



## Sustainable Jersey Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Jersey Certification Report of Cranbury Twp, a Sustainable Jersey silver certified applicant.

Cranbury Twp was certified on October 11, 2022 with 355 points. Listed below is information regarding Cranbury Twp's Sustainable Jersey efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

### Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Jersey contact for Cranbury Twp is:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>BARBARA ROGERS</b>
<b>Title/Position:</b>	<b>TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER / TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>23-A NORTH MAIN STREET CRANBURY, NJ 08512</b>

### Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Cranbury Twp was approved for in 2022 appears below. Note: Standards for the actions below may have changed and the documentation listed may no longer satisfy requirements for that action. Additionally, points associated with actions prior to 2013 certifications may not be accurate.

#### Community Partnership & Outreach

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##### Green Team

10 Points

 Bronze Required

**Program Summary:** The Township of Cranbury has a very active Green Team. The Cranbury Township Committee initially established the Green Team Advisory Committee in 2012 by resolution (No. R 02-12-025). In 2018, the Township Committee further strengthened their support of the Green Team by adopting resolution No. R 10-18-143, "Resolution Supporting the Cranbury Green Team Advisory Committee." A Proclamation reaffirming the commitment and objective of the Cranbury Township Green Team Advisory committee was passed this year, 2022. The Green Team is comprised of the members of the Environmental Commission and representatives from

other municipal boards and committees including the Mayor's Wellness Committee, Economic Development Advisory Committee, Parks Commission, Shade Tree Commission, Municipal Alliance and Township Committee Sustainability Subcommittee. In the past 12 months, the Green Team has focused on activities to protect, maintain, and enhance our town's natural resources; facilitating monthly health and wellness events; continuing regulatory and advisory activities through the Environmental Commission and other municipal Boards and Commissions; providing environmental education to the community; advancing Sustainable Jersey action items; and looking at making our municipal buildings and operations more sustainable.. At the beginning of each year, the Green Team/Environmental Commission presents their past year's accomplishments and new year's goals at a public Town Council meeting.

**PDF:** [GT 2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2022 GOALS](#)

**PDF:** [GT MEMBER LIST 2022](#)

**WORD:** [2022 GREEN TEAM PROCLAMATION.DOCX](#)

**PDF:** [GT RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT 102018](#)

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## Community Education & Outreach

15 Points

**Program Summary:** A series of community public education events were held about Cranbury's natural resources and open space. They included a series on birds and their habitat, and a stream cleanup featuring a rain garden. The series on birds was hosted by the Cranbury Library with Green Team members and local birding expert conducting online and two in person events. The events were geared toward bird watchers of all ages and levels with the participants learning to spot and identify different species of birds. It featured the Great Backyard Bird Count, plants and wildlife that support birds and an on-line event about the spring arrivals of birds. The third community event was a stream cleanup which featured the importance of maintaining our open spaces and educating the public about watersheds and stormwater management with the rain garden. The Environmental Commission and Township partnered with our local watershed organization to organize the highly successful event. Overall, through these series of community and outreach events highlighting Cranbury's natural resources, residents public gained a greater appreciation and understanding of Cranbury's natural resources and open spaces, the diversity of birds and wildlife the preserves support and maintaining our streams.

**WORD:** [COMMUNITY EDUCATION 1 BIRDING.DOCX](#)

**PDF:** [STREAM CLEAN UP CHECKLIST](#)

**PDF:** [STREAM CLEAN UP FLYER](#)

**PDF:** [SUMMER BIRD WALK CHECKLIST](#)

**PDF:** [GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT CHECKLIST](#)

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## Green Fair

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Cranbury Township's Municipal Alliance led the 28th Annual Health and Wellness Fair. It was a fun community event to learn about health and wellness, encourage sustainable life choices and identify ways to reduce impact on the earth and improve the environment. There were over 40 tables. For instance, the Parks Commission publicized trails and ongoing projects in Cranbury's open spaces and parks. The Division of Environmental Health from

the Middlesex County Office of Health provided information and giveaways (stress balls, bumper stickers and key chains) on anti idling and recycling. A resident had a demonstration on raising chickens and composting. Many local businesses, non-profits groups and artists attended the fair which featured a diverse blend of local musicians and dancers which the public found very entertaining. Activities included alternative energy peddle powered smoothies, mandala shell and rock painting, the Middlesex Drive Program, and a colorful fun run, just to name a few. Our local heroes came out to support the fair: Cranbury Police, EMT Squad and Cranbury Volunteer Fire Fighters. Our local township committees and boards, the Mayors Wellness Committee, as well as many of our Township Committee Members, were there to participate and support the event. There was a ton of information on ways to stay healthy and well from health professionals, sporting organizations, local families, local faith based organizations, and the arts. The volunteers, participants, and guests helped make the Health and Wellness Fair a success!

**PDF:** [HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR 4-28-22.PDF](#)

**PDF:** [HW MAP W-PARTICIPANTS 2022 VERY FINAL.PDF](#)

**WORD:** [HOLD A GREEN FAIR QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT 2.DOCX](#)

## Emergency Management

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### Emergency Communications Planning

15 Points

**Program Summary:** Cranbury uses its website, social media (i.e. Facebook), Nixle, local newspaper and the Township's public access television program, Channel 26, to keep the public informed. Emails to residents' emails (eblasts) from the Township and Nixle are the primary sources residents receive information. The Police Chief, is the OEM and the Business Administrator and Mayor are the liaisons. They work together to disseminate emergency information. There has been a concerted effort to have residents sign up for eblasts and Nixle through newsletters and township meetings. For instance, a trifold brochure was created for the annual tax bill which was sent directly to homes informing how to sign up to receive information from the township (township alerts) and police (Nixle). During Hurricane Henri, communication channels and public alert/notifications system were effective in alerting residents in an actual situation with service organizations, local school and places of worship offering assistance.

