



## Sustainable Jersey Certification Report

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

Harrington Park Boro was certified on October 12, 2015 with 210 points. Listed below is information regarding Harrington Park Boro's Sustainable Jersey efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

### Contact Information

**The designated Sustainable Jersey contact for Harrington Park Boro is:**

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<b>Title/Position:</b>	GREEN TEAM CHAIR AND EC MEMBER / ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
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### Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Harrington Park Boro was approved for in 2015 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:** Mission Statement: The Harrington Park Green Team is committed to developing strategies that will reduce our impact on the environment both collectively and individually, so that we might preserve our town's natural resources for the citizens of Harrington Park now and in the future. (10/09) The HP Green Team is an advisory body to the HP

Environmental Commission and is composed of borough officials and residents. At bimonthly meetings and through email communication, the Green Team has solicited resident input on areas of their concern to act on, as well as focused on pursuing mandatory and elective actions toward SJ certification. We celebrated successful BRONZE level certification in 2012, 2013 and 2014 are particularly proud that Harrington Park was awarded the Innovation and Creativity Award for 2012! Since our town committed to start working for SJ certification, there has been a positive change in culture, appearance and practices in our community, most obviously at the Harrington Park K-8 School. Green Team members, borough employees, and Mayor and Council members report only positive feedback on the Green Team outreach efforts, which include manning informational tables at town events, contributing information to borough mailings and the town website, as well as maintaining an active and increasing Facebook and WordPress weblog presence. The Green Team is grateful for local publicity of our events and activities. Attractive and visible blue outdoor recycling are located throughout town and are being used; we continue to focus especially on promoting recycling rates (both curbside and at the recycling center). Education and promotion for Buy Local/Buy Fresh and home composting are ongoing and the Green Team is very pleased that three new actions were completed for submission for 2014 and we are looking forward to celebrating our five year anniversary at Town Day in September 2015!

**PDF: [CREATE GREEN TEAM DOCUMENTATION](#)**

**IMAGE: [PHOTO OF CREATIVITY AWARD- PRESENTED TO HP COUNCIL](#)**

**PDF: [SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE JERSEY](#)**

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## Community Education & Outreach

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Education and Outreach are essential in any effort to promote change. The Harrington Park Green Team was formed in October 2009 by a small group of community members who wished to promote a “more sustainable future for themselves and their community”. The Green Team members recognized the value of social media in reaching out to others and the wordpress blog <http://hpgreenteam.wordpress.com> was created in August 2010. The various postings describe sustainable practices and encourage positive choices and highlight Green activities and initiatives at the local K-8 school, regional high school, and our municipality. Examples of postings are shown below; please click on the blog link to view more recent posts. The most popular post in the last year had 66 views:

<http://hpgreenteam.wordpress.com/2013/06/04/the-upper-hackensack-watershed-fu-to-paddling-the-oradell-reservoir-join-a-nature-walk-june-9th-watershed-recreation-permit-info/> 948 views in the past year (ending 5/16/14) came from search engines. Viewership varies by day (average 6-7, max 87), but there is steady traffic and viewers will search the site for older articles. Few visitors have left comments, but community members have commented favorably to Green Team members about the information on the blog site. We maintain an email address and comments and questions are sent to this: [hpgreen@gmail.com](mailto:hpgreen@gmail.com) Many visitors follow the links to referenced articles and web sites with the BCUA- recycling information being the most popular. A “Harrington Park Green Team” Facebook site was created in May 2010 and has 245 friends who “like” and comment on posts. The wordpress blog posts on the hp greenteam facebook site. The wordpress blog was linked to our former town website; the current Harrington Park site is being developed and updated. We anticipate that the wordpress site will soon be linked to it.

