



Sustainable Jersey Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Jersey Certification Report of Hopewell Twp, a Sustainable Jersey bronze certified applicant.

Hopewell Twp was certified on September 22, 2023 with 165 points. Listed below is information regarding Hopewell Twp’s Sustainable Jersey efforts and materials associated with the applicant’s certified actions.

Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Jersey contact for Hopewell Twp is:

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Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Hopewell Twp was approved for in 2023 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

Green Team

10 Points

 Bronze Required

Program Summary: The governing bodies of Hopewell Borough, Hopewell Township, and Pennington Borough continue to recognize a need to develop "green" initiatives to create a plan for a healthy economy, environment, and society in Hopewell Valley. Over the past year, the Green Team has been very active with educational and recycling activities within the community,

as outlined in the annual report. These recycling events collect a wide range of materials such as Styrofoam, plastics, CDs/DVDs, bottle corks, and dental hygiene products. Secondly, Hopewell Township received a grant to participate in the Sustainable Jersey Solar Challenge. The Green Team was an active partner in the program, discussing strategies for getting the word out at our monthly meetings and highlighting the Solar Hopewell.org portal to Energy Sage at our Hopewell Harvest Fair, Mercer Green Fest & Pennington Day.

PDF: [GREEN TEAM SIGNED RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [RESO REESTABLISHING GREEN TEAM](#)

PDF: [GREEN TEAM ACTIVITIES LETTER](#)

IMAGE: [GREEN TEAM WEB PAGE](#)

Energy

Municipal Onsite Solar System

10 Points

Program Summary: Hopewell Township was approved for a rebate to install solar panels as a participant in the New Jersey Clean Energy Customer On-Site Renewable Energy Program. Hopewell Township began preparing the details for a typical roof installation. It was determined that the roof upon which the installation was initially planned would require replacement within 10 years and subsequent to that determination, \$1,000,000 was appropriated by the community for this replacement work. After the money had been appropriated, discussions ensued about ground mounting the solar installation in order to avoid premature roof replacement. After a months of code review and site analysis, the Township came to the conclusion that its site assets were limited and rather than given up open land that may be needed for other public buildings, that it would install the solar panels in a highly visible location; inside the stormwater management basin that serves the public works facility. This location was unique in that it was located adjacent to a roadway but far enough back to not be an attraction to vandals. The location would allow the solar installation to serve as a community demonstration project. I have attached a photo showing the installation area. There were challenges to designing for this location. Ultimately all issues were overcome and the final design was publically bid in January, 2009 and completed later that year. Since installation the site has had many visitors to observe the panels and their construction. Outreach included a sustainability outreach to the public through the annual calendar and website media http://www.hopewelltp.org/sustain_article_nyt1.html .

PDF: [PANEL ARRAY PHOTO](#)

PDF: [SOLAR PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT](#)

PDF: [HOPEWELL GOES GREEN](#)

PDF: [SOLAR DISPLACEMENT](#)

PDF: [LETTER OF CERT. 2023](#)

Fleet Inventory

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: Hopewell Township is committed to updating its fleet with electric and/or hybrid vehicles as they are retired. We have 8 hybrid vehicles. We have five electric vehicle chargers in the parking lot of the Municipal Building, which are available to all and appear on maps of available chargers. Our current vehicle inventory contains 55 trucks and SUVs of varying sizes. 27 of those vehicles are diesel-powered and have a higher efficiency than our gas-powered vehicles. The Township employs two full-time mechanics, whose responsibilities include keeping all our vehicles in best operating condition with regularly scheduled preventive maintenance. Our drivers hold the appropriate credentials and have been properly trained in the operation of the vehicle(s) for which they are responsible and in using those vehicles in the most energy efficient way possible. Both the maintenance and training contribute to keeping our footprint to the lowest levels possible. We expect to continue to maintain our trucks and train our staff going forward. Hopewell Township is divided into 4 zones, and we plan our Public Works to minimize travel and fuel consumption. Whenever possible, our Police Department uses similar strategies when planning their travel throughout our 64 square miles. We have a no-idling policy in place for Public Works vehicles. Looking forward to the future, we plan to include electric and hybrid vehicles in our fleet when current vehicles need to be replaced. As we are committed to the goals of Sustainable New Jersey, we will use the Dashboard for Rapid Vehicle Electrification to help plan our replacement strategy, and will include environmental concerns when making decisions about those replacements.

EXCEL: [FLEET INVENTORY HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP](#)

Purchase Alternative Fuel Vehicles

10 Points

Program Summary: Hopewell Township completes a vehicle inventory and assessment of its vehicles owned every year before new vehicles are purchased. This continuing assessment review allows Hopewell Township to monitor fuel, maintenance costs, and mileage associated with its fleet. In reviewing a replacement vehicle for our police during the assessment process, it was determined that a hybrid-type vehicle would work very effectively for this use. Eight (8) vehicles were purchased for use by our police. Continuing to monitor the vehicles' usage will help Hopewell Township understand potentially expanding this hybrid vehicle usage within its fleet.

