



Sustainable Jersey Certification Report

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

Bernards Twp was certified on October 10, 2014 with 425 points. Listed below is information regarding Bernards Twp's Sustainable Jersey efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Jersey contact for Bernards Twp is:

Name:	CAROL ACKERMAN
Title/Position:	ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR / ADMINISTRATION
Address:	1 COLLYER LANE BASKING RIDGE, NJ 07920
Phone:	908-204-4612

Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Bernards Twp 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

Community Education & Outreach

10 Points

Program Summary: The Bernards Township website has a Green Team section, providing valuable information how the township is going green, and how residents can help in this initiative. The address to visit Bernards Township's Green Guide website is: http://www.bernards.org/boards_commissions/green_team The Bernards Township Library has been active in promoting "Green" resources to the public. The library has recently shown a film

addressing some of the important environmental issues of our time. Environmental and health oriented pamphlets and brochures are offered to the public in the Municipal building, Engineering and Public Works, Township Library and the Health Department. Bernards Township is also actively promoting a tree planting program, named 5 in five, and recently offered free seedling for resident to encourage participation in the initiative

PDF: [WEBSITE OUTREACH & EDUCATION](#)

PDF: [LIBRARY OUTREACH & RESOURCES](#)

PDF: [OTHER COMMUNITY OUTREACH](#)

Green Team

10 Points

 Bronze Required

Program Summary: Attached is a copy of the 2007 Resolution #070292 "Appointments to the Green Team Advisory Committee" and January 2, 2014 Township Committee Reorganization meeting documenting "Appointment and Restructuring of the Green Team Advisory Committee for 2014." Also attached is a copy of the activities and efforts undertaken and completed in the last year, as well as priorities and initiatives for the upcoming year. Green Team meetings are held on a quarterly basis, with sub committee meetings held on a frequent basis.

PDF: [GREEN TEAM RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [GREEN TEAM ACTIVITIES & MEMBERS](#)

PDF: [RE-ORG DOCUMENT](#)

Energy

Municipal Onsite Solar System

10 Points

Program Summary: Bernards Township has implemented 2 major solar projects over the last 3 years and a third solar project is planned at the former Pill Hill landfill site. The LEED certified Bernards Township Sewerage Authority installed over 4,000 solar panels providing approximately 1.1 megawatts of electricity. The second solar project was the installation of solar panels on the roof of the DPW/Engineering building in 2013 generating approximately 40,000 kwh. In addition to the previous two solar projects that were implemented a large-scale solar array is planned at the former Bernards Township Pill Hill landfill site.

PDF: [BTSA SOLAR PROJECT](#)

PDF: [BTPW SOLAR PROJECT](#)

PDF: [PILL HILL SOLAR RESOLUTION](#)

Purchase Alternative Fuel Vehicles

10 Points

Program Summary: The Bernards Township Public Works Department garage has been very active in creating a greener fleet. This process entails resource, energy, cost and time saving measures. Part of this process involved replacing existing vehicles with the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles and other vehicles obtaining increased mileage efficiency.

PDF: [ALTERNATIVE VEHICLE PURCHASE](#)

PDF: [HYBRID PURCHASE DOCUMENTATION](#)

Fleet Inventory

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: The Public Works Department has been diligently working to increase efficiently, reduce fleet and increase mpg of vehicles. Please find attached files documenting fleet inventory 2012 and 2013, as well as measures taken, and strategies utilized to increase fleet efficiently in the future

PDF: [FLEET INVENTORY 2012](#)

PDF: [FLEET INVENTORY 2013](#)

PDF: [FLEET INVENTORY STATEMENT](#)

Green Design

Green Building Policy/Resolution

5 Points

Program Summary: Bernards Township has adopted a Green Building policy. A number of actions have already been taken with further actions planned for the near future. Bernards Township is actively working on making all aspects of municipal facilities “greener” and more environmentally sustainable. This policy encompasses municipal buildings, grounds and facilities operations. The new addition to the Bernards Township Sewerage Authority has been designed and constructed to meet LEED certification requirements. The overarching goals of this policy include promoting efficiency, reducing waste, conserving resources, reducing overall environmental impact, cost savings promoting health and safety of municipal employees and residents and improving the quality of life for all members of the community. Energy efficiency and water conservation actions have been implemented as an integral part of this process. The township has also adopted a Green Building & Environmental Sustainability element incorporated into the newly updated (2010) Master Plan.

