



Sustainable Jersey Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Jersey Certification Report of Montgomery Twp, a Sustainable Jersey bronze certified applicant.

Montgomery Twp was certified on October 16, 2015 with 245 points. Listed below is information regarding Montgomery Twp's Sustainable Jersey efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

Contact Information

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Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Montgomery Twp 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

Green Team

10 Points

 Bronze Required

Program Summary: In 2009, the Township Committee established a Green Team as a subcommittee of the Environmental Commission. The Green Team has been charged with several duties, including helping the Township to achieve certification as a Sustainable Jersey community, and working with other local organizations, communities etc. on sustainable initiatives. The Green

Team held its first meeting on June 2, 2009, and continues to be very active. In 2011, to streamline the process and remove any duplication of effort, the Township Committee appointed the Environmental Commission as the Green Team. The Township Committee's January 2015 reorganization meeting minutes are attached as proof of continued support of the Environmental Commission/Sustainable Montgomery. A summary of their past 12 months of activity is attached.

PDF: [TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS](#)

PDF: [MONTGOMERY TWP COMMITTEE JANUARY 2015 REORGANIZATION MTG MINUTES](#)

Community Education & Outreach

10 Points

Program Summary: A member of the Environmental Commission was inspired to create a master listing of how to get rid of or donate items when cleaning out a family member's house. Many of the items were in good condition, but she personally had no use for them, and didn't know where or how to donate the items. She, in partnership with other EC members created a listing called "Recycling Beyond Curbside". The brochure has been immensely popular, and Hillsborough and Franklin Townships have both adopted a similar brochure, tailored to their Townships. The brochure is updated regularly with new items, drop-off locations, etc. Most recently, the Environmental Commission provided the brochures at the 2015 Earth Day Fair (April 19) and at the County-sponsored shredding day on May 9, 2015. Positive feedback from residents continues, and at the shred day, a resident suggested that "eyeglasses" be added to the list. Three large display boards have been created, with a pocket folder for the listing for residents to take. A board is permanently on display at the Municipal Building and another at the Otto Kaufman Community Center. The third board has been rotated to other Townships, the library, and local businesses. The listing is also available on the Township's website with other recycling information at: <http://www.twp.montgomery.nj.us/departments/public-works/> The Township also continues to use our quarterly newsletter to educate residents on proper waste disposal, special drop-off dates (e.g. tires, household hazardous waste days), special workshops on topics such as backyard composting, and the economic and environmental benefits of shopping local (select newsletter articles attached).

PDF: [RECYCLING BEYOND CURBSIDE BROCHURE](#)

PDF: [SELECTED NEWSLETTER ARTICLES](#)

IMAGE: [PHOTO OF RECYCLING BEYOND CURBSIDE DISPLAY AT COMMUNITY CENTER](#)

Green Fair

10 Points

Program Summary: 2015 marked the 10th anniversary of Montgomery's annual Earth Day Fair. Vendors and exhibitors of all sorts - volunteers of Township committees/boards, local businesses, non-profits - all offer information on their environmentally friendly practices or products. Publicity information, photos from the event, and the assessment are attached.

PDF: [2015 EARTH DAY FAIR - PUBLIC ACCESS TV SLIDES](#)

PDF: [2015 EARTH DAY FAIR PRESS RELEASE \(EMAIL BULLETIN\)](#)

PDF: [PRINCETON PACKET ARTICLE 4-21-2015](#)

PDF: [MONTGOMERY NEWS ARTICLE MAY 2015](#)

PDF: [2015 EARTH DAY FAIR EXHIBITOR LIST](#)

Diversity & Equity

Diversity on Boards & Commissions

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: The Environmental Commission decided to conduct a diversity survey of all Township boards, committees and commissions using an online survey. The survey provided options for respondents to not provide personal identifying details if they wanted to remain anonymous. All questions also had a "prefer not to answer" selection if respondents were not comfortable providing particular details. There was also a freeform text box for any comments. The survey link was sent via email in November 2014 to approximately 135 people. A second reminder email was sent in February 2015. 64 responses were received, equal to a 47% response rate. The Environmental Commission made recommendations to the Township Committee on July 16, 2015 (memo attached).