PDF: [HYBRID VEHICLE LETTER 2023](#)

PDF: [NJ MUNICIPAL MAGAZINE HYBRID V](#)

PDF: [HYBRID POLICE VEHICLE REG. 2023](#)

Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

15 Points

Program Summary: The Township was awarded a grant in 2017 to help finance the construction of the charging stations through PSE&G's EV Pilot Program. In 2022, construction was completed of five (5) electric vehicle public charging stations at its Municipal building and athletic complex. This location was chosen for its easy access to I-295, as well as its proximity for Township residents and employees. One charging station is dedicated for handicapped accessibility. The EV stations are all Level 2 charging stations and are municipally owned. The stations are accessible to the general public 24 hours/7 days per week. A nominal hourly fee (currently \$2.50/hr.) is collected to offset utility costs and 3rd party fee collection. Payment is entirely is entirely

electronic through the use of smartphone apps as does not require a municipal approval or account.

IMAGE: [LIBERTY PLUGIN LOCATION WEBSITE SCREENSHOT](#)

IMAGE: [GOOGLE LOCATION SCREENSHOT](#)

PDF: [HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP EV ACTION LETTER](#)

IMAGE: [EV STATION PHOTO 1](#)

IMAGE: [EV PHOTO 3](#)

Food

Farmers Markets

10 Points

Program Summary: The Pennington Farmers Market (PFM) is a non-profit organization supporting local agriculture. (Products at market must be grown or otherwise produced within a 50-mile radius of the market.) Established in 2009, PFM is beginning its 15th season, with about 12 vendors each week. The Market hosts 4-8 local farms weekly (numbers vary depending on where we are in the growing season). Other vendors offer baked goods, coffee, olive oil, honey and hand-crafted items. One space (complete with tent and table) is reserved each week for a local nonprofit organization. PFM operates on Saturdays from 9am to 1pm with a season that runs from late May through mid-November. It is located on the lawn in front of Rosedale Mills, a family-owned lawn/garden/pet/livestock store located in Hopewell Township. The annual operating budget is about \$10,000, with about 55% coming from vendor fees and the rest from donations contributed by local businesses and residents. Hopewell Township staff support the market by assisting with all the necessary permits, offering advice on site safety, and posting market reminders on the municipal facebook page.

PDF: [TOWNSHIP PERMIT AND RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [PROMOTIONS](#)

PDF: [LETTER OF SUPPORT](#)

Green Design

Green Building Policy/Resolution

5 Points

Program Summary: With the efforts of the environmental commission, Hopewell Township adopted Resolution #07-106 on March 26, 2007. This resolution focuses on the need to develop land ordinances that focus on green building, renewable energy and energy efficiency. This resolution was passed around to all departments as a reminder of the need to implement Green Building tactics. It is filed with the clerks office.

WORD: [GREEN BUILDING POLICY/RESOLUTION DOCUMENTATION](#)

WORD: [GREEN BUILDING POLICY/RESOLUTION DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [GREEN BUILDING MEMO](#)

Upgrade/Retrofit-Light Pollution

10 Points

Program Summary: The governing body of Hopewell Township has adopted Ordinance #03-1297 regulating site lighting in Hopewell Township to prevent negative impacts caused by misdirected or excessive illuminance, inappropriate or misaligned light fixtures, glare, light trespass, and sky glow. In 2019, the Hopewell Township Committee amended municipal code § 17-90 Outdoor Lighting through ordinance 19-1709 with the express purpose of reducing outdoor lighting proven harmful to wildlife as well as to conserve energy use and associated green house gas emissions. The strengthened requirements include: • Greater restriction of sky glow (e.g., light pollution emitted upward into the atmosphere) • Reduction of color temperature (3500 Kelvin or lower for commercial, industrial and institutional applications; 2700 Kelvin or lower for residential and outdoor parking applications). • Energy conservation by require use of energy efficient lighting, restricted schedules, and prohibition of temporary seasonal lighting. • Significantly increased site plan requirements to demonstrate evidence of compliance. • Empowerment of Township representatives to conduct post-installation inspections with authorization to require corrective actions.

