



## Sustainable Jersey Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Jersey Certification Report of Somerville Boro, a Sustainable Jersey bronze certified applicant.

Somerville Boro was certified on October 10, 2014 with 170 points. Listed below is information regarding Somerville Boro's Sustainable Jersey efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

### Contact Information

**The designated Sustainable Jersey contact for Somerville Boro is:**

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<b>Title/Position:</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATOR / ADMINISTRATION</b>
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### Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Somerville Boro was approved for in 2014 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 Somerville Borough Green Team was established via Borough Council Resolution 14-0303-088 on March 3, 2014. This team remains in effect in perpetuity until dissolved. - The first meeting of the Somerville Green Team was held on June 4, 2014. Community Education with a Somerville focus was selected as the first task for the Green Team. - A schedule

for subsequent meetings on the second Wednesday each month was also established.

PDF: [SOMERVILLE BOROUGH GREEN TEAM RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [GREEN TEAM MINUTES - 2014-0604](#)

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## Community Education & Outreach

10 Points

**Program Summary:** In May 2012, a community tree arbor was established that recognized the 100th year anniversary of Girl Scouts through a sustainable, memorable project. Originally 100 trees were planted by scouts and their families, which were precluded by a collaborative planning effort between Girl Scout and Environmental Commission leadership with assistance from the Recreation Department, Public Works, Boy Scouts, and supported by Borough Council. - This established a town tree arbor which now contains 175 trees planted and transplanted twice a year in a collaborative effort between several of the above mentioned community groups in town. The nursery has become an on-going community project with long lasting impact. It serves as an educational and hands on learning experience for community residents, primarily youth, who are engaged in learning how to plan transplant and care for trees. They have learned about tree species, the benefits of trees, and tree growth cycles. - As trees mature they are transplanted to municipal locations as needed, serving as a free resource for the environmental commission which builds tree inventory and canopy in town. This ongoing project is a prime example of community and outreach and education as it has: 1. Increased environmental awareness community wide through a town based Girls Scout project. 2. Provided hands on education and tree planting experiences to youth and families. 3. Involved community partners to support and bring recognition. 4. Assisted the environmental commission with tree resources for planting and tree replacement. - The Somerville Environmental Commission also hosts an annual Earth Day Clean-Up. This event, typically attended by 30-60 people, provides an opportunity for the Commission to inform the community about ongoing environmental activities in the Borough such as the recent Rain Barrell and Rain Garden programs.

WORD: [COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT](#)

WORD: [TREE SIGN SAMPLE](#)

WORD: [TREE NURSERY PHOTOS](#)

PDF: [2014 EARTH DAY ANNOUCEMENT](#)

## Diversity & Equity

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### Diversity on Boards & Commissions

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** Used [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com) to create and survey and distributed this survey to the Environmental Commission and Planning Board. Used U.S. Census Bureau Website to compile Community Diversity Profile. The Borough Council meeting is on June 4, 2012. Following the meeting the borough will submit minutes to the meeting.

PDF: [COMMUNITY DIVERSITY PROFILE-SU](#)

## Energy

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### Municipal Onsite Solar System

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Somerville Engine Company, as part of the Somerset County Improvement Authority's Power Purchase Agreement with Somerset Solar I, LLC, had a 9.555 kW (DC) Photovoltaic System installed on their roof in 2011. - The array is owned and maintained by Somerset Solar I, LLC and the power produced by the system is then sold to the Somerville Engine Company via a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) at a reduced, predictable rate, as compared to standard utility rates. Overall, the system provides the Engine Company with approximately 11,363 kWh of clean solar energy per year, providing them with significant cost savings and drastically off setting their carbon footprint. - The amount of energy produced by the system is approximately equal to 7.6 tons of Carbon annually. Or another way to look at it would be 785 Gallons of gas saved, or 227 trees cleaning the air for every year that the system is operational. The life of the system is expected to be at least 15 years minimum. - The array is comprised of 39 SolarWorld SW245 photovoltaic modules and 1 SMA SunnyBoy 8000US 8.0 kW inverter. - It is fully approved for both interconnection and net-metering by the Engine Company's local Electrical Distribution Company (EDC), PSE&G, which means the system operates in parallel with the EDC's power distribution grid and that the Engine Company receives full retail credit for any PV production that is pushed onto PSE&G's grid.

