

**FOR SCHOOLS**

# **SUSTAINABLE JERSEY®**

**A BRIGHTER FUTURE,  
ONE SCHOOL AT A TIME**



[www.SustainableJerseySchools.com](http://www.SustainableJerseySchools.com)



A certification program for New Jersey public schools that want to go green, conserve resources and take steps to create a brighter future,  
**ONE SCHOOL AT A TIME.**

### SUSTAINABLE JERSEY FOR SCHOOLS:

- Advances and supports sustainable practices in schools and prepares the next generation of children to address sustainability issues
- Identifies actions that schools can implement to become certified
- Provides guidance and tools to enable schools to make progress on each action
- Provides access to grants and identifies funding opportunities for schools to make progress toward the actions
- Encompasses the three equal, interrelated components of sustainability:

**People** – Contribute to a strong civil society that provides opportunity for all

**Prosperity** – Support local economies and use community resources

**Planet** – Practice responsible environmental management and conservation

School participation is strictly voluntary and never mandated. Certification actions are developed through an ongoing process of discussion and research that includes the participation of many New Jersey leaders and experts from school districts, state agencies, academia, government, the non-profit sector and the business community.

### ACTIONS FOR SCHOOLS:

#### BRONZE

The bronze level of certification requires the establishment of a mandatory **green team**, implementation of **2 out of 11 PRIORITY ACTIONS\*** and a total of 150 points. Actions must be completed in 6 of 17 categories.

#### SILVER

The silver level of certification requires the establishment of a mandatory **green team**, implementation of **3 out of 11 PRIORITY ACTIONS\*** and a total of 350 points. Actions must be completed in 8 of 17 categories.

To become certified, schools must complete and document actions from this list.

## PEOPLE

STUDENT & COMMUNITY OUTREACH	POINTS
<b>Green Team**</b>	10
<b>Community Education &amp; Outreach*</b>	10
Green Fair	10
“Green” Your Green Fair or School Event	10
Green Challenges	10
Civic & Stewardship Volunteer Initiatives	10
Enrichment Programs through Partnership	10
<b>DIVERSITY &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Breakfast After The Bell	20
Accessible Communications	10
Diversity on District Task Forces & Committees	10
<b>FOOD &amp; NUTRITION</b>	
Healthy Food Choices	10
School Gardens	10
Promote Locally Grown Foods	10
<b>STUDENT SAFETY</b>	
Safe Routes to School District Policy	10
School Travel Plan for walking & biking	10
Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety & Promotion Initiatives	10
Safe Driving Awareness Programs for High School Students	10
<b>STUDENT &amp; STAFF WELLNESS</b>	
<b>School Wellness Council*</b>	10
School Health Assessment	20
Policies to Promote Physical Activity	10
Programs to Promote Activity	10
Staff Wellness Program	10
<b>HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS</b>	
<b>Indoor Air Quality Review*</b>	15
Reporting Process for Indoor Air Quality Concerns	10
Asthma Friendly Schools	10
HVAC System Best Practices	10
Outdoor Air Quality Awareness	10
Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement	10
Classroom Cleanup Policy & Practices	10
Classroom Chemical Purchase, Storage & Disposal Policy	15
Integrated Pest Management-Education & Organic Lawn Care	10
Control Moisture/Mold	10
Access to Healthy Water in Schools	20

## PROSPERITY

ENERGY EFFICIENCY	POINTS
Energy Audit*	(5-20)
Building Efficiency Measures*	(5-30)
Energy Tracking & Management	(5-20)
Sustainable Energy Transition Plan	(10-20)
LEADERSHIP & PLANNING	
Professional Development for Sustainability*	(5-20)
School Community Asset Mapping	10
Green Facilities Management Checklist	20
Green Enhancement of District Strategic Plans	10
Strategic Plan Implementation of Green Initiatives	10
District Sustainability Policy	10
School District Foundation	10
STUDENT LEARNING*	
(only one action in this category will be counted toward priority requirements)	
Education for Sustainability K-3*	(10-40)
Education for Sustainability Grades 4-12 Science*	10
Education for Sustainability Grades 4-12 Math*	10
Education for Sustainability Grades 4-12 ELA*	10
Education for Sustainability Grades 4-12 Social Studies*	10
Education for Sustainability Grades 4-12 Creativity/Arts*	10
Education for Sustainability Grades 4-12 Health*	10
Education for Sustainability Grades 4-12 Information Technology*	10
LEARNING STRUCTURES	
Curriculum Mapping	20
Student Participation in the Arts	10
All Arts Disciplines Offered	10
INNOVATION PROJECTS	
Innovative Project #1	10
Innovative Project #2	10

\*Signifies a Priority action. Schools must complete at least two priority actions to achieve certification.

\*\*Signifies a Mandatory action. In order to participate in the program a district or school must complete this step.

To learn more visit

[www.SustainableJerseySchools.com](http://www.SustainableJerseySchools.com)

Please note: Program actions and points may be subject to change.  
For the current official list of actions and points visit the website.

## PLANET

CLIMATE MITIGATION & RENEWABLE ENERGY	POINTS
School Carbon Footprint*	10
On-site Renewable Generation System-Solar	(5-40)
On-site Renewable Generation System-Geothermal	10
Buy Renewable Electricity	10
Collaborate with Municipality on Government Energy Aggregation Program	10
SCHOOL GROUNDS	
Biodiversity Audit & Management Plan	10
Biodiversity Project	10
Green Infrastructure Assessment & Plan	10
Green Infrastructure Installation	10
Sustainable Landscape Design	10
GREEN DESIGN	
Green Building Policy*	10
Green Building Training	10
Green Building Survey	10
Bid New Construction & Major Renovations using Green Standard	10
Build New/Renovated Project that meets Green Standard	20
Commissioning Approval for New/Existing Building that meets Green Standard	20
GREEN PURCHASING	
Green Purchasing Policy*	10
Recycled Paper Purchase	10
Energy Efficient Appliances or Equipment	10
GREEN CLEANING	
Green Cleaning Policy & Plan	10
Green Cleaning Supplies	10
Green Cleaning Equipment	10
Green Cleaning Training & Education Programs	10
WASTE MANAGEMENT & RECYCLING	
Waste Audit*	10
Materials Reuse	10
Recycling Non-mandated Materials	10
Document Recycling Rates	10
EPA Waste Wi\$e	5
Waste or Source Reduction Tracking	(5-10)
Food Waste Management	15



## GETTING STARTED

To start the program, a school board must adopt a resolution of participation and then register at the Sustainable Jersey for Schools website. Then each school in that district may register on the program website. The website provides the list of sustainability actions and implementation tools available.



## BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

Sustainable Jersey certification is a prestigious designation for schools in New Jersey. Registered and certified schools gain priority access to grant programs and are eligible to apply for the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Small Grants program. By registering or gaining certification, your school will receive updates on special events and news about the latest resources to assist you on your journey to becoming a more sustainable school.

**For inquiries or to join the e-list, contact [schools@sustainablejersey.com](mailto:schools@sustainablejersey.com)**

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### Founding Sponsors



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SJ\_Schools

Sustainable Jersey® is a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting schools and local governments pursue sustainability initiatives by providing a robust certification program supported by training, technical assistance and small grants. We would like to thank the state and federal agencies, professional associations, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, public schools and businesses that have collaborated with us to create the program.

### Special Thanks to our Program Partners

