



## Sustainable Jersey Certification Report

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

South Plainfield Boro was certified on October 10, 2014 with 155 points. Listed below is information regarding South Plainfield Boro's Sustainable Jersey efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

### Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Jersey contact for South Plainfield Boro is:

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### Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which South Plainfield 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 South Plainfield Mayor and Council created a Green Team as part of the Environmental Commission and appointed members by resolution in February, 2011. The Environmental Commission amended its bylaws to include in that committee Borough Officials and members of other community groups and the public. A 2014 bylaws amendment allows the

Commission to appoint members. The Green Team meets monthly. Some programs begun in 2011 are still under development: -The anti-idling campaign began at the schools in 2012. In 2013 the team began mapping idling hotspots and outreach to the commercial sector. Anti-idling signs were posted at the municipal buildings. Community education continued. -General community outreach was continued in 2013 and 2014 with articles in "The South Plainfield Observer" and digital media. -Recycling programs such as Cut-It-And-Leave-It education and the annual Paper Shred event continued through 2014 and are ongoing. The Team began new initiatives. -In 2013, a subcommittee began work on updating the Environmental Resources Inventory. In January, 2014, the Team applied unsuccessfully for a Sustainable Jersey \$20,000 PSE&G grant to fund a consultant. The ERI mapping project is on hold until other resources can be identified. The committee is updating the Open Space Index and other portions of the document. - In 2013, the Team began discussions with the governing body regarding a companion animal welfare program. The Mayor and Council adopted a Companion Animal Management resolution in July, 2014. Programs will be developed in 2015. -In 2013, the Team began discussions with the Planning and Zoning Boards and the governing body about adopting Green Building and Sustainable Land Use policies. A resolution pledging to support sustainable smart growth land use policies was adopted in July, 2014. Discussions on implementation will begin fall of 2014. -A subcommittee compiled a complete municipal Fleet Inventory in 2014.

**PDF: [GREEN TEAM RESOLUTION](#)**

**PDF: [LETTER OF MUNICIPAL SUPPORT](#)**

**PDF: [GREEN TEAM MEMBERSHIP 2014](#)**

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## Community Education & Outreach

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The South Plainfield Green team has a cadre of 6 individuals with various backgrounds and professional experience who have been writing articles for the community outreach program since the Green Team's inception. The articles have been published in the weekly local print newspaper (The Observer), on the South Plainfield Sustainable Jersey website, on the on-line newspaper (The Alternative Press), and on the South Plainfield Environmental Commission's Facebook page. Many articles have been turned into brochures or reproduced in a Green Team newsletter and distributed as handouts. Topics include: Dangerous Household Chemicals, Idle-free South Plainfield, Lead Poisoning, Grass Cut It and Leave It, Composting, Conducting Home Energy Audits, Benefits of Rain Barrels, LED: The Sustainable Lighting Choice, Xeriscaping to Save Water Resources, Textile Recycling, New Fertilizer Laws, Local Soil Aeration Experiment, Road Salt Pros and Cons, Green Mapping Our Neighborhoods. The topics are often grouped and published seasonally -- for instance, a series of spring/summer articles included information on improving soil, composting yard debris, better lawn maintenance, choices for drought-tolerant plants, planting trees for shade to reduce energy output, the benefits of certain species of bugs, and decorating walkways with LED lights. The Green Team has also set up tables at community events (Community Cleanup Day; Mayor's Health and Wellness Fair; Labor Day Environmental Commission's booth at the community picnic/parade) which are stocked with brochures reflecting many of the topics listed above. Brochures are available at the Borough's Nature Center at Highland Woods Environmental Education Reserve and at the Environmental Specialist's office at Borough Hall. Green Team activities have been incorporated into a popular carnival wheel-type question and answer game used at community events for which people with correct answers receive a sustainable BPA-free steel water bottle with the GT logo.