**PDF:** [EBLAST - FINAL HURRICANE HENRI UPDATE.PDF](#)

**WORD:** [EMERGENCY\\_COMM\\_PLANNING\\_CHECKLIST 2.DOC](#)

**WORD:** [TRIFOLD INSERT.DOCX](#)

## Energy

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### Energy Efficiency for Municipal Facilities

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** An energy audit was planned and conducted on the three municipal buildings --- Municipal Town Hall, Fire Company and Police Department. It focused on upgrading energy efficiency in the buildings. Utility bill data was submitted to the auditors for their review and analysis. The auditor met on-site with township staff and visited the buildings where they visually inspected the buildings, looking at all energy-consuming equipment and the building envelope (roof, doors, windows). The auditor combined the utility data and visual inspection to identify energy conservation measures (ECMs) that would improve efficiency. The energy audit included cost analysis of energy conservation measures, including upfront costs, available incentives, and estimated impact on reducing electricity and natural gas costs.

**PDF:** [LGEA FINAL REPORT-TOWNSHIP OF CRANBURY-TOWN HALL-040622 \(1\).PDF](#)

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## Energy Tracking & Management

20 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** A full building inventory for Cranbury Township was conducted and documented. The Township is responsible for 8 buildings, including the Town Hall Administration building, the Police Station, the Old Fire House Museum and the New Firehouse, and 4 buildings associated with the Department of Public Works. For each building, key information was obtained for each, including the name and address, the square footage of the building and when it was built, its occupancy, and the gas and electric (all utility) accounts associated with each. To get a baseline of energy usage for each building, the gas and electric bills were pulled, starting 4Q2018, and a simple Excel spreadsheet was used to capture the monthly gas and electric usages, as well as the peak electric energy usage to capture a year's worth of data. The data was plotted in graphical form to visualize the usage pattern over the year. It was easy at that point to see how the gas usage costs were minimized over the summer months (i.e. gas is predominately used for heating), while the electric costs were more generally utilized over the course of the year. In order to have a better database system for maintaining this data into the future, it was agreed to by the township to upload the gas and electric usage from our monthly bills into the Energy Star Portfolio Manager Program. Hogan Dwyer, on the Energy Team with SJ at CNJ, helped us get our buildings uploaded and that first years' worth of data collected in the Excel spreadsheet into the ESPM data base. After that, our Township's Deputy Treasurer was identified as the point person to maintain this data base. She continued with the mass upload of data from the subsequent year's utility bills, and from this point forward, uploads the gas and electric usages monthly upon receipt of the bills. Energy-Efficient Benchmarking assessment was conducted by using the Energy Star Portfolio Manager. No reports were generated for the DPW 3-bay Metal Storage building nor the DPW Salt Storage, as there are no separate utility services associated with them. Only Town Hall reported an Energy Score; with a baseline score of 7 and a current year score of 2. For all the other buildings, the Energy Scores were reported as "N/A".

**PDF:** [ET&M SUMMARY](#)

**PDF:** [BUILDING PORTFOLIO](#)

**EXCEL:** [ENERGY USAGE DATA](#)

**PDF:** [ESPM ENERGY USAGE](#)

**PDF:** [SEP REPORTS.PDF](#)

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## Food

## Farmland Preservation Plans

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Farmland preservation has been a central theme of land use planning in Cranbury Township for nearly 20 years. Approximately 64% (more than 2000 acres) of agricultural land in Cranbury Township is designated as permanently preserved farmland. Nearly all (83%) of Cranbury's preserved farmland is actively farmed. Cranbury's Master Plan includes a Farmland Preservation element which is consistent with regional goals described in the Middlesex County Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan. To set aside agricultural land, Cranbury Township uses proactive municipal planning and zoning approaches including the purchase of development rights under the Farmland Preservation Program of the New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC), promotion of lot averaged development patterns, and the acquisition of agricultural properties. In collaboration with the Middlesex County Agricultural Development Board (CADB), Cranbury has established an Agricultural Development Area and a plan for its preservation as farmland. The Township Farmland Preservation Plan includes a list of properties eligible for farmland preservation and a proposed strategy to place them under agricultural zoning. In addition, the Township adopted a Right to Farm ordinance to help farmers stay on agriculturally valuable land. Cranbury completed a Master Plan Re-examination in 2019 reaffirming Farmland Preservation and all the goals and objectives of the 2010 Master plan. The MP Re-exam identified goals and objectives and endorsed recommendations for future actions concerning Farmland Preservation in Cranbury (see uploaded FP Cranbury MP Reexam). The Middlesex CADB worked with the Township Administrator on the 2022 Targeted Farms list for Cranbury. It is updated annually (see FP 2022 Targeted Farmland file). Cranbury does continue to seek out farmers interested in Farmland Preservation, however, there has been very little activity related to the properties listed in Cranbury as eligible for farmland preservation. There are very few farms available and the owners have not been interested. A Township Committee member or the Township Administrator will ask a farmer if they would consider entering the Farmland Preservation program. The Township Clerk recently reached out to a farmer but they were not interested in the preservation program. The County has not solicited any Cranbury farmers to join the FPP, but the State has mentioned that they may begin looking at approaching farmers with 55-acres or more of farmland. If an application goes to the County, the Township Administrator becomes the contact person and works with the county. Cranbury continues to participate in CADB. In 2021, a Cranbury resident was appointed as a voting member of the MCADB and has been attending the meetings regularly. From October 13, 2021 - July 13, 2022, there were five CADB meetings scheduled. The July 13, 2022 meeting was cancelled. The Cranbury resident attended all four meetings during this time period (members and minutes attached). Recent CADB activity related to Cranbury included a commercial farm and Right to Farm determination and mitigation procedures for a complaint about agricultural practices.

