



## Sustainable Jersey Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Jersey Certification Report of Secaucus Town, a Sustainable Jersey silver certified applicant.

Secaucus Town was certified on October 13, 2014 with 350 points. Listed below is information regarding Secaucus Town's Sustainable Jersey efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

### Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Jersey contact for Secaucus Town is:

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### Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Secaucus Town 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.

#### Animals in the Community

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##### Pledge Supporting NJ Wildlife Action Plan \*Retired 12/31/22\*

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Secaucus is very dedicated to conserving natural lands and protecting our meadowlands. We have had incredible success with restoring and protecting the meadowlands which the Mayor and Council believe is an important asset to our community. Passing a resolution to support the NJ Wildlife Action Plan was for us, a very easy task. The Mayor and Council were more than willing to pass the resolution and the Secaucus Housing Authority, Shade Tree Advisory Committee, Municipal Utility Authority, Planning Board, and of course Environmental Committee were very pleased with the resolution and have themselves pledged to do all they can to protect the rare environment we live in from pollution and development.

**PDF:** [PLEDGE SUPPORTING NJ WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN- RESOLUTION](#)

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## Companion Animal Management Pledge \*Retired 12/31/22\*

5 Points

**Program Summary:** Secaucus Mayor and Council Passed this pledge on August 27th, 2013. The town council, health department, environmental department, and the animal shelter are all committed to animal management and already have a trap/neuter/and release program, and a no kill shelter that accepts all different animals. The departments mentioned above have received a copy of the pledge from our municipal town clerk. Also, attached is a narrative written by our animal control officer and the head of our DPW.

**PDF:** [ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN PLEDGE](#)

**:** [COMPANION ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLEDGEARTICLE HUDSON REPORTER](#)

**WORD:** [ANIMAL SHELTER/ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER](#)

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## Community Partnership & Outreach

### Green Fair

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Town of Secaucus held its 3rd annual Green Summer Festival on May 4th, 2013. Our large corporate community generously donated about \$25,000 to fund our largest Green Festival yet. The Green Team and Environmental Committee's mission this year, was to bring together more people and vendors to learn something about being green and how to protect and preserve our environment. The festival took place at Secaucus Xchange place by a beautiful part of the Hackensack River. We were set on promoting local businesses and organizations that practiced sustainability at some capacity. We had over 60 vendors, 2 local bands, a Native American drumming show and 5 presenters ranging from animal shows with Tenafly Nature Center to photographers showing the impacts of climate change through coral and ice photography. This year's festival brought in an estimated 3000 people from all different towns and counties. People enjoyed the educational platoon rides in the Hackensack River, the horse and carriage rides, the used bike auction, and the friendly llamas that walked around in the crowd. We had many activities for youth including birdhouse building, arts and crafts, windmill creations, puppet shows, recycling magician shows, and a giant slide and rock climbing wall. We had an interactive butterfly exhibit, story time with the Mayor, and even invited the police department and fire department to showcase their trucks and equipment to bring together all parts of the community. Our local public library had story time with children and showed a Disney documentary called Wings of Life about the beauty of nature's flying creatures. After the children left story-time we gave them free tree seedlings. Everyone enjoyed the local food restaurants that created a healthy, organic twist to their traditional dishes including yogurt parfaits, salad wraps, and different Indian and Italian food. Everyone took part in something that was educational and fun and left the festival with a new perspective on being green and how we can all have responsibility to protect our precious environment.

**WORD:** [LIST OF VENDORS AND PRESENTERS AT GREEN SUMMER FESTIVAL 2013](#)

**PDF:** [FESTIVAL FLYER/ ADVERTISEMENTS](#)

**WORD:** [QUALITATIVE ASSESMENT TEMPLATE](#)

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### Green Team

10 Points

 Bronze Required

**Program Summary:** We have had an active Green Team since we established our commitment to Sustainable Jersey by resolution in 2011. We just never officially established the Green Team by resolution or ordinance. The head of the green team asked the Mayor and Council to pass a resolution regarding the creation of the green team in August and they passed it on September 10th, 2013, in time for the second review period to obtain our bronze certification with Sustainable Jersey.