PDF: [GREEN BUILDING RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [POLICY- IMPLEMENTATION & DISTR](#)

PDF: [GREEN BUILDING & SUSTAINABILIT](#)

Upgrade/Retrofit-Water Conservation

10 Points

Program Summary: Bernards Township has undertaken a number of measures regarding upgrading and making more efficient use of our precious energy and water resources inside and out, from these low flow toilets and motion sensors to planting of drought resistant plants and installation of rain barrels. Documentation is provided along with the township Green Building Policy resolution.

PDF: [GREEN BUILDING RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [WATER CONSERVATION ACTIONS](#)

PDF: [WATER CONSERVATION DOCUMENTATION](#)

Health & Wellness

Building Healthier Communities

20 Points

Program Summary: Bernards Township has actively participated in the Mayor's Wellness program, having passed a resolution endorsing the initiative. This program has been a joint effort conducted by the Mayor and Township Committee, BT Human Resources Department, The Bernards Township Health Department, and The Bernards Township Parks and Recreation Department. Documentation is provided on numerous activities involved in this program. Please note: A number of programs offered by the township provide an opportunity for township employees as well as residents to participate. Also, while some programs are not exclusively for seniors, they do focus on that sector of the populace.

PDF: [MAYORS WELLNESS RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [YOUTH & SENIORS WELLNESS](#)

PDF: [COMMUNITIES AND EMPLOYEES WELLNESS](#)

Innovative Projects

Innovative Community Project 1

10 Points

Program Summary: Solar tubes have been installed in the Department of Public Works by DPW personnel. This installation has saved the township substantial energy costs, as well as reducing

environmental costs associated with production of electricity. It has also improved the working environment for DPW personnel, adding natural light to buildings where the installation was done. Installation of the solar tubes has provided the township significant energy cost savings.

PDF: [SOLAR TUBES](#)

PDF: [SOLAR SAVINGS](#)

Innovative Community Project 2

10 Points

Program Summary: Bernards Township has been on the forefront of Environmental Planning for the future. The updated 2010 Bernards Township Master Plan incorporates a number of elements focused on future sustainability of the township including: - A Vision For The 21st Century - A Farmland Preservation Element - A Green Building and Environmental Sustainability Plan - A Historic Preservation Plan Element - A Conservation and Open Space Plan Element - A Parks and Recreation Plan Element The resolution adopting the 2010 Master Plan is provided.

PDF: [GREEN ELEMENTS MASTER PLAN](#)

PDF: [2010 MASTER PLAN RESOLUTION](#)

Natural Resources

Tree Maintenance Programs

10 Points

Program Summary: Bernards Township is dedicated to protecting and maintaining its trees and woodlands in a healthy condition. The township has a contract with an outside service to help with tree maintenance. In addition, the Public Works department actively monitors and maintains trees. The township has a dedicated Shade Tree Commission which is also involved in the health and well being of trees in our community. Due to the large number of trees lost to Hurricane Sandy the Township implemented a Tree Safety Pruning Program on all Township owned properties. Absolute Arbor was hired to walk the property lines of approximately two thousand acres and drop/prune any hazardous trees along the property lines that were deemed a safety concern. Absolute Arbor was paid approximately \$66,000.00 and removed approximately two hundred trees. The Department of Public Works Staff also pruned and removed hazardous trees during the year, as needed. In addition to in house efforts we employ High Tech Tree Service for an additional \$80,000.00 per year to prune and remove hazardous trees. Additional tree pruning and removal documentation is provided in file 4.