**PDF: [HOME ENERGY AUDITS](#)**

**PDF: [TELEPHONE BOOKS](#)**

**PDF: [FERTLIZING YOUR LAWN](#)**

**PDF: [ROAD SALT](#)**

PDF: [OXYGEN AND SOIL HEALTH](#)

PDF: [GREEN TEAM QUIZ WHEEL](#)

## Health & Wellness

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### Building Healthier Communities

20 Points

**Program Summary:** The Mayor's Wellness Committee was established by ordinance four years ago. The Committee's mission is to develop and implement active living initiatives in the Borough with the ultimate goal of improving health and promoting healthy living. Activities are publicized in print (flyers and the press) and on-line. The Mayor's Wellness Committee website is a page linked to the South Plainfield Borough website ([www.southplainfieldnj.com](http://www.southplainfieldnj.com)). The link is also on The Alternative Press (<http://www.thealternativepress.com>) and the Board of Education (<http://www.spboe.org>) websites. Seniors in Motion - we do screenings at the Senior Center for seniors on a weekly basis. During the Health Fairs we offer vision, glucose, dental, blood pressure, skin cancer screening. We also have the "Step It up South Plainfield" and "Caught on a Walk" programs. Employees in Motion focuses on health and fitness in the work place. It involves health screenings, Heart Health, "Biggest Loser" Contest, and "Step it Up SP" for which Mayor Anesh sent letters to the businesses encouraging them to be a part of the work place health incentive. Community in Motion involves all for the Health Fairs, Step It Up, Screenings, Caught on a Walk, The Biggest Loser and the Sunshine Walk for children with cancer. Also, our newest program is the free Women's Self Defense Course. We have also done the Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society and the Line Dancing "Dance to fight Cancer," where donations were received and given to the American Cancer Society. Youth in Motion includes the "National Walk to School" program; dental screening and ID fingerprinting at the Health Fair; and speed limit and anti-idling signage targeted at the schools.

PDF: [ORDINANCE CREATING A WELLNESS CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE](#)

PDF: [MAYOR'S LETTERS AND FLYER FOR SPRING HEALTH FAIR](#)

PDF: [COMMUNITIES IN MOTION](#)

PDF: [EMPLOYEES IN MOTION](#)

PDF: [YOUTH IN MOTION](#)

PDF: [SENIORS IN MOTION](#)

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### Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement Program

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Green Team began its anti-idling campaign soon after the Borough Council adopted a resolution in 2011 to enforce the State's no-idling law and undertake supporting activities. The GT subcommittee, consisting of Environmental Commission members John Koelble (formerly in environmental compliance at AT&T) and Chris Cioffi (ER nurse and electronic media expert); Robert Longo (architect), representing the South Plainfield Business Association; Deborah Boyle, from the Board of Education, and Alice Tempel, the Borough

environmental specialist, adopted a program to identify idling hot-spots, post signage, and educate. Mr. Cioffi designed a sign for use at the schools and another for general use. Mr. Longo obtained agreement from SPBA members to post signs in front of their businesses if applicable. The Department of Public Works posted signs based on the GT's maps. The Planning Board has participated by requiring applicants such as McDonald's to post anti-idling signs, using the GT's Idle-Free SP design. Ms. Boyle involved each school in the program.(See attached newspaper column for details). Several principals have personally gone out to speak to parents who were idling their cars while waiting for their children. Educational efforts include articles published in the South Plainfield Observer (the local weekly) and on the Borough's Website. Mr. Cioffi also posts these on the Environmental Commission's Facebook page. Brochures obtained from the NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection's Stop the Soot program have been distributed from various venues. They are permanently available in the municipal building lobby and most recently we distributed them at the Volunteer Litter Pickup Picnic (4/19/14) and the Mayor's Wellness Committee Health Fair (4/26/14). A map of the idling hot spots in the Borough has been given to the Police Department. The Police Chief has committed to assigning officers to problem areas to enforce the law, manpower allowing.

: [HOT SPOT MAP - GRANT SCHOOL](#)

PDF: [BROCHURE](#)

IMAGE: [POSTED SIGNAGE](#)

PDF: [GREEN TEAM COLUMN IN THE "SOUTH PLAINFIELD OBSERVER"](#)

PDF: [ANTI-IDLING EDUCATION & ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [MAP OF PRIORITY ANTI-IDLING LOCATIONS.](#)

## Land Use & Transportation

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### Sustainable Land Use Pledge

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** The green team has held multiple meetings with the Mayor and the Chairman of the Planning Board and the Chairman of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. A resolution was adopted at September 8, 2014 Council meeting. A memo explaining the purpose of the Pledge, and requesting staff to take the principles outlined in the resolution into account when dealing with land use decisions, was sent with a copy of the resolution to the chairmen of the Planning Board, the Zoning Board and the Environmental Commission, as well as to the Borough's consulting Planner and Engineer, and the Director of Public Works.