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

**WORD:** [SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE GREEN TEAM](#)

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## Community Education & Outreach

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Recycling: The Town of Secaucus is number one in Hudson County in terms of our recycling because we take recycling very seriously. We do a rigorous recycling campaign in town and every year we send a recycling guide to our residents. In addition to the glass, aluminum, tin, plastic and mixed paper, this year we started recycling milk and juice cartons. We also have this information on our local Channel 36. Tot Safety Day: Tot Safety Day was put together by our Social Services department. Our Social Services Department organizes activities for our tot center which is funded entirely by the municipality with donations from the Secaucus Public Library and Partners in Prevention. This event, which took place on June 18th, 2013 at 11AM, was meant to introduce youth to emergency responders and to educate families on the importance of emergency safety plans. Children met with the police department, the fire department, and the EMS. Families got the chance to go through simulated emergency situations while emergency responders taught them safety and prevention.

**PDF:** [RECYCLING GUIDE](#)

**IMAGE:** [TOT SAFETY DAY](#)

**IMAGE:** [TOT SAFETY DAY PICTURE 1](#)

**IMAGE:** [TOT SAFETY DAY PICTURE 2](#)

**IMAGE:** [TOT SAFETY DAY PICTURE 3](#)

## Energy

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### Municipal Onsite Solar System

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Secaucus has installed solar panels on our municipal parking lot as well as the Department of Public Works and the Secaucus High School/ Middle School. The town of Secaucus and the Borough of Little Ferry and the Little Ferry Board of Education worked together on a power purchasing agreement that will save us over 1,700,000 over an estimated 15 years. The final construction is a 1.5 megawatt photovoltaic system which is the equivalent to removing 1,018 metric tons of greenhouse gases annually as well as removes 114,086 Carbon Dioxide emissions from gasoline consumed annually. Attached are the site plans, contracts, and municipal resolution along with articles that were specifically for the solar projects in town.

**:** [SOLAR ON DPW](#)

**:** [SECAUCUS EXPLORES SOLAR OPTIONS ARTICLE](#)

PDF: [SOLAR RESOLUTION VENDOR](#)

PDF: [SITE PLANS](#)

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## Fleet Inventory

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** Secaucus embarked on a path towards more fuel efficient vehicles approximately 5 years ago starting with an informal policy to attempt to increase the fuel efficiency of its entire fleet. Since that time, we have replaced 6 gasoline/diesel fueled vehicles with smaller hybrid alternatives. Presently we have instituted a formal municipal vehicle purchasing policy whereby department requests for vehicles must be approved by both the fleet manager as well as the Town Administrator to determine whether that vehicle is the most fuel efficient of its class or if a vehicle in a smaller class and/or a smaller engine can be substituted.

WORD: [FLEET INVENTORY NARRATIVE](#)

EXCEL: [FLEET INVENTORY - FINAL 2014](#)

## Food

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### Community Gardens

10 Points

**Program Summary:** As Secaucus continues to grow with new housing, shopping and restaurants, so has community gardening. Our newly created Community Garden uses sustainably harvested wood, donates to us by Citilogs, and organic soil and plants in raised beds. The garden located at Fountain Park, on Humboldt Street is easily accessible by residents from all neighborhoods. It is maintained by members of the community including the senior garden club, environmental students, health and environmental departments, and Wrap-For-A Smile. With the help of a \$1,000 grant, we will be able to buy a solar pump for our garden to be more self-sustaining. The town is also experimenting with all natural aquaponics in the community garden. Aquaponics combines aquaculture and hydroponics, which grows fish and plants together in one soilless system. Local resident Bob Knipe has installed two aquaponic beds at the community garden. He also has the sustainable system in his own back yard. Knipe and several of his neighbors have also started and maintain a “block garden” in his neighborhood. Our second Community Garden is located at Secaucus Xchange Apartments. There we have 54 raised beds and have residents rent out up to two per household for the entire growing season. It has been such great a success that people are already applying for a plot for next spring.