[http://harringtonparknj.gov/green\\_team.html](http://harringtonparknj.gov/green_team.html)

**IMAGE: [EXAMPLE WORDPRESS POSTING ON DRAGONFLIES](#)**

**IMAGE: [EXAMPLE WORDPRESS POSTING ON HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL](#)**

**IMAGE: [EXAMPLE WORDPRESS POSTING ON MUMS - \(DON'T THROW AWAY\)](#)**

## Diversity & Equity

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### Diversity on Boards & Commissions

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** The Mayor and Town Council of Harrington Park strongly support a diverse board membership to encourage social equity in our community. A voluntary survey was conducted in the fall of 2013 of all the board and commission members and the evaluation was completed in the spring of 2014. Members of the Environmental Commission, Board of Health, Library Board, Planning Board, Board of Adjustment, and Recreation Commission took the survey. There were 39 respondents resulting in an ~ 80% response rate. The survey had a total of 9 questions including age, gender, race, and education attainment. The results were analyzed in comparison to the 2010 census and recommendations have been made to the governing body for future appointments to ensure opportunities in outreach efforts aimed at recruiting more diversifies boards and commission members. The full report will be distributed to the Mayor-Council on September 15, 2014 and the documentation of distribution will be submitted to SJ on September 15, 2014. Thank you! Councilwoman Joon Chung

**PDF:** [DIVERSITY ON BOARDS & COMMISSIONS DOCUMENTATION - DIVERSITY SURVEY](#)

**PDF:** [DIVERSITY ON BOARDS & COMMISSIONS DOCUMENTATION - DIVERSITY REPORT](#)

**PDF:** [DIVERSITY ON BOARDS & COMMISSIONS DIVERSITY REPORT 2014](#)

**PDF:** [DIVERSITY ON BOARDS & COMMISSIONS SURVEY](#)

**IMAGE:** [DIVERSITY ON BOARDS & COMMISSIONS DISTRIBUTION](#)

**WORD:** [DIVERSITY ON BOARDS & COMMISSIONS MEETING MINUTES](#)

## Food

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### Community Gardens

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The courtyard garden at Harrington Park School has been an incredible success, serving as a living classroom and a source of delicious vegetables for the students, staff and teachers. The Harrington Park School Garden Project started in the summer of 2009, with the goals to help students develop gardening skills and to better understand the connections between growing food and the healthfulness of the food that we eat. In July 2009, volunteer community members, teachers and students at HP School assembled, filled, and planted four raised beds. The town supplied the compost and the Home and School Association provided the funding for tools, seeds, wood, and funds for Garden Club advisors. During the school years 2009-2012, the Garden Club planted, maintained, and harvested produce, both in the fall and in the spring. Weekly meetings were held seasonally; a few meetings were also held during the winter to learn more about gardening and composting. Starting in 2012 the Garden Club continues as a summer activity. Members of the Green Team are active in the school and an update on the Garden Club activities and the garden status is regularly posted on the Green Team blog for community

members to read. <http://hpgreenteam.wordpress.com/?s=school+garden>. Please read the full submission for more details about Harrington Park School Garden Project, its impact on and use by the HP school children, as well as ongoing activities and future plans. The HP School Garden Club members, a local Girl Scout Troop, and a few community volunteers maintain the garden. Students from the Garden (and Green) Club were the recipients of the NJ Youth Jefferson Award for Public Service in 2013 for the category of Environment and Sustainability and a student from each club spoke about their experience at the awards ceremony on June 1st at the Newark Museum.

**PDF:** [SCHOOL GARDEN UPDATE FOR 2015](#)

**PDF:** [QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE 2015](#)

**IMAGE:** [SCHOOL GARDEN WORDPRESS WRITEUP SPRING 2015](#)

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## Buy Fresh Buy Local Programs