PDF: [MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP DIVERSITY SURVEY](#)

WORD: [MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY PROFILE](#)

WORD: [COMPARISON OF COMMUNITY PROFILE TO SURVEY RESULTS](#)

WORD: [MEMO TO TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE - DIVERSITY SURVEY RESULT RECOMMENDATIONS](#)

WORD: [TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 7-16-2015](#)

Energy

Wind Ordinance

10 Points

Program Summary: In 2011, the Township Committee and Planning Board noted the increasing number of solar panel arrays that were being constructed in the Township as accessory structures under the zoning requirements, and directed the Master Plan Committee to develop an ordinance. The goal of the ordinance is to encourage utilization of renewable energy sources, while controlling their installation and operation to safeguard residents of the Township. The Environmental Commission was awarded a grant by the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) with funding provided by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation to draft an ordinance that will hopefully serve as a model for other communities. The ordinance streamlines the approval process for residents who meet the requirements of the new ordinance, while also protecting the quality of life for neighbors by requiring landscaping and screening, establishing setback requirements and limiting tree cutting. The ordinance also contains regulations for wind systems. The Township has not yet had an application for a wind system (as of July 2012), but now general requirements are in place. The ordinance was publicized when it was received, and is

now posted on the Planning Department's "Planning Reports" page of the Township website. A fall 2012 newsletter article highlighting the adoption of the ordinance is planned. Staff from the Township Planning Department were integrally involved and attended the project team/Master Plan Committee meetings. A copy of the Planning Director's memo to the Township Committee explaining the ordinance was provided to Planning Department staff.

PDF: [TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE 12-1418 SOL](#)

PDF: [PUBLICITY OF ORDINANCE](#)

PDF: [STAFF NOTIFICATION OF ORDINANC](#)

Municipal Onsite Solar System

10 Points

Program Summary: In early 2010, Somerset County started a feasibility survey of all municipalities, gauging their interest for solar installations and inventorying possible suitable locations. The Township submitted a listing of all facilities (include wastewater treatment plants) with specifications on square footage, historic energy consumption, age of roof etc. Montgomery Township's Otto Kaufman Community Center & Senior Center was selected to participate, as well as the High School, Lower Middle School and Orchard Hill Elementary School. The Somerset County Improvement Authority was able to structure a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) which meant that the solar panels were installed at no cost to the municipality. The system was completed in fall 2011. In addition to the roof-mounted panels, a monitor was installed in the lobby of the Otto Kaufman Community Center which shows real-time power usage, energy generated from the panels, cost-savings analysis and more (see system manual for breakdown of screens). This attractive teaching tool has been of interest to residents, who all stop to look at the screen.

PDF: [OPERATING MANUAL AND AS BUILTS](#)

PDF: [PRESS RELEASE - COMPLETION OF](#)

Food

Farmland Preservation Plans

10 Points

Program Summary: Montgomery Township adopted a Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan in February 2010 (adopted by the Planning Board February 22, 2010). The plan can be found on the SADC's website at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/sadc/home/genpub/montgomeryplan.pdf> This plan was a more in-depth look at the agricultural industry than the previous December 2003 plan. The State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) approved the plan on February 25, 2010 (approval attached). The Township's Agricultural Advisory Committee consists of 5 members and 2 advisors and meets several times each year. All members are actively involved in farming in the community. The Committee works toward the goals of the Farmland Preservation Plan in several ways. Their primary topic is current farmland preservation projects, and possible new acquisition

priorities. Easement violations were a new issue in the past 12 months, with a current easement violation being resolved in cooperation with the other easement holders and the State. In the Land Use Planning Context, the Committee reviews development applications to the Planning and Zoning Boards. They submit comments where appropriate, if farmland could be impacted. They also review proposed SADC rules and policies, such as the proposed soil disturbance regulations (which have since been shelved by SADC). Starting in late 2014, the Committee began discussing deer management strategies and nominated members to serve on an ad-hoc committee formed by the Mayor. While motorists, hunters and environmentalists all have opinions on deer and deer management, farmers have a unique perspective on the deer population and their direct impact to the farmers' livelihood. They are also keenly aware of population trends (e.g. when there is a boom in the population).