PDF: [HUDSON REPORT ARTICLE ON COMMUNITY GARDENS](#)

IMAGE: [XCHANGE GARDENS PICTURE](#)

IMAGE: [FOUNTAIN PARK GARDEN](#)

IMAGE: [FOUNTAIN PARK GARDEN ENTRANCE](#)

WORD: [QUALITATIVE ASSEMENT FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS \(FOUNTAIN PARK\)](#)

PDF: [CITILOGS RESOLUTION](#)

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## Farmers Markets

## 10 Points

**Program Summary:** For 2014, We have had our farmer's market's almost every Friday, and recently updated to every Wednesday alongside our Food Truck Court which grabs the attention of more people. Our Farmer's Market is expected to continue until mid October. We have used various farmers but since the beginning of August until October, we will be using RH Farms, a local NJ farmer! So far, we have our public outreach coordinator, Mayor, and Environmental Coordinator, and Secaucus Events committee working on the farmer's market. The information is posted on our town website located here: [http://www.secaucusnj.org/web\\_content/acrobat/flyers/Every-Wednesday-food-truck.pdf](http://www.secaucusnj.org/web_content/acrobat/flyers/Every-Wednesday-food-truck.pdf) as well as the local channel 36 TV station. We also release phone calls to residents to always encourage them to attend the market. We have been working on finding a great location and figure out ways to make it more accessible to people. The operational costs include the hours of pay for the DPW workers who make our promotional material for the market as well as post banners around town and help with the set up the day of the farmer's market. These costs are approx. \$3000 a year (this includes the hours of work that the town Environmental Coordinator and Public Outreach Coordinator put into this project). Information about the generated income of our farmers market does not exist as we do not charge them anything to set up. For 2013 (last years submission) For the past two years, we have been holding Farmer's Markets in the middle of town in the parking lot of the Secaucus Public Library. We have our farmers market from June to August every Monday from 12:00 to 6:00 pm. The main vendor is Matarazzo Farms, who sells many different plants and vegetables. We have 5 or 6 other vendors that sell things from pickles to peanuts, to purses and clothing. We usually have about 2 to 300 people come through the course of the day. The municipality hires two people to run the event through the season and gets help from the Secaucus Public Library. The municipality pays the organizers, promotes the event on the town website, puts it in our community calendar, we also promote through phone blasts, our local Channel 36, and make announcements at our town council meetings that are televised. We make it as accessible as we can by having it located in the middle of town on a main street that runs through the whole town (Paterson Plank Road). Senior Citizens are able to use their "farm vouchers". Customers could pay with cash, or debit.

**PDF:** [FARMERS MARKETS FLYER](#)

**IMAGE:** [FARMERS MARKETS PICTURE 1](#)

**IMAGE:** [FARMERS MARKET PICTURE 2](#)

**IMAGE:** [2014 FARMER'S MARKET- FLYER FOR TOWN WEBSITE AND LOCAL CHANNEL](#)

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## Buy Fresh Buy Local Programs

### 10 Points

**Program Summary:** On October 24th, 2012, we had our first Food Day which coincides with National Food Day. The head of our Health Department along with help from our Environmental Department and green team helped to make this event a success. Our goal was to raise awareness about buying local and organic foods. Food Day is all about paying attention to the food we eat and eating healthier. We had about 22 restaurants come and provide to the community their most healthy dishes. We had our event in the senior center and invited the whole community by advertising in the newspaper. We also put together a cook book with recipes from community members who wanted to participate. We are having Food Day again this year on October 19th at the same place as last year and we will have more participants, music, and speakers.