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Harrington Park Green Team, active since 2009, is committed to promoting local food production. Our town is small and residential and there is no land zoned for agriculture. Our community is part of a larger regional school system and the borders between the nine towns are not obvious. A few of the neighboring towns have farms and farmer's markets, though unfortunately some of those have closed in the past years. Since 2010, the Green Team has created a one page document listing local farms and farmer's markets and has worked to promote community support of them. The Buy Fresh, Buy Local handout has been given to interested visitors at the EC/Green Team information table at townwide events (3x/year). It is also posted on our blog- with periodic reminders and posting on our facebook site. Copies are available in the town library, a copy is posted on a bulletin board outside Boro Hall, and will be (as the site is under construction) again posted on the town website. We have invited farmers and vendors to the town picnic in September and the Green Team sells locally grown plants and corn at this event. There are two restaurants, two delis, and a catering business based in Harrington Park. In the fall of 2012 Green Team members spoke with the owners about promoting locally grown produce and agricultural products. A local farm- Stokes Farm in Old Tappan, started a CSA in 2013 (July- Nov); this was very successful, several local residents participated and the CSA was promoted through the hpgreenteam connections.

**PDF:** [PROMOTING BUY FRESH BUY LOCAL, TOWN DAY PHOTOS](#)

**IMAGE:** [CLOSTER FARMER'S MARKET--WORDPRESS WRITEUP MAY 2015](#)

**IMAGE:** [RIVER VALE FARMER'S MARKET-- WORDPRESS WRITEUP AUG 2014](#)

**IMAGE:** [BUY FRESH BUY LOCAL LISTING 2015](#)

## Innovative Projects

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### Innovative Community Project 1

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Borough of Harrington Park introduced ordinance #269 to ban all

smoking from recreational areas on May 19, 2014 and the second reading was held on June 16. This ordinance states that smoking will be prohibited in all public parks and recreation facilities owned or leased by the Borough where the public is invited or individuals gather for recreational activities. The ordinance also prohibits smoking in all municipal buildings, including all areas adjacent to such facilities and within 35 feet of such areas. The ordinance prohibits the possession of a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe or any other matter or substance which contains tobacco or any other matter that can be smoked or the inhaling or exhaling of smoke or vapor from an electronic smoking device. By expanding smoke-free areas in Harrington Park, the borough hopes to gain both public health and environmental benefits. The community education is being performed by the Borough during its town-wide events such as Mini-Health Clinic, Flu Clinic, and Town Day. A ribbon cutting ceremony to publicize the adoption of "100% SMOKE FREE PARKS, RECREATIONAL AREAS, AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS" was held on Harrington Park Town Day, Sept 7, 2014. There has been quite a bit of coverage of the introduction of the smoking ban ordinance locally. Here are links to two articles (the second one is included below). <http://www.northjersey.com/news/officials-propose-smoking-ban-at-borough-properties-1.1025553>  
<http://www.northjersey.com/news/recreational-areas-100-smoke-free-1.1045136>

**IMAGE: [INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY PROJECT 1 \(FORMERLY OTHER\) - RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY FOR SMOKE FREE PARKS 9/7/2014](#)**

**PDF: [INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY PROJECT 1 \(FORMERLY OTHER\) DOCUMENTATION - MAYOR/COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 6/15/2014](#)**

**PDF: [ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 230-6 TO INCLUDE 100% SMOKE FREE PARKS, RECREATIONAL AREAS, AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS](#)**

**IMAGE: [INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY PROJECT 1 \(FORMERLY OTHER\) DOCUMENTATION - OUTDOOR SMOKE FREE SIGN](#)**

**PDF: [LOCAL NEWSPAPER ARTICLE COVERING SMOKING BAN ORDINANCE](#)**

## Natural Resources

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### Environmental Commission

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Harrington Park has had an Environmental Commission since 1974. The focus of the Environmental Commission from 2010-2012 was on complementing the efforts of the Green Team to pursue SJ certification; Bronze level certification was achieved in 2012! The environmental commission continues to reach out into the community to educate our citizens (ie re recycling options & law) and to promote composting and recycling. The EC participated in a cleanup of a vandalized Green Acres Park that was organized by a local Eagle Scout candidate (and was a great success!); efforts of other Scouts and students toward improving the environment were supported. The EC also worked on routine town business (ie recycling center, collaboration with the planning board, tree damage from storms including Sandy and new planting, sidewalks, etc.). The EC organized and conducted several annual cleanups throughout town as needed. The EC 2014 Summary is scheduled to be approved at the July 2015 meeting; the Borough Clerk will provide a link for the online codes directory.