PDF: [MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP COMPREHENSIVE FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN](#)

PDF: [SADC APPROVAL OF COMPREHENSIVE](#)

Land Use & Transportation

Sustainable Land Use Pledge

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: In 2009, the Township Committee adopted a sustainable land use pledge via resolution #09-8-258. The Township modified the example provided on the Sustainable Jersey website, and specifically added a provision to address water. The Green Team felt that naming water as a specific item to consider was important. The Pledge was re-distributed to the Township Committee, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Site Plan/Subdivision Committee, Master Plan Committee, and Environmental Commission as a reminder of the provisions, as well as the Board planner, engineer and landscape architect.

PDF: [TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [EMAIL DISTRIBUTION OF SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLEDGE TO BOARD MEMBERS](#)

Natural Resources

Wildlife Interaction Plan

10 Points

Program Summary: In 2001, the Township adopted a municipal white-tailed deer hunting program on certain Township-owned properties. This program stemmed from much discussion between interested groups - hunters, environmentalists, farmers, residents, etc., and was initiated by the Township's Environmental Commission. The white-tailed deer population was high, established at 2,869 (equal to 89 deer per square mile), according to an infrared aerial survey conducted in March 2001. An ad-hoc Wildlife Management Committee was formed, and they

developed a deer management plan, and determined that hunter access was a huge problem. Their recommendation was to allow hunting on certain municipal properties to increase access. Selected pages from Township Committee meeting minutes from 2000 and 2001 are attached to show the level of resident interaction and public discussion. Now in its 15th year, the hunting program has proved successful in increasing access for hunting, and the Township tracks the number of deer harvested annually. Any harvested deer that hunters do not want to keep can be dropped off at the Township. The Township pays for the cost of a freezer and butchering, and donates the meat to a food pantry in Union County. The Township Committee adopts a resolution prior to each hunting season, specifying the properties, hunting dates, and any other restrictions. In June 2015, the Township adopted an ordinance amending the eligibility requirements of the program after some participants were discovered to not be abiding by the rules (e.g. not taking down their deer stands at the end of the season). At the end of 2014, the Township Committee began discussing ways to improve the hunting program after two deer-related fatalities occurred in the Township in the span of a year (minutes from 12-4-2014 TC mtg attached below). Discussion has included ideas such as: incentivizing culling of does by reducing or waiving permit fee for following year, extending hunting season on certain properties, hosting a "deer drive", etc.

PDF: [ORDINANCE 01-1043 AUTHORIZING DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ON CERTAIN TOWNSHIP PROPERTIES](#)

PDF: [TC RESOLUTION 15-5-134 - 2015-2016 HUNTING SEASON PROPERTIES](#)

PDF: [TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES 12-4-2014](#)

PDF: [TOWNSHIP CODE SECTION 9-9 HUNTING OF WHITE TAILED DEER ON CERTAIN TWP PROPERTY](#)

PDF: [TWP COMMITTEE MTG MINUTES 2000 & 2001](#)

Environmental Commission

10 Points

Program Summary: Montgomery Township created an Environmental Commission in 1969 (then called the Conservation Commission). Since then, the Commission has focused on environmental issues ranging from the nitrate dilution model which determined the Township's zoning standards, to the annual Earth Day Fair. The Environmental Commission serves as Montgomery's "Green Team" - see attached resolution and January 2015 Township Committee reorganization meeting minutes. A summary of their activities from 2014 is also attached.