PDF: [SOMERSET COUNTY SOLAR PROPOSAL EVALUATION REPORT](#)

PDF: [VANGUARD ENERGY PARTNERS PRESS RELEASE](#)

PDF: [SOMERVILLE ENGINE COMPANY BROCHURE AND PHOTOGRAPHS](#)

PDF: [PSEG NET METERING PERMIT](#)

## Food

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### Farmers Markets

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Downtown Somerville Farmers Market was started in 2010 as a collaboration between the Downtown Somerville Alliance, the Somerville Borough Council, and the Somerville Environmental Commission. - 2014 will mark the fifth consecutive year for running of this market. The Market is typically held Thursdays from 12:00 noon to 7:00 pm, June through October. From 2010 through 2013, the market was located on Grove Street in Somerville between Main & East High Streets. For 2014, the market has been moved to the new Division Street promenade location. - The participants in the initial year 2010 included: Stony Hill Gardens &

Farm Market- Fruits, Herbs, Vegetables, Honey, Tomato Sauce, Pies, Cookies, Bread, Jams & Jellies and poultry from Griggstown Quail Farm & Market Ester's Treats - Vegan Baked Goods Krakus Polish Deli- Pierogies, Stuffed Cabbage, Kielbasy, Cabbage Stew & Chruscikis Woods Edge Wools Farms - All-Natural Soaps & Alpaca Wool Products Neetie's Sweeties - Delicious nut and honey filled pastries Country Stand Farm - Vegetables, Cut Flowers, Herbs Baby Bear Organic Baby Food and Frozen Treats Pickle-Licious - Pickles, olives and tapenade Rimi Studios - Artisan Pottery HerbNZest- Specialty Chutneys & Herb Mixes Bobolink Farms - Cheeses & Breads Knead - Hand Crafted Pretzels, Gourmet Dried Fruit & Nuts - The attached file lists a sample page for each year running from the Downtown Somerville web site, [www.findsomerville.com](http://www.findsomerville.com):

**PDF:** [SOMERVILLE FARMERS MARKET PARTICIPANTS](#)

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## **Making Farmers Markets Accessible**

**5 Points**

**Program Summary:** The Somerville Farmer's Market is located within 1/4 of a mile of New Jersey Transit Train Station. A taxi stop and bus stop are located within 1/8 of a mile. Please see the annotated Google Earth view in the attached file. - In addition, the Somerset Hospital also provides a drop-off bus shuttle during lunch hours for employees to shop. - The Somerville Farmer's Market accepts EBT Cards.

**PDF:** [ANNOTATED MAP OF DIVISION STREET - SOMERVILLE](#)

## **Green Design**

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### **Green Building Policy/Resolution**

**5 Points**

**Program Summary:** The Somerville Green Design Resolution attached was adopted on June 4, 2012. At that time it was provided to all department heads and to the public that subscribe to our newsletter and e-connect program electronically. - The resolution along with a memorandum was redistributed on September 11, 2012.

**WORD:** [GREEN BUILDING DESIGN RESOLUTI](#)

**WORD:** [DISTRIBUTION MEMORANDUM](#)

## **Land Use & Transportation**

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### **Sustainable Land Use Pledge**

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** The Pledge was adopted by the Governing Body and distributed electronically to the boardmembers. The minutes and the resolution were published electronically and are made available on the borough's website minutes agenda. The Boroughs of Somerville and Raritan along with the Township of Bridgewater formed a Municipal Regional Center studying ways to improve pedestrian safety and construct the Peters Brook hiking trails. The addition of the trail allows for pedestrians to walk the entire Borough of Somerville and cross over a major roadway via a pedestrian bridge into Bridgewater Township. All land development applications within the Regional Center are provided to all three municipalities. - The Sustainable Land Use Pledge was redistributed electronically to all Department Heads on Sep 10, 2014. In addition, it was placed on the Borough Council Agenda for Sep 15, 2014 where it will be re-affirmed via a Council Resolution.