PDF: [UPGRADE/RETROFIT-LIGHT POLLUTION DOCUMENTATION](#)

WORD: [§ 17-90 HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP LIGHTING ORDINANCE - AMENDED 2019.DOCX](#)

PDF: [LIGHTING ORD 2019](#)

Health & Wellness

Tobacco Free Community

5 Points

Program Summary: Hopewell Township works closely with the Hopewell Valley Municipal Alliance (HVMA), which administers programs and activities in Hopewell Valley to promote positive youth development and build community. It is a is a volunteer organization with representatives from various community sectors including local government, schools, businesses, law enforcement, non-profit organizations, faith community, youth serving organizations, special needs community, parents and health providers. HVMA's activities include programming on smoking and vaping education and outreach, social media outreach, and providing educational resources. Links to NJ211, a database run by the state for local resources, smoking cessation resources, and the NJ Quitline appear prominently on our website. Finally, our Health Department has created a Social Support Resources brochure, which is handed out at events and has been supplied to our first responders to give to those in need. This brochure includes resources for tobacco, vaping, and cannabis cessation.

PDF: [VAPING ON WEBSITE](#)

PDF: [TOBACCO AND VAPING OVERVIEW](#)
IMAGE: [HOPEWELL TEEN WELLNESS DAY](#)
IMAGE: [FACEBOOK POST QUIT](#)
IMAGE: [VAPE POCKET CARD](#)
IMAGE: [BOOKMARK](#)

Land Use & Transportation

Sustainable Land Use Pledge

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: During the May 1st Township Committee, Hopewell Township readopted its Sustainable Land Use Pledge with Resolution #23-185. This resolution was then distributed to all appropriate Boards as a reminder of Hopewell Township's commitment to sustainable development.

PDF: [SUSTAINABLE LAND USE MEMO TO BOARDS](#)
PDF: [SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLEDGE RESOLUTION](#)

Natural Resources

Environmental Commission

10 Points

Program Summary: Hopewell Township recognized the value of an Environmental Commission and has therefore adopted the enabling legislation providing for the creation of an Environmental Commission. The Hopewell Township Environmental Commission has been organized and functioning since 1974. It meets monthly and advises Hopewell Township on matters of environmental import ranging from development reviews to matters of sustainability to matters of open space and environmental stewardship. Information regarding the Hopewell Township Environmental Commission may be found on its website which is part of the Hopewell Township municipal website: <https://www.hopewelltpw.org/303/Environmental-Commission>. Also, please find the uploaded overview document "Hopewell Twp (Mercer) Env Comm Summary" with references to the other uploaded documentation.

PDF: [ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION DOCUMENTATION](#)
WORD: [HOPEWELL TWP \(MERCER\) ENV COMM SUMMARY](#)
EXCEL: [HTEC 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENT HIGHLIGHTS](#)
PDF: [HOPEWELL TWP EC DEC 2022 APPROVED MINUTES](#)
WORD: [HOPEWELL TWP \(MERCER\) ENV COMM MEMBERS 2023](#)

Environmental Commission Site Plan Review

10 Points

Program Summary: The Hopewell Township Zoning Board of Adjustment and Planning Board both refer site plan applications to the Hopewell Township Environmental Commission (HTEC) for their review and comment. The HTEC reviews and discusses the applications in public session during scheduled meetings. The findings of the HTEC are sent to Board secretaries and posted on the development application website prior to each application's hearing for consideration by the respective Board. Please see the attached HTEC Site Plan Review Action Overview.docx for further explanation.

WORD: [HTEC SITE PLAN REVIEW ACTION OVERVIEW.DOCX](#)

WORD: [2022 REPORT OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS FOR HTEC REVIEW.DOCX](#)

WORD: [HTEC FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS MEMO CASE 22-13.DOC](#)

Open Space Plans

10 Points

Program Summary: Hopewell Township Planning Board with assistance from the Recreation, and Open Space Committees, and the HT Environmental Commission has completed and updated Hopewell Townships comprehensive Open Space Plan, as a Master Plan Element

PDF: [PLANNING BOARD RESOLUTION ADOPTING UPDATED OPEN SPACE PLAN](#)

PDF: [OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN ELEMENT](#)

Clustering Ordinance

10 Points

Program Summary: The Hopewell Township Committee is committed to the principles behind and the goals established in its Master Plan and Reexamination Report, and enacted Zoning Ordinance Amendments which incorporated the recommendations made by the Planning Board in the Plan and Report as law. The Master Plan was based upon a comprehensive analysis of the Township's existing Master Plan (the "Plan"). The Board retained consultants to perform in-depth studies of the natural and topographic conditions and infrastructure limitations of the Township. The final adopted Plan and subsequent Reexamination Reports are a culmination of extensive public outreach and analysis, and involved the deliberations and analysis of the Board and its professionals over several years; and the recommendations contained within the Plan are intended, among other things, to recognize existing patterns of development in the Township, to protect environmentally sensitive areas of the Township, to preserve the natural resources of the Township (including groundwater quantity and quality), to recognize development capacity limitations established by natural resource capabilities, to maintain the rural character of the Township, to provide for sustainable development within the Township, and to provide for a variety of different types of housing within the Township, including affordable housing. Cluster provisions in the adopted Zoning Ordinance were part of master plan discussions.