PDF: [SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLEDGE DOCUMENTATION](#)

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

## Natural Resources

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### Environmental Commission

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The South Plainfield Environmental Commission (SPEC) was established thirty-eight years ago by Ordinance #620, adopted by the Mayor and Council on April 23, 1973. Basically, it reviews proposals from the Governing Body as well as Planning and Zoning Boards regarding environmentally sound land use. The SPEC consists of six members and two alternates, a Planning Board liaison and a Council Liaison appointed by the Mayor. Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month. Initially, the SPEC was charged with responsibilities such as (but not limited to) the following: to promote the conservation and development of local natural resources; to plan, implement and inform the public about local conservation programs; to provide environmental education; to conduct research into the possible use of open areas in the Borough; to recommend to the Planning Board plans and programs for inclusion in the Municipal Master Plan; to manage lands for conservation purposes and operating conservation programs; to act as the coordinating agency of the community on conservation matters; to study and make recommendations concerning open space preservation, water resource management, air pollution, solid waste management and more. Since its establishment, the SPEC has significantly expanded its programs. Accomplishments include: completing the Environmental Resources Inventory in 1990 and updating it in 2003; recommending the preservation of 20 acres of open public lands which evolved into establishing the Highland Woods Environmental Education Reserve in 1993; administering the Clean Communities Program since 1987, including education, organizing the annual Volunteer Litter Cleanup Week; managing Adopt-a-Spots; and supporting litter code enforcement activities. Standing SPEC committees include: Site Plan Review, Land Use, Forestry, Public Education, Historical Sites Preservation, Pollution, and web-based Public Information and Technology (including Facebook). The SPEC recommended support for Sustainable Jersey certification and appointed four SPEC members to serve on the Green Team, including the chairmanship.

PDF: [ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE ENV](#)

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

## Sustainability & Climate Planning

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### Community Asset Mapping

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Over the past two years, the South Plainfield Green Team has compiled information about the borough to develop a map of community assets. Important places throughout the borough (including sustainable, recreational, academic, civic, historical, faith-based, etc.) were identified and organized by use. While the process seemed to go over rather smoothly, there were scheduling and focus challenges early on, but this was soon overcome. Surveys were created and posted on the borough's website, as well as distributed at the annual Labor Day parade (including the Environmental Commission / Green Team's parade booth). Distributing surveys in person allowed the GT to create a direct dialogue with residents, as well as discuss future Sustainable Jersey initiatives. Once data was collected and sorted, the information was plotted on a traditional map and reviewed by GT and community members. Through the use of online software, the community assets map now acts as a tool for current and future residents to understand more about the resources they have in their community. The interactive map can be found at: <http://www.opengreenmap.org/greenmap/south-plainfield-green-map>, as well as

accessed through borough's website. The interactive features of the map will give SP residents a means for voicing their concerns and constructive feedback, while affording decision makers an opportunity to connect with the community in a new way. Although the South Plainfield community is small in size, it is rich in history and family values. The members of the Green Team strongly value this exercise and vow to continue mapping efforts over time - further identifying niche resources and people with extensive community knowledge. The GT has reached out to the South Plainfield Historical Society and is working to put together a companion map of current and former historical sites, as well as key contacts for additional information.

**PDF: [COMMUNITY ASSETS MAP](#)**

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## Waste Management

### Recycling Depot

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The South Plainfield Recycling Center on Kenneth Avenue has been in continual operation since it opened in February, 1987. An Environmental Commission member completed the six-week course "NJ Recycling - Practice and Theory" in 1985. In 1986 the governing body appointed her to chair a Recycling Commission, formed to develop a voluntary recycling program. The Department of Public Works cleared and graded a site near the Borough's recreational ball fields and across from the Borough's trash compactor. This area used to be the town dump. There was a lot of room available and residents were already accustomed to bringing household trash there. The Recycling Commission volunteers contacted markets for newspaper, corrugated, glass and aluminum cans. Garden State Paper, Statewide Environmental, and Alcoa each provided boxes and transportation. A local garbage hauler was hired to transport glass drums to Brockway Glass. The local newspaper provided good publicity. Volunteers staffed the Center until the State of New Jersey made recycling mandatory later in 1987. At that point, one full-time and two part-time workers were hired, but volunteer groups continued to help out on weekends. The Recycling Commission chairwoman was hired as the Borough's Recycling Coordinator. The Commission designed and bulk mailed a brochure to announce the mandatory drop-off program. Commercially generated recyclables were also accepted. Over time, the number of materials increased and handling methods evolved. The Recycling Center remained the Borough's only outlet for residential recyclables until curbside collection was introduced in 1995. At that point, hours of operation were reduced from six days to three days per week (Tuesdays, 12 - 7 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.). The nearby Yard Waste Site on variable seasonal hours accepts grass, brush and leaves. The current Recycling Coordinator is the Borough's Environmental Specialist, a Certified Recycling Professional since 1994.