**PDF:** [FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLANS DOCUMENTATION](#)

**WORD:** [2022 TARGETED FARMLAND.DOCX](#)

**WORD:** [FP MEMBERS AND MTG MINUTES.DOCX](#)

**WORD:** [FP CRANBURY MASTER PLAN REEXAM.DOCX](#)

**PDF:** [FP CRANBURY RIGHT TO FARM.PDF](#)

## Green Design

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### Green Building Policy/Resolution

## 5 Points

**Program Summary:** Cranbury's Master Plan includes a Green Building and Sustainability Element which was reaffirmed in the 2019 Master Plan Reexamination. A resolution for a Green Building Policy (R-08-101) was adopted by the Township Committee in 2022 and distributed to the appropriate boards and commissions (Planning Board, Zoning Board and Environmental Commission). CRANBURY TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION # R 08-22-101 RESOLUTION FOR A GREEN BUILDING POLICY: The link to the Green Building Policy can be found posted on the Cranbury website at (see pages 8-9):

[https://www.cranburytownship.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4296/f/minutes/tc\\_minutes\\_08-08-22.pdf](https://www.cranburytownship.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4296/f/minutes/tc_minutes_08-08-22.pdf)

**WORD:** [GB SUS CRANBURY MASTER PLAN REEXAM.DOCX](#)

**PDF:** [GREEN BUILDING DESIGN RES R-08-22-101.PDF](#)

**PDF:** [GREEN BUILDING POLICY DISTRIBUTION 2.PDF](#)

## Health & Wellness

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### Building Healthier Communities

## 20 Points

**Program Summary:** Cranbury's Township Committee and our other municipal boards, committees, and departments are committed to making Cranbury a healthier place to live, work, and play for all ages. During the pandemic, the Mayor's Wellness Committee was formed and is comprised of members of the Board of Health, Municipal Alliance, Parks Commission, and the Mayor. The MWC reached out to experts in nutrition, yoga, nature, and exercise to create a program for all ages that encourages healthier behavior through diet, fitness and access to our parks and open space. They partnered with the Cranbury School to expand a vaping education program to the entire community. Programming has mostly been through Zoom. In 2021, they applied and received the New Jersey Healthy Town Up and Coming Award. Cranbury Township also provides programs specifically for our youth and seniors. The Recreation Department has robust programming throughout the year geared toward children of all ages. The very popular recreational summer camp was sold out this year with over 300 children attending the 7 week program filled with fun activities for socialization, education and exercise. For our seniors, Township staff work with the Recreation Department to advertise and enable senior programming. The Senior Center has recently reopened after a pandemic hiatus so the popular lunch program is back. Tai Chi has been ongoing. Cranbury is a small town but with committed staff and volunteers, we will continue to provide a variety of programs and events for our residents to help them achieve healthier lifestyles and improve overall health and wellness in our community. Our next goals include more in-person events, highlighting our community helpers, and mental health.

**WORD:** [BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES YOUTH.DOCX](#)

**WORD:** [BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES SUBMISSION FORM SENIOR.DOCX](#)

**PDF:** [2021 MWC HEALTHY TOWN APPLICATION](#)

**PDF:** [BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES - ALL AGES](#)

**PDF:** [PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL FOR YOUTH AND SENIOR PROGRAMS](#)

**PDF:** [MWC PLEDGE AND NJ HEALTHY TOWN UP AND COMING AWARD](#)

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## Safe Routes to School

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Cranbury recognizes that there is a need to promote the health and safety of our children. Driving children to school by private vehicle and idling in the school vicinity contributes to traffic congestion and air pollution near the school, and air pollution near schools can have adverse effects on student health as well as on the local environment. Bicycling and walking to school can have a positive mental and physical impact on the health of children and youth and helps them arrive at school ready to learn. Cranbury supports the New Jersey Safe Routes to School program which enables and encourages students to walk and bicycle to school and the development and maintenance of safe ways to walk and bicycle to school. Cranbury earned Silver Level SRTS Recognition through the NJ SRTS Program in 2020. In October 2021, Cranbury School was unable to hold the International Walk to School day as a group activity due to the pandemic. However, during morning announcements, Cranbury School acknowledged students who walked to school individually. In April 2022, the Mayor's Walk to School event was very successful with over 40 children attending and walking to school with the Mayor, School Administrator, Vice Principal, Chief of Police, Cranbury Staff and other Cranbury leaders. For the 2021-2022 school year, a total of 10 crossing guards completed Crossing Guard Training conducted by the Cranbury Police. Our partnership with Keep Middlesex Moving has encouraged students to walk and bike to school.

**WORD:** [NJ SRTS WEBSITE SILVER.DOCX](#)

**WORD:** [MAYOR'S WALK TO SCHOOL DAY.DOCX](#)

**WORD:** [SRS SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT.DOCX](#)

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## Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Public Places

10 Points

**Program Summary:** In February 2017, an ORDINANCE NO. 05-17-01 of the Cranbury Board of Health added Chapter 167 "Smoking Prohibited in Township Parks, Open Space and Recreational Facilities" to the Cranbury Code. However, it was limited in scope to only four parks and enforced by the Board of Health. Chapter 167 was amended and adopted by BOH on February 4, 2019 to include all parks, open space, recreational areas and Township-owned properties (SF BOH Minutes Ord Adoption file). The ordinance was advertised accordingly and posted on the township website with the BOH minutes. It is being enforced by the Cranbury police department to assure compliance. Smoke-free and tobacco-free signs were posted in township parks. (see SF Sign file). The community was informed about the policy with outreach material posted on websites (SF WI Outreach) and at a recent "Wellness and Sustainability Fair" at Cranbury School in May 2019. The Environmental Commission, Parks Commission and Board of Health worked together to educate the public about the impact of smoking on health and the environment with displays (jarful of old cigarette butts collected at parks) and educational material at the fair (see SF Health and Wellness Fair).