PDF: [PLEDGE](#)

PDF: [SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLEDGE REDISTRIBUTION MEMO](#)

## Natural Resources

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### Environmental Commission

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Somerville Environmental Commission was established by the Mayor and Borough Council on April 5, 1976 pursuant to Ordinance 776. The commission consists of 7 primary and 2 alternate members with rotating 3-year terms (2 years for alternate members). Part I - Chapter 15 of the Borough Code (uploaded) defines the membership, functions, rules, and duties of the Somerville Environmental Commission. - Some of the tasks performed by the Environmental Commission are: - An annual Earth Day Community Clean-up - Tree planting and urban forestry management assistance - Community Education and Outreach - Advise the Mayor and Borough Council on environmental issues - The Somerville Environmental Commission Report (2013 copy uploaded) provides complete details of the activities performed by the Commission in 2013.

PDF: [ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION CODE \(CHAPTER 15\)](#)

PDF: [2013 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT](#)

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### Water Conservation Education Program

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Somerville Environmental Commission and the Somerville Recreation Commission, in conjunction with Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, have hosted several Rain Barrel workshops with the objective of capturing rain water for use in garden irrigation and reducing stormwater runoff into local streams and rivers. - This

ongoing program was first started in 2010 with a targeted project for one Somerville neighborhood and has been expanded to all of Somerville and several neighboring towns. - The attached documents provide the details of this ongoing program.

**PDF:** [PETERS BROOK PROJECT DESCRIPTION](#)

**PDF:** [RAIN BARREL FLYER & POSTCARD](#)

**PDF:** [2013-2014 RAIN BARREL ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

**PDF:** [2014 RAIN BARREL PROGRAM DETAILS](#)

## Waste Management

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### Recycling Depot

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Borough of Somerville is the County seat of Somerset County. The location of the depot has a business address in Bridgewater, located adjacent to the Borough of Somerville. Public drop-off hours for the recycling depot are first Saturdays of each month between 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. It is located at 40 Polhemus Lane, Bridgewater, NJ 08807. See the attached file for photographs of the recycling depot. - The recycling depot and services to collect recyclables are paid for by the Borough of Somerville, it is a shared services agreement which is considered a best practice in New Jersey Local Government both for fiscal and environmental reasons. The Borough used to maintain its own landfill however it was counter to best practices, environmental concerns and certainly counter to sustainability initiatives. - The attached documents include a copy of the agreement between Somerset County and the Borough of Somerville and reports of the recycling tonnage attributed to the Borough in 2011 and 2013. In addition, a copy of the 2014 annual recycling newsletter provided to all Somerville residents is also attached. This newsletter provides details on how recyclable materials and how to recycle them for the residents.

**PDF:** [COUNTY RECYCLING SERVICES AGREEMENT](#)

**PDF:** [2014 ANNUAL RECYCLING NEWSLETTER](#)

**EXCEL:** [2011 SOMERVILLE RECYCLING TONNAGE REPORT](#)

**PDF:** [2014 SOMERVILLE RECYCLING TONNAGE REPORT](#)

**PDF:** [RECYCLING DEPOT PHOTOGRAPHS](#)

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### Prescription Drug Safety & Disposal

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** The New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs, in cooperation with the Somerset County Sheriff's Office and the Somerset County Board of Freeholders, offers a drug collection program at the Somerset County Sheriff's office located in Somerville. - Somerville residents can access the drop box during regular business hours as well as after hours. Somerville residents are made aware of this program via periodic announcements in the Somerville weekly E-Connect email and a link to the detailed information available at the Somerset County Recycling

Web Site (<http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/recycle/medicalwaste.html>) and the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs (<http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/meddrop/>). - In addition to the county web site, information about recycling programs is also provided to residents via the Somerville Weekly E-Mail Newsletter (E-Connect), the local Somerville TV Channel (Ville-TV), and the Somerville Borough Web Site (<http://somervillenj.org/>). - In 2013, a total of 708 pounds of medications were dropped off at the medicine collection box (see attachment 2013 Collection Details.pdf).

**PDF: [PROJECT MEDICINE DROP PRESS RELEASE](#)**

**PDF: [PROJECT MEDICINE DROP PAMPHLET](#)**

**PDF: [PROJECT MEDICINE DROP POSTER](#)**

**PDF: [EXAMPLE DRIVE THROUGH COLLECTION ANNOUNCEMENT](#)**

**PDF: [PHOTOS: DROP BOX AND DRIVE THROUGH MEDICINE COLLECTION](#)**

**PDF: [2013 PROJECT MEDICINE DROP COLLECTION SUMMARY](#)**