**:** [FOOD DAY ARTICLE](#)

**EXCEL:** [COPY OF PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS](#)

**WORD:** [FOOD DAY EVENT FLYER](#)

**WORD:** [FOOD DAY SEEKING PARTICIPANTS](#)

**:** [FOOD DAY ARTICLE 2](#)

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## Making Farmers Markets Accessible

5 Points

**Program Summary:** Our Farmer's Market is accessible to Senior Citizens and disabled by shuttle. Residents who are aware of the shuttle also can take it to the farmer's market. It is very close to our warehouse/business district to encourage people to walk from their work place during the day. We have also placed it in an area that has many apartment buildings and is on the side of the town that is most residential. Unfortunately, the market is located 2 miles away from our train station, but our station is in a part of the town that is not built up and it would not be easy to place a farmer's market next to. Our farmer's market does accept FMNP vouchers including Senior FMNP vouchers. The shuttle is provided by the municipality as well as the space occupied by the market.

## Health & Wellness

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### Building Healthier Communities

20 Points

**Program Summary:** We passed the Mayor's Wellness Campaign on January 24, 2012. Since then, we have had several activities to get our community moving. Throughout the summer months, the youngest children in Secaucus can attend the Tot Center which has an indoor park. The Tot Center also holds an exercise class every Wednesday at 1:00pm called "Toterize". We also have free pool days at our town pool where we invite children to come and take swim lessons or just play in the pool. Our Senior Citizens enjoy Senior Yoga at our Senior Center and participate in Senior Aerobics - all services provided by the Mayor and Council. On May 29th, we had our first "Walk at Work Day" where employees throughout the town (Town Hall, Recreation Center, Senior Center, and members of our DPW) participated in a half hour walk through town and had light refreshments (apples, water, granola bars) after the walk. We provide free pool days for the community during the summer to keep them cool and active, especially during our heat wave. This year we held our 3rd Annual Health Fair on May 11th where there were free medical screening for blood pressure, cholesterol, and diabetes. We also have healthy foods and music to make it a fun event for families. To keep our community healthy we have Food Day in October which coincides with National Food Day where we promote healthy eating lifestyles. To prevent the spread of disease we did a campaign the past 2 years on Mosquito Control where we encourage residents to check the surroundings of their home to be sure that they do not have stagnant water which can harbor Mosquito's. This year, we passed an ordinance to prohibit the use of tobacco products in public areas including parks and recreational facilities. We have seen a significant difference in the amount of pollution (cigarette butts) in our parks. It also keeps our children safe from second hand smoke. We also have our Town Council and residents take part in 5k runs to fundraise for war Veterans. Our local hospital also has a 5k run which will take place on September 29th.

**PDF:** [SECAUCUS HEALTH FAIR](#)

**PDF:** [RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MAYOR'S WELLNESS CAMPAIGN](#)

**PDF:** [MOSQUITO CONTROL NOTICE](#)

**WORD:** [WALK AT WORK DAY](#)

**:** [SUMMER CAMP EXERCISE FOR CHILDREN](#)

**PDF:** [USE OF TOBACCO IN PUBLIC AREAS](#)

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## Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement Program

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Secaucus passed an ordinance in January of 2012 prohibiting idling of a vehicle for more than 3 consecutive minutes if the vehicle is not in motion under threat of penalty of \$1,000 or imprisonment. The town's environmental committee and green team spearheaded the initiative when they noticed several instances where we caught trucks, taxis, and cars idling near homes, parks, and schools. This ordinance came from the need to educate residents about the anti-idling law in NJ. We had 20 signs distributed roughly a year ago, and we recently ordered an additional 6 signs to distribute through the towns in areas where we have seen cars idling. Since we have distributed the signs, we have seen a significant difference in the amount of drivers, including trucks idling. Our Police Department says they have not had to chase taxis or truck drivers away since the signs were distributed and they receive far less phone calls from residents regarding a particular idle-free zone where truck's used to idle frequently.