PDF: [ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CONSERV](#)

PDF: [TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE JANUARY 2015 REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES](#)

WORD: [2014 ANNUAL REPORT](#)

Environmental Commission Site Plan Review

10 Points

Program Summary: Montgomery's Environmental Commission has been active in reviewing all applications submitted to the Planning and Zoning Boards for decades. The Environmental Commission also appoints a member to serve as a liaison to the Site Plan/Subdivision Committee, as well as the Master Plan Committee, and thus they stay apprised of upcoming applications, ordinance changes, and the like. The Environmental Commission appoints a member to review development applications, and this member reviews the applications at the EC's regular meetings. Applications are reviewed in reference to the Township's ordinances which refer to natural

resource protection such as the following: tree planting & landscaping requirements, including recommendations on species; proximity and/or impact to critical areas; suggestions on environmentally friendly design; pedestrian connectivity, etc. The EC also reviews development applications in reference to the Township's Natural Resource Inventory.

PDF: [SUMMARY OF EC REVIEW OF SITE PLANS DECEMBER 2013 TO MAY 2015](#)

PDF: [EC REVIEW OF EMPIRE HOLDINGS APPLICATION 5-7-2015](#)

Clustering Ordinance

10 Points

Program Summary: The Township adopted a Residential Cluster design standard in the late 1980s and several residential developments have been built to this design standard. The Township also has a Single-Family Conservation Design subdivision development alternative. Both the Cluster and Conservation Design Subdivision are optional. A comparison to the Sustainable Jersey standards is attached.

WORD: [TOWNSHIP CODE 16-6.5](#)

WORD: [COMPARISON TO STANDARDS](#)

PDF: [MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP ZONING MAP](#)

Environmental Assessment Ordinance

10 Points

Program Summary: Township Code Chapter 16 is the Land Development Ordinance (LDO). Section 8 contains "Development Application Review Procedures", and subsection 8.4 governs "Submission of Preliminary Major Subdivision Plans and Preliminary Major Site Plans". Item c. contains the provisions for submission of an environmental impact statement (EIS) depending on the type of application to the Planning Board or Zoning Board of Adjustment. All applications for use variances require an EIS, as do major subdivisions over 10 lots, and all applications for preliminary major subdivision or preliminary major site plan. The ordinance does give the Boards discretion if they want to request an EIS if it is not already specifically required by the ordinance. The ordinance states a purpose, includes descriptions of the items to be included in the report, lists local and regional plans that should be included, and explains which applications must submit an EIS. The fee schedule is set by Township Code Section 16-9.1 depending on the type of application.

PDF: [TOWNSHIP CODE SECTIONS 16-8.4](#)

Community Forestry Management Plan & NJUCF Accreditation

20 Points

Program Summary: In 2014, the Township drafted their second five year plan, which was approved by DEP Division of Parks & Forestry in June 2014. Staff, volunteers and elected officials

were engaged in the drafting process with the guidance of a State-approved forester. The Township continues to maintain its Community Forestry status with CORE trained volunteers and staff. With input from the Shade Tree Committee, at their July 31, 2012 meeting, the Environmental Commission adopted an ambitious tree canopy goal of 50% by 2020.

WORD: [MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP TREE CANOPY](#)

PDF: [MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY FORESTRY 2014 YEAR END REPORT](#)

Tree Planting Programs

10 Points

Program Summary: The Township's Shade Tree Committee has been planting street trees since 1986 and planting trees and shrubs at the Montgomery Arboretum and Township parks and facilities. Their efforts have resulted in the planting of over 1,600 trees Township-wide. In addition to this, the Committee is active in other events such as an Arbor Day celebration at the Village Elementary School with 3rd graders, and volunteer work days removing invasive species at the Arboretum. The Township has achieved Tree City USA status since 1990, and adopted a Community Forestry Plan in 2009.