**PDF: [LINK TO ONLINE CODES DIRECTORY](#)**

**PDF: [HP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION 2012 ANNUAL REPORT](#)**

**WORD: [ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION DOCUMENTATION](#)**

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

**10 Points**

**Program Summary:** Harrington Park's Tree Preservation Ordinance is designed to discourage indiscriminate and excessive removal, cutting and destruction of trees, to encourage conditions and practices which prevent increased surface drainage, sedimentation and soil erosion or post-construction mortality, and provide adequate re-vegetation of an area with appropriate species after construction. The following Tree Ordinance is part of the Harrington Park Code Book, which can be accessed from the town website: [hpboro.net](http://hpboro.net) submitted by EC Chair Peter Ardito

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

## **Operations & Maintenance**

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### **Green Grounds & Maintenance Policy**

**10 Points**

**Program Summary:** In a continued effort towards sustainability and green practices, the Borough of Harrington Park is working to incorporate green grounds and maintenance practices into the current maintenance operations. The goal for adoption is to promote healthy, environmentally sound public lands and to promote a sustainable community for Borough residents. In January, 2013, Mayor and Council approved the development of policies to ensure best practices for efficient landscape design, minimizing water consumption, recycling and composting materials and using integrated pest management. The comprehensive policy was formulated with the input of the Green Team, the Department of Public Works, the Recreational Commission, the Environmental Commission, and the building department. On Feb 18, 2014 Mayor and Council passed a resolution approving the implementation of the Green Grounds and Maintenance Policy into the current grounds maintenance policies. The policy was been distributed to department heads and the Green Team publicized it on our website.

Implementation of the various policies is ongoing.

<http://hpgreenteam.wordpress.com/2014/02/23/borough-of-harrington-park-green-grounds-and-maintenance-policy/> Joon Chung, Councilwoman

**PDF:** [HP GREEN GROUNDS AND MAINTENANCE POLICY](#)

**PDF:** [MUNICIPAL SUPPORT RESOLUTION FEB 18, 2014](#)

**PDF:** [MUNICIPAL DISTRIBUTION](#)

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### **Recycled Materials & Composting**

**10 Points**

**Program Summary:** In a continued effort towards sustainability and green practices, the

Borough of Harrington Park is working to incorporate green grounds and maintenance practices into the current maintenance operations. On Feb 18, 2014 Mayor and Council passed a resolution approving the implementation of the Green Grounds and Maintenance Policy into the current grounds maintenance policies. Harrington Park has had a municipal composting site for over 50 years; it previously kept wood chips on site, but these have been taken to neighboring town Norwood's site since 2010. The DPW does grounds maintenance and branch chipping; tree removal is done by outside contractors. Every effort is made to compost or chip vegetative materials from parks and other municipal properties. Leaf collection (vacuuming from curbside) is done in the fall by DPW staff and these leaves are composted at the Highland Park facility. Chipping of branches left at curbside takes place April through November and Christmas trees are chipped in January. Humus and wood chips are available for residents to use year round at the recycling center; in May the DPW will deliver humus to resident's home for a small fee (~20% of the humus made is delivered for local resident use). Some articles as to the use of composted leaves and wood chips can be seen on the <http://hpgreenteam.wordpress.com> site—search for composting and recycling. DPW Chief Mark Kiernan's report of tonnages composted and chipped and their use in 2013 was emailed to a councilman then to an EC members; the document was corrupted (found out after downloading) > waiting for a good copy, but could not upload by deadline 9/14.