**PDF:** [ANTI-IDLING ORDINANCE](#)

**IMAGE:** [NO IDLING SIGNS](#)

**PDF:** [INVOICE FOR NO IDLING SIGNS](#)

**:** [MAYOR'S COLUMN](#)

**:** [IDLE FREE ZONES ARTICLE](#)

**IMAGE:** [ANTI-IDLING SIGN](#)

## Innovative Projects

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### Innovative Community Project 2

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Town of Secaucus hired it's first ever full time Environmental Coordinator. Secaucus is committed to being a model sustainable community and wanted to show that commitment by hiring a young woman who graduated with a degree in environmental science as the town's first ever environmental coordinator. Her job description and official resolution showing the appointment is attached. Our Environmental Coordinator is salaried at \$35,000 a year.

**WORD:** [ENV COORDINATOR - JOB DESCRIPTION](#)

**PDF:** [RESOLUTION TO HIRE ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR](#)

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### Innovative Community Project 1

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Secaucus is surrounded by the Hackensack River, which is regularly cleaned up by volunteers from the Environmental Committee and community. Some of the things we see on a normal clean-up day are bottled water and Styrofoam clams and cups. Our committee first started raising awareness about our initiative by publicly announcing our Styrofoam ban at public hearings. The Chairwoman of our Environmental Committee went to give a presentation at the high school and middle

school as to why the town is moving towards this kind of initiative. Our story has been in the Hudson Reporter, the Home News, and The Secaucus Reporter. Our initiative has received positive feedback from parents, business owners, and local politicians. So far, Outback Steakhouse used up their inventory of Styrofoam Containers, and is now using plastic and tin containers. The High School/ Middle school has switched to using paper plates. Our Uncle D's, a local ice cream shop is also looking for alternatives and Amazon Café in town has given us our word that they would use up their inventory and then begin to use paper cups.

**PDF:** [RESOLUTION TO BAN STYROFOAM](#)

**:** [LETTER TO THE EDITOR](#)

**:** [HUDSON REPORT ARTICLE](#)

**:** [OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE JOINS STYRO BAN](#)

**:** [OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE JOINS STYRO BAN](#)

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## Innovative Community Project 3

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Secaucus is on track to being the first community with a solar transportation system. Here is our article in Fast Company Magazine: <http://www.fastcolabs.com/3034687/new-jersey-is-testing-solar-power-commuter-pods?partner=rss> And another article on eSecaucus: <http://esecaucus.com/2014/08/secaucus-test-new-futuristic-transit/> We are working with Bill James, CEO of Jpods to build a solar transportation network in Secaucus. We are in the beginning phases and have passed a resolution to allow Jpods to be built. Also Uploaded to the application are plans of where the Jpods will be built (below the network are bike lanes). The team at Jpods is currently being built and we will have a small part of the rail and Jpod to show residents by the end of October. Jpods will be a network connecting people to our local Secaucus Junction and downtown areas. We have passed an ordinance to support Jpods and transportation innovation. We are looking forward to partner with this private company to make Secaucus a model sustainable community.

**IMAGE:** [JPODS AND BIKE LANE](#)

**IMAGE:** [JPODS AND BIKE LANE 2](#)

**PDF:** [ORDINANCE SUPPORTING TRANSPORTATION INNOVATION](#)

## Land Use & Transportation

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### Sustainable Land Use Pledge

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** The Mayor and town Council along with the help of the green team and environmental committee helped to pass the Sustainable Land Use Pledge on August 27th, 2013. The Planning and Zoning Board are aware of the pledge and we went a signed and passed pledge to all members. Our municipality understands the importance of protecting our wetlands encourages sustainable, organized development with the Meadowlands Commission and developers. We are always thinking of new ways we can enhance transportation choices including bike signs, busses to the train station, and shuttles for senior citizens. We are currently in the process of drafting a Recreational and Open Space Inventory which will be incorporated into our Master Plan and help protect and preserve open space in our town.

