuel Vehicle Options for Municipalities and Schools Webinar
- **Jan. 31:** Moving Up to Silver Certification Webinar
- **Feb. 3:** Mayors' Climate Summit
- **Feb. 7:** Stay in the Game! Strategize Your Recertification Webinar
- **Feb. 21:** Making a Game Plan for Getting Certified Webinar
- **Feb. 21:** Sharing Positive Energy Regional Hub Event

For more information visit [www.sustainablejersey.com](http://www.sustainablejersey.com)

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