**WORD:** [SF WI OUTREACH](#)

**WORD:** [SF HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR](#)

**PDF:** [SF ORDINANCE 06022019](#)

**WORD:** [SF SIGNAGE](#)

**PDF:** [SF BOH MINUTES ORD ADOPTION](#)

## Land Use & Transportation

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### Sustainable Land Use Pledge

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** With the readoption of the Sustainable Land Use Pledge, the Cranbury Township Committee confirmed its continued commitment to sustainable land use practices that will balance economic, environmental and social needs with a high quality of life for residents. The "Resolution of the Township of Cranbury Pledge for Sustainability Land Use", R 08-22-102 was placed on the August 8, 2022 Cranbury Township Committee agenda. It was adopted by the governing body at the same meeting. It reaffirms the township's commitment to sustainable land use. The Mayor distributed a copy of the resolution to the secretaries of the Zoning and Planning Boards and the Environmental Commission for distribution to board and commission members.

**PDF:** [RESOLUTION FOR A SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLEDGE DISTRIBUTION 1.PDF](#)

**PDF:** [SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLEDGE 2022.PDF](#)

**PDF:** [RESOLUTION FOR A SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLEDGE DISTRIBUTION 2.PDF](#)

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### Bicycle & Pedestrian Audits

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Cranbury Bicycle Network Plan was selected for technical assistance to identify specific routes and road treatments to improve infrastructure to help it become bike and pedestrian friendly. Sustainable Jersey and Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC) at Rutgers, funded by New Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), provided the technical assistance and January 2021 final report for Cranbury's bike network. The final technical report included feedback from the town residents and professionals and Middlesex County, recommendations were based on existing conditions, best practices, feedback from township (what residents want it to look like) and input from the county for county roads. It helps guide road improvements and helps with identifying grant funding. Cranbury's mix of rural roads and roads with freight cargo make it unique and this plan provides Cranbury a pathway forward to become more bike and pedestrian friendly.

**PDF:** [CRANBURY-BICYCLE-NETWORK-REPORT-FINAL.PDF](#)

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### Community Design for All Ages

5 Points

**Program Summary:** Cranbury acknowledges the population of 65 and older has increased in New Jersey. Cranbury already has many amenities that support the older population and the Township Committee realizes older people need to be able to easily utilize the built environment.

A variety of housing options exist for senior citizens. Many are located within the historic Village within easy walking distance to parks and local restaurants. There are sidewalk bump-outs at the busiest intersection and a flashing-light crosswalk in the historic Village as well. To highlight the importance of this community design feature, the Township Committee discussed and adopted component 6 of this action item, The Resolution for an Age Friendly Community Design (R-08-100), at the August 2022 Township Committee Meeting.

**PDF:** [COMMUNITY DESIGN AGE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION.PDF](#)

**WORD:** [CRANBURY AGE FRIENDLY ACTION SUBMISSION WORKSHEET.DOCX](#)

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## **Green Building & Environmental Sustainability Element \*Retired 12/31/24\***

**10 Points**

**Program Summary:** Cranbury completed and adopted a Master Plan Re-examination in 2019 reaffirming the The Green Building and Environmental Sustainability Element and all the goals and objectives of the 2010 Master plan. The MP Re-exam identified goals and objectives achieved (draft alternate energy ordinance and SJ certification) and endorsed recommendations made by the Green Team for future actions concerning sustainability (see uploaded MP Reexam file). Several goals have been completed such as the Municipal Energy Audit and Bike Network Plan and are being evaluated to determine future actions. The Green Building and Environmental Sustainability Element was adopted in the 2010 Cranbury Township Master Plan. The overall goal of this element was to address energy, land use, transportation and waste. It provides a review of Cranbury Township's existing sustainability efforts, including farmland and open space preservation, stormwater regulation, renewable energy projects, an Environmental Resource Inventory, and a municipal energy audit. Sustainability goals and objectives listed in other elements of the master plan include encouraging wind and solar projects in industrial areas, continuing to preserve farmland, exploring options for bike and walking paths, adopting a stream corridor conservation overlay ordinance, and encouraging backyard composting. The Green Building and Environmental Sustainability Element contains a "green plan goals and objectives" section which suggests participation in the Sustainable Jersey program, education of the public on the importance of energy efficiency and conservation measures, and making municipal buildings and operations more sustainable.