**PDF:** [SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLEDGE- PASSED](#)



**WORD:** [SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLEDGE DOCUMENTATION](#)

## Local Economies

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### Buy Local Campaign

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Our Health Department and Environmental Department worked together on a buy local campaign in 2013 and will again in October 2014. The Mayor and Council were also included in this as it was a way to boost our local economy. The health department is currently helping our public outreach coordinator with Secaucus Restaurant Night (which happened in October last year) to encourage restaurants to inexpensively taste local cuisine: article highlighting the event here <http://www.visithudson.org/secaucus-restaurant-night/>. Our community participates every year in Shop Small Business Day with American Express. Our Mayor and Council announce it during the council meetings leading up to the event. All of our large events, including Green Festival and Food Day have all of the local businesses that want to participate in the event because we are very proactive about promoting our local businesses. We tie in our buy local campaign into our Food Day event where we have local businesses make healthy food options for residents to try. This year, we are going to give "Secaucus Buy Local" stickers to all local restaurants and businesses who attend our Food Day event and Restaurant Night Event so that residents know the businesses and restaurants that participate and collaborate with the town.

**IMAGE:** [SECAUCUS RESTAURANT NIGHT](#)

**IMAGE:** [FOOD DAY- BUY LOCAL](#)

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### Support Local Businesses

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Aside from what was mentioned in the Qualitative Assessment, an example of how we support local business: We have just entered into a partnership with a local business called Spectrum Works, a screen printing company that hires autistic people to print things like shirts, and bags and buttons and many other things. The town now purchases all of its items from them such as the high school team sport t-shirts and sweaters, our reusable bags that we hand out amongst other things. A resolution was recently passed to have our sports teams buy their items from Spectrum Works.

**WORD:** [QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE](#)

**WORD:** [SECAUCUS BUSINESS BREAKFAST ARTICLE IN HUDSON REPORTER](#)

## Natural Resources

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### Community Forestry Management Plan & NJUCF Accreditation

20 Points

**Program Summary:** Pam Zipse with Hometown forests has drafted a Community Forestry Management plan with the help of the Secaucus Shade Tree Committee and Environmental Committee. This is our second draft as we have made some changes. This is expected to be fully completed by the end of September to be adopted in October. There is a long term goal located in the plan for tree cover goal in the document (on pages 4-5 and 21) referencing our intent to increase the amount of trees in town. The Mayor and council and the DPW have been very supportive and all have been involved in the drafting of this plan.

**PDF:** [COMMUNITY FORESTRY PLAN AND TREE COVER GOAL DOCUMENTATION](#)

**PDF:** [2013 COMMUNITY FORESTRY PLAN STATUS REPORT](#)

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## Tree Maintenance Programs

10 Points

**Program Summary:** We will submit the requested information for this initiative by the deadline date. Our DPW is very hands on with tree maintenance. The shade tree committee communicates with the DPW on maintenance on the trees. Attached is a narrative by the head of our DPW and municipal tree maintenance workers.

**WORD:** [TREE MAINTENANCE NARRATIVE](#)

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## Tree Planting Programs

10 Points

**Program Summary:** In September of 2013, the Town of Secaucus purchased 160 trees with \$120,000 to beautify the entrance to the town on both sides of route 3 (east and west). This planting project took us two weeks and we planted 80 trees on both sides of route 3. During these two weeks, we had around 35 different municipal volunteers and 6 DPW workers to plant the trees and shrubs. These workers and volunteers consisting of high school and middle school students and our senior garden club and environmental committee/ green team members were supervised by our Tree Conservation Officer, Frank Sasso, to ensure proper planting and placement of the trees. DPW workers as well as some of the residents who helped out continue to monitor the progress of the trees and will continue to do so with the help of the shade tree commission for the remainder two years. Only 3 of the trees did not survive, and we believe they were just weak trees to begin with as they did not look too healthy when we planted them. Some of our residents even named the trees they planted, which also made them want to monitor the tree more closely to ensure its survival. Attached to this application are 5 photos taken after about 11 months of the planting. There is also a photo included of before the planting. The trees planted consisted of different types of Spruce, Zelkova , River birch, Leyland cypress, a variety of Sedum, and Forsythia As you can see, there were only about a dozen trees before the tree planting. We did do some additional mulching on Earth Day where we had volunteers from local businesses do clean-ups around town. Of the areas that needed cleaning was the route 3 location and so we provided the tools and materials for the volunteers to mulch.