PDF: [NARRATIVE WITH PHOTOS - COMPOSTED LEAVES AND WOOD CHIPS - BEING USED](#)

PDF: [HP BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE LETTER](#)

WORD: [RECYCLED MATERIALS AND COMPOSTING 2013](#)

EXCEL: [2013 TONNAGE REPORT](#)

## Sustainability & Climate Planning

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### Municipal Carbon Footprint

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** Municipal Carbon Footprint. The Harrington Park Environmental Commission approved creation of a Green Team to begin the process of identifying and pursuing actions for Sustainable Jersey Certification in September 2009. The first priority action completed was the "Inventory and Audit All Buildings". The audit, done for the year 2009, revealed areas for significant improvement and subsequent upgrades in HVAC and electricity were accomplished with the help of a Direct Install grant (see the Audit action for details). The Green Team then chose to conduct a fleet audit for the 2010 year. The information collected led to the calculation of numbers for green house gasses produced by the town vehicles. This led to an interest in the municipal carbon footprint and data was collected for lights and for town vehicles for 2009 and added to the previous municipal building audit information to complete the Greenhouse Gas calculations. Harrington Park is a small town located in Northeastern Bergen County. The 2010 census data reports that there were 4,664 people, 1,592 households, and 1,328 families residing in the borough and that the population density was 2,545.9 inhabitants per square mile. The mayor, council members and board members are all volunteers. There are three full and three part time employees in Boro Hall, nine policemen and five on the DPW payroll. The municipal buildings are heated with natural gas; the buildings are all over 30 years old. There are <20 vehicles that belong to the town; most of the trucks are driven only short distances, with the bulk of the mileage from the police vehicles.. (of note- the K-8 school has a separate budget and was not included in these calculations). The results of the Municipal Carbon Footprint are interesting. Of the total 475 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e: • ~80 tons comes from natural gas (used to heat the

buildings) • Buildings generate 145 tons from electricity use • Streetlights are close behind with 115 tons (the town has no say in type or quantity of streetlights and limited discretion in use of extra lights in parks) • Vehicle fuel was responsible for 135 tons. This information will be presented to the town Council and discussed with the Environmental Commission to discuss ideas for improvement. We expect some improvement already as a result of the Direct Install work done in 2010.

**PDF:** [SUMMARY OF TOWN NUMBERS](#)

**EXCEL:** [CARBON FOOTPRINT CALCULATION](#)

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## Waste Management

### Community Paper Shredding Day

5 Points

**Program Summary:** The Borough of Harrington Park participated in a mobile shredding day that was sponsored by the Bergen County Utilities Authority (BCUA) on Saturday, April 28, 2012. The event was held in the Harrington Park Borough Hall parking lot, located at 85 Harriot Ave, Harrington Park, NJ 07640, from the hours of 9am to 1pm. This date was chosen to coincide with the annual Harrington Park Heritage Weekend celebration, as several community organizations have displays and activities at Borough Hall on that Saturday. As this event was sponsored by the BCUA, it was open to all residents of Bergen County who wanted to shred/recycle their personal documents. Approximately 65 residents, mostly from Harrington Park, but some from neighboring communities, participated. 1,600 pounds of paper were collected and shredded. There was no charge from the BCUA to Harrington Park to host the event and Harrington Park did not charge the participants. The BCUA contracted with NexCut and Safeguard to provide the collecting and shredding service. Three community volunteers affiliated with the Green Team helped the residents unload their documents. Employees of the Harrington Park DPW and Police Department also assisted in setting up and ensuring safe drop-off and exit areas from the parking lot. The HP Green Team, which began in October of 2009, chose early on to focus on recycling, specifically increasing recycling compliance by HP residents. The Green Team became aware of opportunity to have the BCUA provide a truck once a year to our town and brought this to the town council. Then Councilwoman Michelle Ryan took the lead role for Harrington Park to organize the first mobile shredding day, held on October 16, 2010. Continue to file 3 please