PDF: [TREE MAINTENANCE RESOLUTION & CONTRACT](#)

PDF: [TREE REMOVAL LOG](#)

PDF: [COMMUNITY FORESTRY PLAN](#)

PDF: [TREE PRUNING & REMOVAL DOCUMENTATION](#)

Tree Planting Programs

10 Points

Program Summary: The Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission has an active tree planting program as part of its Community Forestry Management Plan. The commission is engaged in public education and awareness of the value and importance of trees in our community. A tree planting program has been undertaken in cooperation with the local schools. Information on tree planting including tree specifications and budget is provided. The maintenance plan is part of the BT Community Forestry Management Plan. The township has also initiated a 5 in Five tree planting program, with online portal encouraging residents to become actively involved in the initiative. The Township Committee has passed an Arbor Day 2014 resolution and is committed to tree protection in the community. Bernards Township has been recognized as a Tree City USA for 2013 by the Arbor Day Foundation. Tree maintenance documentation is provided in file 4.

PDF: [TREE PLANTING DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [5 IN FIVE CAMPAIGN](#)

PDF: [TREE CITY USA & ARBOR DAY RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [TREE MAINTAINENCE DOCUMENTATION](#)

Community Forestry Management Plan & NJUCF Accreditation

20 Points

Program Summary: The Bernards Township Shade Tree Commission has been very active working to protect and promote tree and woodland resources in our community. A New Jersey Bureau of Forestry approved Community Forest Plan for 2013-2017 is in place with Certificate of Approval from the State provided. An updated Tree Canopy Goal has been adopted by the Shade Tree Commission. A Community Forestry Report including CEU documentation is provided in File 4.

PDF: [COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN](#)

PDF: [CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL](#)

PDF: [TREE CANOPY GOAL](#)

PDF: [COMMUNITY FORESTRY REPORT](#)

Open Space Plans

10 Points

Program Summary: Bernards Township has been very active regarding purchase and preservation of open space, as well as planning to ensure open space remains protected and made a priority well into the future. The Open Space as well as Parks and Recreation Elements of the 2010 update of the Township Master Plan are comprehensive and forward looking. The resolution adopting the 2010 Master Plan is provided. In addition to these documents, attached are all maps pertinent to the open space and Parks and Recreation planning initiative.

PDF: [OPEN SPACE PLAN](#)

PDF: [OSP & PARK REC MAPS](#)

Environmental Commission

10 Points

Program Summary: Bernards Township has a very active Environmental Commission. The EC is responsible for ensuring that environmental issues in Bernards Township are given the right priority in order to protect and preserve natural resources of the town and surrounding areas including land, water, air and bios (flora and fauna). The Commission accomplishes its mission through: • Taking proactive stances on local environmental matters and strengthening the local planning process • Coordinating rational, balanced reviews of development applications for the appropriate township bodies • Increasing public awareness and understanding of local and regional environmental issues • Keeping abreast of and involvement in, as appropriate, issues in surrounding areas and communities.

PDF: [EC ORDINANCE](#)

PDF: [EC ANNUAL REPORT](#)

PDF: [EC DOCUMENTATION](#)

Natural Resource Inventory

20 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: The Bernards Township NRI has just recently been updated. The final draft has been submitted to the Environmental Commission for approval at the June 2014 meeting. A substantiating resolution will follow and be available on the BT website and for submission to Sustainable Jersey. The last revision was 2003/2004, and the township is working within the framework of updating the NRI at least every 10 years. As per the Environmental Commission, there were no substantive changes to the NRI. Be it noted, some open space acreage was formalized as designated protected open space. Bernards Township incorporates the NRI into its Master Plan and policy making decisions. Documentation is provided.