**WORD:** [GREEN BLDG AND SUST UPLOAD 1](#)

**WORD:** [GB SUS CRANBURY MASTER PLAN REEXAM.DOCX](#)

**PDF:** [RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2019 MASTER PLAN REEXAMINATION REPORT.PDF](#)

## **Natural Resources**

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### **Natural Resource Inventory**

**20 Points**

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** Updated Natural / Environmental Resource Inventory Via a Sustainable Jersey Grant: The updating of the original 2006 Cranbury Township ERI, completed in March 2016, has produced a much more comprehensive document for use as a planning tool to assist

Cranbury Township balance the ongoing development within the Township while protecting and enhancing the sensitive environmental resources in the Township (see uploaded file, ERI Cranbury 2016). The updated ERI provides over 30 maps (as opposed to 11 in the original 2006 ERI) depicting key climate, geologic, soils, water resources, wetlands, air quality, land use, and wildlife information on the resources in the Township. All of the existing data and text in the original ERI has been updated, as required, and new data and text has been provided for the additional maps included in the updated ERI. The Cranbury Township Environmental Commission took the opportunity in updating the ERI to expand on the key characteristics of the Township that make Cranbury a special community. Discussions on the Village Historic District, as well as the open space within the Township have been expanded in the updated ERI. Additional mapping, data, and text on the parks, wildlife preserves, and farmland preservation have been included on the updated ERI. In updating the ERI, the Environmental Commission has also provided links to other key documents and information that are important in the planning process. Links to the Cranbury Township Master Plan, the Open Space component of the Master Plan, the Middlesex County Farmland Preservation Plan are provided in the applicable sections of the updated ERI. The link to the Parks Committee's web site provides useful information on all of the parks and wildlife preserves within the Township. The Township Committee has passed a resolution to update and adopt the ERI (see file uploaded, ERI TC Resolution 2016). The updated ERI will be incorporated into the Township's Master Plan. The Township has made the future updating of the Environmental Resource Inventory the responsibility of the Environmental Commission / Green Team. The ERI will be updated as necessary as priorities and conditions in the community change and coinciding with the updating of the Township's Master Plan (see uploaded file, ERI Cranbury MP Update).

**PDF: [ERI CRANBURY MP UPDATE](#)**

**PDF: [ERI TC RESOLUTION 2016](#)**

**PDF: [ERI CRANBURY 2016](#)**

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## Environmental Commission

10 Points

**Program Summary:** As described in Chapter 16 of the Township of Cranbury Code, an Environmental Commission was established in 1972 (see uploaded file, EC Ordinance). Since that time, the EC has been an active advisor to the Township Planning Board and leader on environmental issues and sustainability within Cranbury. The EC consists of seven members appointed by the Mayor; one of the members is also a member of the Planning Board. One member is designated the Chairman and presiding officer, and the member terms are 3 years (except when filling an incomplete term). The EC also has two alternate members. Meetings are the third Monday night of each month at 7 pm. The EC takes the lead in many programs that raise awareness and directly address environmental issues (see uploaded file, EC Year End Report). Some of these programs include: · Leading the Green Team on sustainability actions within the township and initiating the actions necessary for Cranbury School to become a Silver certified Sustainable Jersey School; · Eradication of invasive plant species and planting native species in public passive recreation areas (for example, the Cranbury Brook Preserve); · Working with Watershed Institute on stream cleanups; · Constructing and maintaining signs and trails in the public passive recreation areas; · Working with Scouts and school groups on environmental education initiatives such as water quality, rain garden and recycling; · Providing the annual Meiss Environmental Award to a graduating Cranbury School (8th grade) student who has been a positive environmental role model; · Updating and maintaining the Township's Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI); · Working with the Shade Tree Commission and Park Commission on various issues and projects; · Reviewing development plans and providing suggestions for improvement to the Planning Board; · Staffing a booth at the Cranbury Day outdoor fair and the school's Health and Wellness Fair each year to explain the EC's work and promote sustainable

activities; and · Educating the community about timely issues such as the Spotted Lanternfly and everyday alternatives to plastics.

**WORD:** [EC ORDINANCE](#)

**IMAGE:** [2022 EC MEMBER LIST](#)

**WORD:** [EC 2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS / 2022 GOALS](#)

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## Environmental Commission Site Plan Review

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Cranbury Environmental Commission has implemented the following process to ensure that all development applications are reviewed for possible adverse environmental impact. First, a member of the Environmental Commission serves on the Cranbury Township Development Review Committee (DRC). The DRC performs a preliminary review of all development applications prior to these applications being sent to either the Zoning Board or the Planning Board for final review. The EC's participation on this committee is intended to allow us to advise applicants at the earliest possible opportunity of potential environmental issues within their site plan. Although all environmental issues are considered, the majority of the EC's focus has been on issues involving stream buffers, wetlands, stormwater management, hazardous soil mitigation, and the use of non-invasive native trees and vegetation. If an applicant indicates that an environmental issue contained in their site plan cannot (or will not) be changed – despite the advice given by the EC member at the DRC meeting – the application and the issue will be brought before the full Environmental Commission at the next EC meeting. If warranted, a memorandum summarizing the EC's concerns, recommendations, and/or advice will then be sent to the appropriate Township government body.

**PDF:** [DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS REVIEWED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION \(2020-2022\) \(1\).PDF](#)

**PDF:** [EC MEMO - PB325-19, CRANBURY STATION ROAD.PDF](#)

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## Open Space Plans

10 Points

**Program Summary:** In May 2006, the Cranbury Planning Board formed the Cranbury Open Space and Recreation Subcommittee. It was composed of members from the Cranbury Township Planning Board, Board of Education, Township Committee, Environmental Commission, Recreation Commission, Park Commission, Human Services Board as well as the Township engineer, Planning Board attorney and Township planners. The members met once a month from June to September and twice a month in October and November at Cranbury Town Hall. Two public meetings which included breakout work sessions (June 17 and October 18, 2006)---one focusing on active recreation, and the second on passive recreation---were particularly important in guiding the scope of the subcommittee's work and directing the needs and priorities of the town's open space plans. A review of prior planning efforts, most notably the 1993 Master Plan and the 2000 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) for Cranbury, and extensive public input were also important in drafting the initial report. The draft report was created and circulated for the subcommittee's review and was forwarded to the Cranbury Planning Board for consideration at a public meeting. After public comments and questions on April 19, 2007 and additional changes made to the draft, the revised version was adopted at a public Planning Board Meeting on October 4, 2007. The 2007 OSRP is referenced throughout the 2010 Cranbury Master Plan. The OSRP recommends making

improvement to Cranbury's existing parks (both active and passive) to increase their utilization, keeping preserved open space in its natural state, and accommodating farming operations where approved.