**IMAGE:** [TREE PLANTING PHOTO 1](#)

**IMAGE:** [TREE PLANTING PHOTO 3](#)

**IMAGE:** [TREE PLANTING PHOTO 4](#)

**IMAGE:** [TREE PLANTING PHOTO 5](#)

**IMAGE:** [TREE PLANTING BEFORE PICTURE](#)

**IMAGE:** [TREE PLANTING PHOTO 6](#)

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## Open Space Plans

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The town of Secaucus was awarded a grant to do an Open Space and Recreation Plan by ANJEC. We hired Brian Slauch of Clarke Caton Hintz to draft a open space plan. Brian completed the plan with the help of our municipal consultants with Remington Vernick and Arango Engineers, our environmental coordinator, Amanda Nesheiwat, and our Department of Public Works. We made an amendment to the Open Space and Recreation Plan element to our Master Plan of 2009.

**PDF:** [FLYER FOR PUBLIC HEARING](#)

**WORD:** [IN KIND HOURS](#)

**PDF:** [OPEN SPACE PLANS COMPLETE](#)

**PDF:** [ADDED TO THE MASTER PLAN](#)

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## Tree Protection Ordinance \*Retires 12/31/25\*

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Secaucus has been a “Tree City” for the past 20 years. One of the requirements to be awarded this title is to have a tree care ordinance. We put together a tree conservation ordinance in 1993. In this ordinance, we have the following: -We prohibit any injurious liquids or solid matter to come into contact with stems and roots of a tree or shrub. -If a tree needs to be removed due to disease or public endangerment, we must replace it with an appropriate species of tree. -It is unlawful for any person to top a street tree. -No person shall fasten any rope, wire electric attachment, sign, or any other device to a tree or shrub. -No person shall pile any building material, or mix any mortar or cement within 6 feet of a tree or shrub. -A person must obtain a permit before removing a tree. The permit costs \$200 dollars, and that money is put towards the replacement of the tree. This ordinance has proven to be strong enough to protect our trees in town.

**PDF:** [TREE CONSERVATION ORDINANCE](#)

## Waste Management

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### Community Paper Shredding Day

5 Points

**Program Summary:** We have two days in the year when we have community paper shredding days. We always have Shred-it some to our Green Summer Festivals. We like to also have one day specifically dedicated to community-wide shredding for residents only which was on Saturday, September 7th from 9am 1pm. This was organized by the Mayor and Town Council with Hudson County Improvement Authority (HCIA). This event was held in the Secaucus Recreation Parking Lot and the purpose is to recycle paper that people would normally throw in the trash. It is to raise awareness about recycling paper as well as prevent identity theft. Our municipality provided the location and helped promote the day by putting on our town website community calendar (here: <http://www.secaucusnj.org/Calendar/>) as well as distributed flyers and sent out a town-wide phone call blast. We also mentioned the time and date of the event at our last council meeting (Tuesday, August 27th). The municipality promoted the event using our own resources. The HCIA gave us the flyer they had created and we distributed them. We had 100 people come and shred about 3 tons of paper.