PDF: [TREE PLANTING PROGRAM DESCRIPT](#)

WORD: [PLANTING PICTURES](#)

Operations & Maintenance

Green Maintenance Equipment & Materials

10 Points

Program Summary: In 2011, the Township purchased seven (7) Big Belly solar trash compactors for installation at some of the Township's parks that are heavily trafficked, and also at the bus stops along Route 206 (NJ Transit bus route #605). While not only showcasing an environmentally friendly product, the compactors save time for the Parks Department - because they compact the trash, they need to be emptied less often. The compactors also employ a wireless communication system that sends an email alert when the cans are full. This saves gas so the Parks staff isn't driving around to the parks checking if the cans are full. These compactors have worked very well, and the Township has received positive feedback from staff and residents, so four (4) additional compactors were purchased for installation at a few of the popular open space property trailheads. A copy of the purchase order from 2011, and the most recent February 2015 purchase order is attached, as well as the spec for the Big Belly product.

PDF: [ABOUT BIG BELLY & TECHNICAL SPECS](#)

PDF: [BIG BELLY PURCHASE ORDERS](#)

Waste Management

Prescription Drug Safety & Disposal

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: The Township Environmental Commission invited the Somerset County Sheriff's Office to offer prescription and over-the-counter drop off at the 2014 and 2015 Earth Day Fairs (April 26, 2014 and April 19, 2015 respectively), as well as at the Fall Festival (October 18, 2014) - a joint community event run by the Board of Education and Recreation Department. We didn't take count of how many folks took part in the drop-off, but estimate that over 500 people attended both the 2014 and 2015 Earth Day Fairs. The Fall Festival was attended by approximately 300 participants. At the 2015 Earth Day Fair, we collected 88lbs of medication. Publicity materials are attached including "slides" run on public access television, press releases and emails from the Township e-bulletin system. In addition, the Environmental Commission created a poster for the Sheriff's Office to have at their table (attached).

PDF: [2015 EARTH DAY FAIR TV SLIDES](#)

PDF: [2014 FALL FESTIVAL TV SLIDES](#)

PDF: [SHERIFF'S OFFICE POSTER](#)

PDF: [2015 EARTH DAY FAIR PRESS RELEASE](#)

PDF: [2014 FALL FESTIVAL PRESS RELEASE](#)

PDF: [LINKS ON TWP WEBSITE TO FEDERAL PROGRAMS](#)

Community Paper Shredding Day

5 Points

Program Summary: The Township hosted a shredding event in 2014, and based on it's popularity, hosted two events in 2015. The Environmental Commission offered paper shredding at the 2015 Earth Day Fair on April 19, 2015. The service was free of charge for Township residents, as the Environmental Commission paid for the cost of the truck from their budget. The Environmental Commission did not keep count of how many people utilized the service, but approximately 500 people attended the Fair, and Nexcut reported that 3,000lbs were collected. This service was publicized with all Earth Day Fair press releases, email bulletins, and in flyers posted around the Township in businesses and other community gathering places. The Township hosted a community secure shredding day on Saturday May 9, 2015 at the fire house on Belle Mead-Griggstown Road. The event was made possible by Somerset County, which is hosting events throughout the County open to all residents. The Township and County both publicized this event thru their respective email bulletin systems, and on their websites. Staff did a count of cars and determined there were almost 250 participants, and the total shred volume was 17,360lbs.

PDF: [2015 SOMERSET COUNTY SHREDDING DATES](#)

WORD: [2015 EARTH DAY FAIR COLLECTION CERTIFICATE](#)

PDF: [2015 EARTH DAY FAIR PRESS RELEASE](#)

PDF: [2015 EARTH DAY FAIR TV SLIDES](#)

PDF: [TOWNSHIP & COUNTY WEBSITE INFORMATION](#)

PDF: [COLLECTION INFORMATION 5-9-2015](#)