**PDF:** [NEXCUT SHREDDING RECEIPT ...COMMUNITY PAPER SHREDDING DAY DOCUMENTATION](#)

**PDF:** [2014 SHREDDING DAY FLYER ... COMMUNITY PAPER SHREDDING DAY DOCUMENTATION](#)

**PDF:** [HP NEWSLETTER APRIL 2014 ... COMMUNITY PAPER SHREDDING DAY DOCUMENTATION](#)

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

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### Recycling Depot

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Harrington Park Recycling Center is located at 66 Schraalenburgh Road, Harrington Park, NJ 07640. It is open 6 days a week, Monday 8am - Saturday 4pm, closed



on Sundays, and is staffed by a DPW employee. There are separate bins for collection of: junk mail/magazines, newspaper, cardboard, plastic containers, green glass, clear glass and brown glass, steel (including cans), aluminum cans, aluminum foil and a separate area for collection of used motor oil. Information about the recycling center as well as curbside singlestream recycling (new since Jan 2014) is included on the front page of the town newsletter and is available on the towns webpage at <http://harringtonparknj.gov/> DPW- Superintendent Mark Kiernan (201-768-0944) estimates that ~half of the ~1580 households in HP use the recycling center and ~ half use curbside recycling; many use both. In 2013 ~202 tons of recyclables were collected at the recycling center compared with ~404 tons picked up curbside (for a total of 606 tons). At the recycling center 140 tons of paper and 62 tons of comingled materials were processed; at curbside there were 323 tons of paper, 40 tons of comingles and 40 tons of trash/residue- not eligible for tonnage grant (10% of total collected curbside). There has been a significant shift to curbside recycling since 2010, when 316 tons were recycled through the center and 327 at curbside (for a total of 643 tons).

**PDF: [RECYCLING HANDOUT 2013 > INCLUDED IN TOWN NEWSLETTER TO ALL HOUSEHOLDS](#)**

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## **Backyard Composting Program**

**5 Points**

**Program Summary:** Harrington Park embraces the benefits of backyard composting! Our program promoting home composting began in April 2010 when Green Team members set up a demonstration model with a BCUA provided Earth Machine™ composter at our Town Heritage Day. Since then, a model has been demonstrated, with samples of home compost available for inspection, and composters available for purchase, at the three main annual town events: Heritage Day in April, the Library White Elephant fund raiser in June, and Town Day in September. In the spring of 2013 a composter was installed by the town library and is used by Borough Hall and HP library staff. This active model is demonstrated to visitors to the EC/Green Team information table at the two events that take place at Borough Hall. At these events we also hand out literature about composting basics, options for composting (i.e. in open piles, compost bins or rolling or tumbler units) and information on purchasing the Earth Machine™ bin. These composters (\$53, on consignment from the BCUA) are available for purchase at Borough Hall year round. Composting has been an important focus in our Green Team WordPress web blog, linked to a face book site and soon to be linked to our new town web site, Postings include-how to's, tips and web links to information sites about composting. Composting facts are posted in the town newsletter, mailed to all 1,500 households, and are posted on the Boro Hall outdoor information board. Of note, an Earth Machine™ composter is in use at our K-8 school since 2010; composting is part of their recycling & garden education program. Since April 2010, HP EC/Green Team members have sold ~ 10 composters a year and spoken to over 100 people a year (HP has ~1,500 households) about the benefits of composting.

**IMAGE: [EARTH MACHINE COMPOSTERS FOR SALE AT TOWN DAY 2014](#)**

**PDF: [PROMOTION AND USE](#)**

**PDF: [COMPOSTING BASICS FLYER](#)**

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## **Waste Audit of Municipal Buildings or Schools**

**10 Points**

**Program Summary:** Harrington Park has one K-8 public school attended by ~700 students. There is no kitchen on the premises; lunches are brought in and served daily at the school, which generates a significant amount of recyclable waste. A lunch waste audit was done in September 2011 and the results of this audit suggest improvements in process and practice to reduce waste and improve recycling. Since the fall of 2011 Harrington Park School's waste is disposed of by the municipal hauler and a separate waste management company takes the recycling, thus it is not possible to calculate a financial benefit for increased recycling. However, the Green Team is working on getting tonnage numbers for recycling (the waste numbers are included in town waste) with the plan to focus on increasing this number.

**PDF: [SEPT 2011 LUNCHROOM WASTE AUDI](#)**