**PDF:** [OSRP ELEMENT DOCUMENT](#)

**IMAGE:** [OSRP CRANBURY MASTER PLAN REFERENCE](#)

**:** [OSRP CRANBURY PLANNING BRD ADOPTION](#)

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## Community Forestry Management Plan & NJUCF Accreditation

20 Points

**Program Summary:** Community Forestry Plan: Cranbury's Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP) was set to expire December 31st, 2022. Due to NJ Urban and Community Forestry Program Guideline Updates, Cranbury CFMP was eligible for a 5-year extension of expiration which resulted in a new CFMP expiration date of Dec 31, 2027 (see attached file, 2022 CFMP Expiration Extension Letters). NJUCF Accreditation continues to be met with the Cranbury Shade Tree Commission earning 17.0 CEU's in 2021 --- members attended webinars and the annual NJ Shade Tree Federation Conference (see attached file, Accreditation 2021). Cranbury was named a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation for the 34th year. The Tree City Proclamation was read at the Arbor Day celebration held on April 22, 2022 at Memorial Park. The celebration included planting a red bud tree along Brainerd Lake and second graders reading a poem in rounds, and singing a song in unison. Each child held their own personal artwork poster of a tree, underscored with a list of tree attributes. The Shade Tree Commission webpage on the Township website provides residents resources on tree planting and care and a "do not plant" list. Articles were submitted to a local journal about the work of the Shade Tree Commission. The Chair of the Shade Tree led a "Benefits of Trees" zoom talk for residents as part of the Mayor's Wellness Team campaign.

**PDF:** [2022 CFMP EXPIRATION EXTENSION LETTERS.PDF](#)

**WORD:** [ACCREDITATION 2021.DOCX](#)

**PDF:** [COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN](#)

**WORD:** [CHRONICLE ARTICLE SHADE TREE 2020.DOCX](#)

**WORD:** [BENEFITS OF TREES TALK.DOCX](#)

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## Tree Hazard Inventory

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Tree Hazard and Inventory Assessmen In May 2017 two commissioners volunteered a total of fourteen (14) hours to assess the health of each shade tree located on Main Street in historic Cranbury (see attached Tree Survey Map and Inventory). The members performed a visual survey and produced a newly revised 1-2-3 Shade Tree Assessment Survey, using the original survey conducted in 2012. Trees with the designation #1 required immediate maintenance, #2 trees required maintenance in the near future, and #3 trees did not require work at the time. Tree condition details are listed in the current survey; however disease/insect designation is not included as members are not arborists or experts. It is widely known, and documented in a Rutgers University census, that most susceptible oak species are infected with Bacterial Leaf Scorch. Tree species and locations by address are included in the survey. A map indicating the survey area is included here. The updated 2017 report was delivered to the

Township Committee, and to the Public Works Department (DPW). DPW initiated removal of the hazardous rated trees, and pruning of trees needing maintenance. In addition, Shade Tree coordinated the removal of one hundred fifty-nine (159) ash trees as part of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) control in 2017. Eighteen (18) trees were planted in 2018 to begin the replacement of lost ash trees. Forty replacement trees will be planted this year. In 2018 eight (8) trees were planted on Main Street in an effort to mitigate loss of trees to storms and disease. This will be an ongoing effort.

**IMAGE:** [TREE HAZARD ASSESSMENT AREA MAP CRANBURY](#)

**EXCEL:** [TREE HAZARD INVENTORY](#)

**WORD:** [TREE SURVEY MAP](#)

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## Tree Maintenance Programs

10 Points

**Program Summary:** In February 2021 Shade Tree Commission initiated a multi-year plan dependent on current State University data to reduce and manage the proliferation of Ailanthus trees and the insects attracted to them, spotted lanternfly, in the public parks. Over the first year, 2021, outside tree firms applied insecticide to host trees early in the season in Village Park. Subsequently all 31 female Ailanthus trees were removed, stumps treated with herbicide. Total expenditure was \$24.6K. Approximately 50 volunteer hours were spent doing visual assessments, attending meetings, procuring vendor quotes, attending webinars, and coordinating with Public Works for this project. Overall in 2021 Shade Tree's ongoing tree maintenance resulted in 86 trees pruned and 55 removed including the Ailanthus mentioned above. Shade Tree is on track to remove and stump-treat the approximately 170 remaining Ailanthus trees in Village Park in fall 2022. Third year action will depend on observed results in spring 2023. Also this year, after completing a cycle of focused tree maintenance in all five parks in December 2021, Shade Tree will begin the cycle again where it started and is most needed, Heritage Park. Going forward in 2022 Shade Tree will coordinate with the Parks Commission about sustainable restoration of the woods copse where Ailanthus was eliminated, and has opened up the canopy. Cranbury does not have a tree care professional on staff and hires professionals to complete tree removals and pruning. Attached is the 2021 Year Actual expenditures for tree maintenance which included tree removal and insect/host species management costs.