## Prescription Drug Safety & Disposal

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** Medicine Chest Challenge The American Medicine Chest Challenge bin is located in the front lobby of the Secaucus town hall, in front of the police station and is open 24 hours a day. The box is designed such that an individual cannot retrieve medicine out of the box, and would be observed if an attempt is made to do so. Detective Torres checks the bin every month to determine when it is ready for permanent disposal. Once full, the collected drugs are weighed, and placed in the property and evidence room to await transfer. This room is only accessible by the chief of police, and the two head detectives. Detective Torres then contacts the disposal company, Covanta, located at 183 Raymond Boulevard Newark, NJ 07105 in Essex County. Once an appointment date and time are set up, Detective Torres brings the medicine out to a police car and personally drives the material to the site. Once there, the medicine is weighed again, and a receipt is supplied for the medicine. He then escorts the Covanta employee to personally witness the medicine being disposed of, thus ensuring that it is not mishandled. Secaucus has approximately 17,000 residents. The first time we opened the box after a one day drive, we removed 36 lbs. of bottles of prescription bottles. Here is our website with information about the drop box: <http://www.secaucusnj.org/Departments/Health/> Here is another link for our location on the medicine chest challenge website: [http://www.americanmedicinechest.com/?p=locations&find\\_state=New+Jersey&find\\_county=Hudson&find\\_miles=5&find\\_zipcode=07094&submit=Go](http://www.americanmedicinechest.com/?p=locations&find_state=New+Jersey&find_county=Hudson&find_miles=5&find_zipcode=07094&submit=Go)

**WORD:** [PRESCRIPTION DRUG SAFETY AND DISPOSAL DOCUMENTATION- HUDSON REPORTER ARTICLE](#)

**IMAGE:** [MEDICINE DROP OFF BOX PHOTO](#)

**IMAGE:** [MEDICINE DROP OFF BOX PHOTO 2](#)

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## Grass - Cut It and Leave It Program

5 Points

**Program Summary:** Our cut it and leave- it program is incorporated with our recycling newsletter and has been an ongoing campaign to keep leaves and such out of the landfill. We do collect leaves and send them to a local hauler who composts them if it is absolutely necessary to rid of the grass clippings, which is encouraged in our recycling flyer and enforced by our recycling ordinance (second page). Our Recycling Newsletter was specifically created to not only educate the public on recycling issues and news, but also to get the word out about our cut it and leave it program, which our Environmental Coordinator usually talks about during our televised municipal meeting at the beginning of the summer. The newsletter mentions the cut- it and leave-it program on page 2, tips to go green, the caption says, "Cut it and Leave it! Leave grass clippings on your lawn and use it as mulch for your grass and plants. It prevents your grass from burning in the sun and brings nutrients to your soil. It also keeps it out of landfills. " To get the word out, we promote it at our council meetings at the beginning of the season as well as incorporate it into our recycling information as seen in the recycling newsletter distributed to homes and apartment in town. Last summer we even had a town wide garden contest and the winners mentioned that when they cut the grass, they leave the clippings as mulch to encourage others to do the same.

**WORD:** [GRASS - CUT IT AND LEAVE IT - RECYCLING NEWSLETTER](#)

**PDF:** [GRASS - CUT IT AND LEAVE IT - RECYCLING ORDINANCE](#)

**PDF:** [GRASS - CUT IT AND LEAVE IT RECYCLING FLYER](#)

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## Backyard Composting Program

5 Points

**Program Summary:** Secaucus partners with the HCIA every year to give away compost barrels. First, we equipped both of our community gardens with compost bins and had our senior garden club hold a small workshop at the Secaucus Library in February 2014 on how to compost. Everyone that attended received a compost bin. Here is the link to the website that shows the time and day of the meeting: <http://www.secaucuslibrary.org/calendar/2014-03-01-000000/gardening-club#.VAoXX7BOU5s> Here is a link to a facebook event that shows that we partner with the HCIA to get residents to buy rain barrels and compost bins for the time when we don't give them away for free: <https://www.facebook.com/events/205101266178127/> Every year at our Green Festival, we give out compost bins and the HCIA explains how to set them up in their backyard. This year at the festival we had a one hour workshop showing children how to compost and it was very successful. Children brought home little boxes that they would fill with worms (vermicompost) and the children loved it. We also encourage backyard composting in our Recycling Newsletter which we will be distributing shortly. We also partner with coca cola, who gave us 50 syrup drums and held a small workshop at our Green Festival on May, 3rd 2014 for residents on how to make the syrup drums into rain barrels and how to use a rain barrel.

**IMAGE:** COCA COLA AND RAIN BARRELS

**WORD:** RECYCLING NEWSLETTER ENCOURAGES COMPOSTING