**PDF: [LIST OF MATERIALS ACCEPTED AT](#)**

**WORD: [PHOTOS OF SOUTH PLAINIFELD REC](#)**

**PDF: [RECYCLING PROGRAM GUIDE TO RECYCLING 2014 SIDE 1](#)**

**PDF: [RECYCLING PROGRAM GUIDE TO RECYCLING 2014 SIDE 2](#)**

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### Community Paper Shredding Day

5 Points

**Program Summary:** South Plainfield participates in Middlesex County's paper shredding program. In 2011, the turnout was so large that the Senior Center parking lot's capacity was exceeded. Therefore, in consultation with MC Division of Solid Waste Management, we decided to hold the October 6, 2012 event in the Community Pool parking lot. The Department of Public Works and the Recreation Department cooperated in clearing the lot and setting up orange cones for traffic control. The Borough's Recycling Coordinator (Alice Tempel, C.R.P.) worked with County staff at the event, directing traffic and taking a tally of participants. The adjacent Police Athletic League recreation building was open for staff access to restrooms and drinking water. We began publicizing the event in January, by including the 2012 date in the Recycling Program information on the Borough's website ([www.southplainfieldnj.com](http://www.southplainfieldnj.com)). In August, we began distributing Middlesex County's fliers and our own fliers from the municipal building, public library, PAL building and senior center. Additionally, the Recycling Program purchased a display ad in the Labor Day edition of the South Plainfield Observer, the local weekly, at a cost of \$155. That was one of the two annual issues that the publisher mails to every residence as a promotion. Therefore, the display ad went to every Borough home. In September, a press release was issued to the local newspapers and posted to [mycentraljersey.com](http://mycentraljersey.com), the Environmental Commission's Facebook page, and the Borough website. The event opened to the public at 8:30 a.m. and went until noon. We had 321 people, a 6.2% increase in attendance over the prior year, but there was no queuing in the street due better space and configuration of the venue. Also, the limit of 5 file boxes or 100 lbs per resident helped to keep the line moving. We shredded 14,500 pounds of paper.

PDF: [COMMUNITY PAPER SHREDDING DAY DOCUMENTATION -PUBLICITY](#)

PDF: [COMMUNITY PAPER SHREDDING DAY DOCUMENTATION - OUTCOME](#)

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## Grass - Cut It and Leave It Program

5 Points

**Program Summary:** Recycling program education is conducted by the Recycling Coordinator, Alice Tempel, C.R.P., and volunteer members of the Green Team. In the past, the Recycling Commission handled publicity and education, until it became inactive in 2001. The Recycling Program has included education about Cut-it-and-leave-it lawn care since the program began in 1987. A guest column was published every spring in the local weekly newspaper, and this is still being done. In 1992, a grant was used to give residents \$25 coupons toward the cost of a mulching blade retrofit. Over 200 people participated. . Due to space constraints, the Borough's Guide to Recycling brochure has only one sentence urging cut-it-and-leave-it. To supplement this, new residents receive the Middlesex County Grasscycling brochure along with the Guide. During the spring and fall peak grass seasons, volunteers distribute the Grasscycling brochure at the Yard Waste site. Brochures also are available in the Municipal Building lobby and the Building and Environment office. The Recycling Program write-up on the Borough website includes a paragraph urging cut-it-and-leave it. ([www.southplainfieldnj.com](http://www.southplainfieldnj.com)). We intend to add a linked page with a detailed discussion of techniques and benefits. We track the amount of grass clippings dropped off at our Yard Waste site. Weight of grass decreased from 441 tons in 2011 to 267 tons in 2013. We do not have data on how many people mulch their grass. Other factors such as the amount of rainfall can influence the amount of grass brought to the drop-off. We intend to consider better ways to assess progress.

PDF: [GRASS - CUT IT AND LEAVE IT BROCHURE](#)

PDF: [GRASS - CUT IT AND LEAVE IT NJDEP](#)

PDF: [GRASS - CUT IT AND LEAVE IT PROGRAM DATA](#)

PDF: [GRASS - COMMUNITY OUTREACH GUEST COLUMN](#)