PDF: [NRI UPDATE-FINAL DRAFT](#)

PDF: [RESOLUTION FOR NRI UPDATE](#)

PDF: [NRI IN LAND USE POLICY](#)

PDF: [MASTER PLAN RESOLUTION](#)

Easement Inventory & Outreach

10 Points

Program Summary: Bernards Township has established a comprehensive Easement Inventory Program with a complete database compiled and mapped in GIS. In addition, a public education and outreach program is in place with outreach documentation provided. The Township Engineer, Planner, Zoning Officer, Surveyor and GIS Specialist have worked together to develop the

Conservation Easement Inventory, Inspection and Stewardship Program. Conservation Easements are required by the Township Land Development Ordinance, Planning Board and/or Zoning Board of Adjustment to protect wetland, wetland transition, stream buffer, steep slope and woodland areas. The intent of this program is to limit soil loss, erosion, flood damage and degradation of surface water while at the same time buffer the effects of pollutants and preserve wildlife habitats and scenic views. Conservation Easements are granted to Bernards Township during the Planning/Zoning Board application process or during the construction permit process. The easement inventory is constantly expanding as new easements are added. Each individual easement is inspected by the Zoning Officer once every two years. Baseline pictures are taken during the initial inspection and uploaded into our GIS database. The pictures will be used for comparison with future site conditions. Violations discovered during the inspection process will be addressed immediately. An inspection report is completed for each property. All property owners will receive educational correspondence, at least every two years, explaining the restrictions associated with, and the benefits of, the conservation easements.

PDF: [OUTREACH PROGRAM](#)

PDF: [CONSERVATION EASEMENT INVENTOR](#)

PDF: [CONSERVATION EASEMENTS MAP](#)

Easement Inspections & Evaluations

15 Points

Program Summary: Bernards Township has established a comprehensive Easement Inventory Program with a complete database compiled and mapped in GIS. In addition, a public education and outreach program is in place with outreach documentation provided. Easement inspections and evaluations are performed by the Zoning Officer once every two years. Documentation pertaining to each easement is kept on file, including items such as the official recorded easement, an easement map, a monitoring report and photos or aerial photos of the easement. To date, the initial 306 conservation easements have been evaluated.

PDF: [I & E PLAN-PROCESS](#)

PDF: [OUTREACH & EDUCATION](#)

PDF: [CONSERVATION EASEMENT DATABASE](#)

Environmental Assessment Ordinance

10 Points

Program Summary: Bernards Township has established an Environmental Assessment ordinance. In addition, to better protect the environment and guide development in a sustainable manner, the township has also put in place a Natural Resource Conservation Development Ordinance and a Land Development Ordinance.

PDF: [ENVL ASSESSMENT ORD](#)

PDF: [NAT RESOURCE CONSERVATION ORD](#)

PDF: [LAND DEVELOPMENT ORD](#)

Clustering Ordinance

10 Points

Program Summary: Bernards Township has adopted a Clustering ordinance to control sprawl, conserve resources and habitat and promote quality of life in the township. In addition, the township has passed other ordinances to regulate development and protect natural resources including a Natural Resource Conservation Development ordinance and a Land Development ordinance.

PDF: [CLUSTERING](#)

PDF: [NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION](#)

PDF: [LAND DEVELOPMENT](#)

Tree Protection Ordinance *Retires 12/31/25*

10 Points

Program Summary: The township has been very proactive regarding tree protection. In addition to a Shade Tree Protection Ordinance, the township has enacted a Tree Removal and Protection Ordinance and has been recognized as a Tree City USA.

PDF: [SHADE TREE PROTECTION ORD](#)

PDF: [TREE REMOVAL PROTECTION ORD](#)

PDF: [BT TREE CITY USA](#)

Operations & Maintenance

Green Cleaning Products & Motorized Cleaning Equipment

10 Points

Program Summary: Bernards Township has implemented a policy requiring all cleaning products to be as "green" as possible. This requirement is part of the bid specs for all cleaning service proposals submitted to the township. In addition, other product purchases are made using environmentally preferable purchasing standards. Product documentation is provided. Please note, all cleaning services are done by hired outside contract.