**WORD:** [TREE MAINTENANCE PROJECT REPORT.DOCX](#)

## Public Information & Engagement

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### Municipal Communications Strategy

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Township Committee Communication Subcommittee coordinates the township's communications strategy and meets several times throughout the year. It is composed of two Township Committee members, the Township Clerk and Township Administrator. In 2020, the committee changed website vendors in order to provide a more user-friendly website. They

also updated their resident list for email alerts. Following that, both Cranbury School and Cranbury's Economic Development Action Committee conducted surveys to better understand how residents get their community information and those results were shared with the public at a Township Committee meeting. Cranbury uses its website, social media (i.e. Facebook), Nixle, newspapers, and the Township's public access television program, Channel 26, to keep the public informed on township committee meetings and events, etc. Eblasts to residents' emails are provided on upcoming events, Mayor's monthly newsletter, meeting agendas and minutes. The website's homepage provides important contact information with town employees to answer questions by phone or email. An announcement section on the website helps get information out to the community as well. The Municipal Clerk oversees and updates the website. Quarterly checks are done by departments and municipal board secretaries and update information as necessary.

**WORD:** [2022 MUNICIPAL COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY CHECKLIST](#)

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## Digitizing Public Information

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Cranbury website is constantly being updated to include information for its residents. It includes all required information from the digitized information checklist (see submitted checklist).

**PDF:** [DIGITIZING PUBLIC INFORMATION SUBMISSION CHECKLIST 2022 \(1\).PDF](#)

## Sustainability & Climate Planning

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### Community Asset Mapping

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Green Team worked with elected officials as well as Cranbury residents and businesses to develop a Community Asset Map that would celebrate and enable residents to utilize the community's varied resources. There were discussions to determine what should be included in the asset map that would highlight Cranbury's rich history that is intricately linked to agriculture as well as provide a vision of Cranbury Township's historic downtown village with vibrant community services and prosperous local businesses that support the residents of Cranbury. The map features local businesses, educational facilities, places of worship, local farms, services, schools, parks and open spaces, food and drink, and shopping opportunities. An interactive map was chosen because it enables easy updates and changes to it. After the information was collected, the map was posted on the Township website and the local business association website. It is a collective inventory of the positive and valued aspects of our community and identifies the places, institutions, programs, and people that contribute to making our community a great place to live. The value of the CAM became even more clear when, during the pandemic, residents had one place to go for up-to-date information on community resource and business hours and other important information.

**WORD:** [CRANBURY ASSET MAP.DOCX](#)

## Waste Management

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### Prescription Drug Safety & Disposal

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** A permanent medicine collection Drop-Off location was created at the Cranbury Township Police Department station located at 1 Logan Drive, Cranbury, NJ (Drop off photos file). The metal disposal unit has been installed in the lobby of the police station that is open 8:30am-4:30 pm Monday-Friday but medicine is accepted 365 days, 24 hrs a day. Over the last 18 months 120 lbs were collected. The program is in its fifth year. Information about medicine collection was posted in the Mayor's Update (Mayor's Update Presc Drugs file) and a local journal (Mayors Newsletter file) and eblasts from Cranbury Police on Nixle. A recent Nixle alert announced a DEA National Prescription Take Back Day on April 30, 2022 (DEA Drug Take Back 2022 file). Additional educational material is posted in the Cranbury Town Hall with links to information to national and state programs (PD Drop Off Add file). Information about the prescription drug collection program is posted on the Cranbury Police Department/OEM website page (Prescription Drug Drop Off CPD Link).

**WORD:** [DROP OFF PHOTOS.DOCX](#)

**PDF:** [DEA DRUG TAKE BACK 2022.PDF](#)

**PDF:** [MAYORS UPDATE PRESCR DRUGS.PDF](#)

**PDF:** [MAYORS NEWSLETTER 052022 PRESC.PDF](#)

**PDF:** [PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP OFF CPD LINK.PDF](#)

**PDF:** [PD DROP OFF ADD.PDF](#)

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### Community Paper Shredding Day

5 Points

**Program Summary:** Community Paper Shredding Day Cranbury Township hosts a shred event every year for all residents of Middlesex County. It is organized with the help of Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste (MCDSW) due to the great bid rates it received. This event is advertised on both the Cranbury Township and the MCDSW websites. The paper shredding event dates are also advertised in the Town Hall front desk. A paper shredding event was held on August 14, 2021 where 286 people attended (55 Cranbury residents) and 12,100 lbs of paper was shredded. It is organized and held in the Cranbury School parking lot to accommodate the vendor's two shred trucks. The advertised hours are from 9:00am to 12pm or until the truck is full-whichever comes first! Two employees from MCDSW and three Cranbury Township employees are needed to work this event.

**PDF:** [PAPER SHRED AUG 2021](#)

**PDF:** [PAPER\\_SHRED\\_2022.PDF](#)

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## Household Hazardous Waste

15 Points

**Program Summary:** Cranbury collects household hazardous waste at the Recycle Shed. It includes electronics, florescent bulbs, motor oil, automotive batteries and dry cell batteries and antifreeze. The Recycle Shed is located at the DPW Yard, 100 Dey Road. It is open on the first Friday of the month, from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. If the first Friday is a legal holiday, then the Recycle Shed will be open on the Second Friday of the month. Details on how and what to recycle can be found on the Cranbury's DPW webpage as well the Middlesex County website. Cranbury provides paper copies of recycling information at the front desk of Town Hall for its residents and on an annual resident brochure sent to homes. Cranbury Township also promotes and provides residents information about Household Hazardous Waste events in Middlesex County. The service is provided for Middlesex County residents from 8 am - 2 pm. Acceptable items to recycle include aerosol cans, anti-freeze, fluorescent lightbulbs, car batteries, used motor oil/filter, paint (lataex/oil), paint thinner and other hazardous categories.