PDF: [CLUSTER ORDINANCE](#)

PDF: [RESOLUTION CLUSTER ORDINANCE](#)

PDF: [CLUSTERING ORDINANCE DOCUMENTATION](#)

Tree Protection Ordinance *Retires 12/31/25*

10 Points

Program Summary: In furtherance the Master Plan goals, the Hopewell Township Environmental Commission worked with the Hopewell Township Planning Board to develop criteria by which tree removal would be regulated. The effort began in 2008 and culminated in 2012 with the Hopewell Township Committee adopting Ordinance #12-1554 titled "Forest Management and Tree Removal". Work product was reviewed at public meeting of the Environmental Commission and Hopewell Township Planning Board. Hopewell Township values its woodlands and continues to demonstrate its commitment to protecting these woodlands not only by this effort but also by the many other efforts which can be found at the educational links below:

http://www.hopewelltpw.org/env_tree_benefit.html

http://hopewelltpw.org/TREE_NOMINATION_FORM.pdf http://hopewelltpw.org/HV_Big_Tree_Display-Chart.pdf http://hopewelltpw.org/Woodlands_of_HV.pdf

PDF: [TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCE DOCUMENTATION](#)

Waste Management

Prescription Drug Safety & Disposal

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: The Hopewell Township Police Department has participated in the NJ Division of Community Affairs Project Medicine Drop for many years. This program is designed to help residents fight drug abuse by providing a permanent drop-off location for expired or no longer medically necessary medicines. Anyone can dispose of unused medications anonymously at the Police Station, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in the specially-marked secure drop box located in the lobby. This program is featured prominently on our website, on the Police Department's page with information about preventing drug abuse, as well as on the Environmental Commission's page, with information about how proper disposal of these chemicals benefits the environment. The prescription medicine is disposed of at Project Medicine. 305 pounds were collected from 1/1/2023-7/6/2023. The collection program serves roughly 18,000 Hopewell Valley residents.

IMAGE: [DROP OFF BOX IN THE POLICE STATION](#)

IMAGE: [DROP OFF BOX INSTRUCTIONS](#)

IMAGE: [DROP OFF BOX INFORMATION ON WEBSITE](#)

IMAGE: [NEWSLETTER ARTICLE](#)

IMAGE: [ARTICLE IN ONLINE NEWSPAPER](#)

Community Paper Shredding Day

5 Points

Program Summary: In the Township of Hopewell's effort to promote solutions that positively impact the environment, we have two shredding and electronics recycling events each year. They are usually held In April and October on Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm. For the year ended 2022, the events were held on April 23 and October 1. This year 2023, they are scheduled for April 22 and September 30. First, we will also open the event to Hopewell Borough and Pennington Borough this year. To promote the events, our Communications Manager posts on social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) and our website. In addition to the social media post, the events are posted on our PEGTV channel (Comcast 95 and Verizon 30)—a sample of both is attached hereto. Attendance at the events runs from 250 to 500 residents. On average, paper shredding is 4 tons per event. This year should be more with the inclusion of Hopewell and Pennington Boroughs. Logistics – We use Newtech Recycling for the Electronics and Proshred (formally Safeguard) for paper shredding. The Public Works bays are utilized for the event creating a drive-through experience. There are two lanes, one for shredding only and the other for shredding and electronics. ID is required for proof of residency, that station is at the start of our parking lot, and after the ID checkpoint, two lanes are formed. The lanes continue around the bad of the Public Works Building and into the bays. Drivers are to remain in the vehicle, and staff remove the items.

IMAGE: [PAPER SHRED ADVERTISEMENT](#)

IMAGE: [PAPER SHRED SOCIAL MEDIA POST](#)

EXCEL: [PAPER SHRED ROUTE](#)

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

5 Points

Program Summary: Hopewell Township engaged the Hopewell Valley Green Team to partner with Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space (FoHVOS) and the Hopewell Valley Regional School District, and BagUpNJ (bagupnj.com) implemented a program intended to help Hopewell Valley residents use reusable bags. Please see the attached Hopewell Twp Reusable Bag Education Program Action.docx for further explanation.

PDF: [NEW JERSEY SINGLE-USE BAG STRAW BAN WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE FINAL.PDF](#)

PDF: [HOPEWELL TWP NEWSLETTER Q1 2022 FINAL PAGE 4 REUSABLE BAGS.PDF](#)

WORD: [HOPEWELL TWP REUSABLE BAG EDUCATION PROGRAM ACTION.DOCX](#)

PDF: [22-179 HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP BAG UP NJ RESOLUTION.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [BAG EVENT 1](#)

IMAGE: [BAG EVENT 2](#)