PDF: [GREEN PRODUCTS RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [GREEN CLEANING BID SPECS](#)

PDF: [GREEN CLEANING POLICY & PRODUCTS](#)

Adopt a Green Purchasing Policy by Resolution *Retired 12/31/23*

5 Points

Program Summary: Green purchasing is an integral component of the overall Bernards Township Environmental Sustainability initiative and the Township Committee has formally adopted a Green Purchasing policy. Bernards Township is actively involved in promoting its "Green" purchasing program. The goals of this initiative include the following: • Improve the community's environmental performance and make it more sustainable. • Raise awareness of environmental issues among the staff and residents of the community. • Make policy decisions reflecting the municipality's commitment to conducting business in an environmentally responsible way. • Require "green" bid specifications to be met in the municipal "environmentally preferable purchase" initiative. Documentation of web posting and emailing of resolution and policy is provided.

PDF: [GREEN PURCHASING RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [GREEN PURCHASING POLICY](#)

PDF: [GREEN PURCHASING DOCUMENTATION](#)

Green Maintenance Equipment & Materials

10 Points

Program Summary: Bernards Township is committed to purchasing and using green maintenance equipment and materials whenever possible. The township public works garage has undertaken a number of measures to become more efficient, conserve resources and reduce costs. Examples provided of our "Green Garage" initiative include the tire recycling, oil recycling and recycled materials purchases. To further efficiency, the township has partnered with the county in a sand and salt sharing program. Documentation of recycled materials purchases is provided.

PDF: [GREEN GARAGE](#)

PDF: [SAND & SALT SHARING](#)

PDF: [RECYCLED MATERIALS DOCUMENTATION](#)

Green Grounds & Maintenance Policy

10 Points

Program Summary: Bernards Township has developed and formally adopted a sustainability-based Grounds and Maintenance policy, which is presently being implemented in the daily activities of the Grounds and Maintenance department. This includes: • An Integrated Pest Management policy, with most areas being free of pesticides and excess fertilizer application. • Design to reduce storm water runoff through increasing infiltration in parking lots, more naturally vegetated areas (less lawn) and installation of rain barrels. • Reduced mowing by letting more areas go natural, reducing fuel costs and pollution. • Promoting biodiversity through native plantings as feasible.

PDF: [GREEN GROUNDS RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [GREEN GROUNDS POLICY AND IMPL](#)

PDF: [POLICY DISTRIBUTION](#)

Recycled Materials & Composting

10 Points

Program Summary: A wood chipper/mulcher has been purchased and put to extensive use. This has saved the town transportation costs and provides a valuable onsite resource at the recycling center. In addition, the township has purchased a topsoil making machine to further enhance recycling and reuse of organic material. The accompanying files document information regarding these two exceptional recycling “tools”. The Bernards Township Green Grounds and Maintenance Policy is also provided. Recycled materials use and usage is provide in file 4.

PDF: [MOBARK UNIT- WASTE REDUCTION](#)

PDF: [TOPSOIL MAKING MACHINE](#)

PDF: [GREEN GROUNDS & MAINTENANCE POLICY](#)

PDF: [RECYCLED MATERIALS DOCUMENTATION](#)

Efficient Landscape Design *Retired 12/31/23*

10 Points

Program Summary: The Bernards Township Grounds and Maintenance department is utilizing several strategies to promote efficient landscape design. These include planting of native and drought tolerant plants, less lawn area (and mowing), letting more areas go natural, installation of rain barrels and designing areas to allow more water infiltration and less storm water runoff. The township has purchased a heavy-duty mulching machine which uses the mulch to enrich the soil and reduce the need for watering vegetation, reusing and recycling our wood resources.

PDF: [EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE DESIGN](#)

PDF: [MULCHING](#)

PDF: [EFFICIENT LANDSCAPING POLICY](#)

Sustainability & Climate Planning

Community Asset Mapping

10 Points

Program Summary: Bernards Township has initiated a Community Asset Mapping program. Utilizing GIS, a Community Asset Map has been created and is posted online at www.bernards.org for perusal. In addition, a link has been made on the site, encouraging public involvement and

engagement. Residents are requested to submit their opinions regarding what makes Bernards Township a special place to reside. The responses are directed to the sustainability coordinator to be considered for possible inclusion into the Community Asset Map.