**WORD:** [MIDDLESEX HAZARDOUS WASTE LINKS.DOCX](#)

**PDF:** [E-WASTE DISTRIBUTION AND FLYER.PDF](#)

**PDF:** [RESIDENT FLYER.PDF](#)

**PDF:** [CRANBURY TWP 2021 TONNAGE REPORT.PDF](#)

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## Non-Mandated Materials Recycling

15 Points

**Program Summary:** Cranbury also participates in a technotrash program for CD/DVD disks and cassettes, VHS, audio, and computer tapes, inkjet cartridges, hard drives, cords, cables, chips & boards. This is a collection/recycling program with Green Disk an ongoing program is currently operational. Promotional items for these materials are found on the DPW website and at Town Hall front desk. The total collected in 2021 was 113 pounds. Styrofoam is collected on a regular basis at the DPW yard. Middlesex County collects it from the DPW yard and the amount has not been provided to the DPW from the County.

**PDF:** [GREENDISK TECHNOTRASH.PDF](#)

**WORD:** [STYROFOAM.DOCX](#)

**PDF:** [CRANBURY TONNAGE REPORT.PDF](#)

**PDF:** [TECHNOTRASH PROMO.PDF](#)

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## Recycling Depot

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Recycling Depot Shed: The Recycling Depot Shed is open on the first Friday of the month, unless a legal holiday-then the shed is open on the 2nd Friday of the month. Hours of operation are 9 am – 12 pm. The shed is open one day a month and not open one day a week because Cranbury is not a large enough town to keep the depot busy on a weekly basis. Also, Cranbury's Dept. of Public Works does not have the manpower to support weekly operation of the depot. Acceptable items include all e-waste, florescent bulbs (compact & tubes) and white, clean

polystyrene. Items not accepted include, but are not limited to take-out containers, plastic egg cartons, packing peanuts or molded plastic packaging. Information about the Recycle Shed can be found on the Cranbury Township website at the DPW webpage and in the Mayor's Updates and town-wide eblasts. Paper copies of DPW information can be found at the Town Hall front desk. Another collection program that Cranbury participates in is a technotrash program that keeps CD/DVD disks and cassettes, VHS, audio, and computer tapes, inkjet cartridges, hard drives, cords, cables, chips & boards out of the landfill. These items are collected at Town Hall, and then sent to GreenDisk for proper recycling.

**PDF:** [RECYCLING GUIDE MIDDLESEX COUNTY.PDF](#)

**WORD:** [RD SHED PHOTO](#)

**PDF:** [CRANBURY\\_RESIDENTS\\_2022\\_DPW\\_AND\\_RECYCLING\\_PROGRAMS.PDF](#)

**PDF:** [RECYCLE SHED RECYCLING DPW.PDF](#)

**WORD:** [RS COMMUNICATION.DOCX](#)

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## Grass - Cut It and Leave It Program

5 Points

**Program Summary:** Since 2013, Cranbury Township has continuously made an effort through the Public Works Department and the Environmental Commission to educate the public about "Cut It and Leave It" or Grasscycling. The Public Works Department and its recycling coordinator posted information about it on the Cranbury Website, <https://www.cranburytownship.org/departments-public-works/pages/grasscycling> (see uploaded file, Grasscycling DPW info) and identified the practice in the DPW "Frequently Asked questions", <https://www.cranburytownship.org/departments-public-works/pages/frequently-asked-questions> (see uploaded file, Grasscycling DPW FAQ). The information on the website summarizes the importance of the program and its benefits to the environment. The Environmental Commission promotes the idea that mowing and leaving the clippings in place on the lawn saves homeowners time and money. The EC has informed the public about the program at their table on Cranbury Day, an annual town-wide event. The commissioners handed out the Cranbury DPW website information about the program and discussed with citizens how to incorporate "Cut It and Leave It" as part of their lawncare. Copies for the residents of the grasscycling information from Middlesex County Improvement Authority website (see uploaded file, Grasscycling MIA) and Cranbury's DPW website can also be found in Cranbury's Town Hall.

**PDF:** [GRASSCYCLING DPW INFO.PDF](#)

**PDF:** [GRASSCYCLING DPW FAQ.PDF](#)

**IMAGE:** [GRASSCYCLING MCIA.JPG](#)

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## Reusable Bag Education Program \*Retires 12/31/25\*

5 Points

**Program Summary:** Reusable Bag Program The Cranbury Township Recycling Dept. along with members of boards have been educating the community about reusable bags. The Township offers its residents a reuse-it refrigeration bag. These lined bags are obtained from Clean Communities to help residents hold their refrigerated items from supermarkets. This reusable bag initiative is being continued by the Dept. of Public Works by distributing these bags, with recycling containers/bins, to new residents who move into Cranbury. Information about the

reuseable bags and the recent ban on plastic bags is posted on the DPW website with a link to the Middlesex County Dept of Public Safety and Health. In preparation for the ban on single use plastic bags, reminders to use reusable bags were handed out on Cranbury Day 2021. These same reminder signs about the plastic bag ban and need for reusable bags were handed out to local businesses and placed in storefronts in May 2022. The April 2022 Mayor's Update reminded residents where to pick up a reusable bag and provided a link for residents to obtain information related to the single use plastic bag ban. A "bag care" component is part of the program with an informational article on ways to clean your reusable grocery bag being made available throughout the year at townhall (Reusable Bag Article uploaded).

**WORD: [RBAG PHOTO](#)**

**IMAGE: [REUSABLE BAG SIGN UP](#)**

**WORD: [REUSABLE BAGS SIGN .DOCX](#)**

**PDF: [REUSEABLE BAG INITIATIVE INFORMATION.PDF](#)**

**PDF: [RB BAG CARE.PDF](#)**

**PDF: [MAYOR'S UPDATE - APRIL 2022.PDF](#)**