PDF: [COMMUNITY ASSET MAP](#)

PDF: [ASSET MAPPING PROCESS](#)

PDF: [ASSET MAPPING- WEBSITE](#)

Municipal Carbon Footprint

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: Bernards Township has calculated the 2010 Carbon Footprint and has compared the results to the base year 2008 Carbon Footprint calculation. The results indicate a REDUCTION in Total Emissions (Metric Tons CO₂e) of 3.1% from base year 2008. The Carbon Footprint calculation includes every municipal facility, including the Sewerage Authority, all street lights, traffic signals and fleet data. The favorable results indicate the progress Bernards Township has made over the past few years in reducing CO₂ emissions.

PDF: [FILE 1 - CARBON FOOTPRINT 2010](#)

PDF: [FILE 2- CARBON FOOTPRINT 2008](#)

Waste Management

Recycling Depot

10 Points

Program Summary: Bernards Township has developed an extensive recycling program supervised by the Public Works Director and Certified Recycling Coordinator Pat Monaco. In addition to recycling in municipal buildings, the program includes a recycling center, recycling at the public works facility and in municipal parks, as well as several downtown locations. Information regarding materials collected, recycling center hours of operation and other recycling center information required is provided in attached documentation. DPW staff is used to facilitate the successful operation and management of the recycling center. The recycling center provides residents a valuable resource, enabling them to recycle items in an efficient and effective manner.

PDF: [SUMMARY REPORT- MATERIALS COLLECTED](#)

PDF: [MUNICIPAL RECYCLING DOCUMENTS](#)

PDF: [PILL HILL SIGNAGE & CONTAINERS](#)

Community Paper Shredding Day

5 Points

Program Summary: Bernards Township held a “Community Shred Day” on October 12th, 2013 from 10am -1pm. The event was held at the Bernards Township Engineering Services Building and was funded by Somerset County. 18,900 pounds were collected from the 242 cars that attended the event. Residents were able to drive into the DPW Garage and drop off documents which were commercially shredded by trained, licensed and bonded document destruction specialists while residents stayed to watch the process. The event was very successful and planning is underway to hold the next “Community Shred Day” on October 11th, 2014.

PDF: [2013 SHRED DATES](#)

PDF: [CERTIFICATE OF DESTRUCTION](#)

PDF: [SHRED DATE # PARTICIPANTS](#)

Prescription Drug Safety & Disposal

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: Bernards Township is home to one of three permanent prescription drug drop-off locations in Somerset County. The drop-off box is located at the Bernards Township Police Department, 1 Collyer Lane, Basking Ridge, NJ. Hours of operation are 6:30am – 8:00pm. Residents can drop off unwanted/expired prescription drugs or over the counter medication. Final disposition of the drugs is transportation on a quarterly basis to COVANTA in Newark, NJ where the drugs are destroyed by combustion in a generator. Over 200 lbs of prescription drugs have been collected since October 2013. In addition to the permanent drop-off box, Bernards Township hosted two single day events on January 18, 2014 and March 22, 2014 for residents to drop-off unwanted/ expired medications. The January 18, 2014 event was sponsored by the Bernards Township Municipal Alliance Against Substance Abuse and the Bernards Township Police Department. Fifty five vehicles drove through the Bernards Township Police Department site and dropped off 96 lbs of unwanted/expired medication. The March 22nd event was held at the Department of Public Works building. This drop-off opportunity was planned in conjunction with a scheduled Somerset County Hazardous Waste drop-off. Over 50 lbs of unused/expired medication was collected.

PDF: [PERMANENT DROP OFF LOCATION](#)

PDF: [COLLECTION & DESTRUCTION DOCUMENTS](#)

PDF: [PHOTO & DROP OFF INFO](#)