



Sustainable Jersey Certification Report

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

The Borough of Frenchtown, New Jersey strives to save tax dollars, secure high quality land, air and water resources, and improve working and living environments as essential to ensuring our community thrives well into the new century. By endorsing a sustainable path, the Borough of Frenchtown pledges to educate the community to further policies and actions that advance sustainability, and to develop initiatives supporting sustainable local government practices.

Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Jersey contact for Frenchtown Boro is:

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Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Frenchtown Boro was approved for in 2016 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.

Arts & Creative Culture

Establish a Creative Team

10 Points

Program Summary: Frenchtown Borough has a long history as a haven for artists and creative entrepreneurs including writers, musicians, chefs, performers, fine artists, and designers and the community is poised to enter a new era of creative endeavors with the opening of a visual and

performing arts space in a former commercial warehouse. Sustainable Frenchtown views creativity as essential to advancing long term sustainability. Community Engagement in arts and cultural expression and enterprise foster connections and engagement, and provide small business opportunities, essential to a sustainable local economy. Sustainable Frenchtown will employ and celebrate creativity through the creation of a Regional Creative Team that includes neighboring communities in Hunterdon County, with the goal of advancing creativity actions that support mutual sustainability goals and broaden the impact of our individual community efforts.

PDF: [ESTABLISH A CREATIVE TEAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [ESTABLISH A CREATIVE TEAM MEETING MINUTES](#)

PDF: [ESTABLISH A CREATIVE TEAM LETTER FROM MAYOR](#)

PDF: [CREATIVE TEAM MEETING PICTURE](#)

PDF: [CREATIVE TEAM MEETING AGENDA](#)

Community Partnership & Outreach

Green Team

10 Points

 Bronze Required

Program Summary: In 2010, the Borough of Frenchtown established a municipal Green Team for the purpose of obtaining Sustainable Jersey certification. The Green Team worked diligently on Sustainable Jersey actions and achieved Bronze Level certification in 2013, and supported its endeavors with volunteer participation and funds raised through community events. Following certification, volunteerism diminished and the Green Team's efforts waned, but in May of 2016, the Frenchtown Environmental Commission (EC) was authorized through Borough Council resolution to reinvigorate the Green Team as a subcommittee of the EC, with a rebranded identity -- Sustainable Frenchtown, and a renewed commitment to advancing sustainability in the community. Borough council appointed two co-chairs to oversee reorganization of Sustainable Frenchtown, which is scheduled to hold its first meeting on June 21st. At this inaugural meeting, members will be confirmed, immediate and long term priorities confirmed, and a plan established to provide timely documentation to Sustainable Jersey that affirms the completion of actions submitted to maintain Frenchtown's bronze level certification in 2016. Sustainable Frenchtown will build on the solid foundation established by the original Green Team, advancing actions in categories such as Community Partnership and Action, Health and Wellness, Animals in the Community, and Natural Resources, and will be inclusive and include a diverse range of community participants including citizen volunteers, elected leaders, civic organizations, faith communities, business owners, and school representatives. Further, Sustainable Frenchtown pledges to work in collaboration and coordination with our neighbors in Hunterdon County as they also pursue sustainability initiatives so that we may amplify the impact of our actions and contribute to a sustainable future for the broader Delaware Valley region.

PDF: [CREATE GREEN TEAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

WORD: [CREATE GREEN TEAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

WORD: [CREATE GREEN TEAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

WORD: [CREATE GREEN TEAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [2016 GREEN TEAM MEMBERS](#)

Community Education & Outreach

10 Points

Program Summary: Outreach, Education and Volunteering for Frenchtown Trails In the summer of 2015 the Frenchtown Environmental Commission (FEC) launched a community outreach effort to educate residents about the trails of Frenchtown. The overall goals were to raise awareness about the nature preserves within the Borough and to identify more community members who can eventually serve as stewards of these properties. With the help of a local graphic designer and some grant funds from ANJEC, the Commission created a poster with information about Frenchtown Trails, mailed it to all residents, and posted it in local businesses. The Commission also created a website, www.frenchtownboro.com/trails so that people can easily find information about the trails in Frenchtown, including directions and links to trail maps. This new web link was publicized on the FEC's Facebook page and the Frenchtown Facebook page. In the summer of 2015 the FEC recruited volunteers to help complete trail maintenance at Frenchtown Borough Park's nature trail, including the rebuilding of a footbridge. The public outreach effort continued with an Earth Day hike at the Frenchtown Preserve in April 2016. The hike was publicized with a press release and received local print coverage. Attendance was strong, with about 15-20 residents from Frenchtown and neighboring municipalities.

PDF: [FRENCHTOWN TRAILS FLYER](#)

PDF: [EARTH DAY HIKE PRESS RELEASE](#)

Diversity & Equity

Lead Education & Outreach Programs

10 Points

Program Summary: In the wake of the lead poisoning of water in Flint, Michigan, members of Sustainable Frenchtown and the Frenchtown Environmental Commission (FEC) launched a public education effort in Frenchtown which is ongoing. Throughout the summer of 2016, the Environmental Commission gathered information and took the following actions in August, September and October 2016: - Educational materials from Hunterdon County, including English and Spanish lead safety posters and a web link, were shared with the leadership of the Frenchtown Board of Education and a request was made to post the flyers at Frenchtown School. - Sustainable Frenchtown/the FEC requested a copy of a recent lead test from Frenchtown School and learned that the sources all showed 2 ppb or less. - Sustainable Frenchtown/the FEC verified with the Board of Education that it would be testing again for lead given the new state requirement. - The lead safety posters and web link were also shared on the following Facebook pages: Sustainable Frenchtown (240 followers) Frenchtown Environmental Commission (48 followers) Frenchtown Facebook page (over 4,000 followers) - The FEC requested that the Borough Clerk print and post the lead safety posters in Borough Hall, which was completed. - The FEC web page on the Borough website was updated to include a section about lead safety that includes links to the County information, the NJ Department of Education's new mandated lead testing and to New Jersey American Water's Frenchtown test results.

PDF: [ENGLISH FLYER](#)

PDF: [SPANISH FLYER](#)

Food

Community Gardens

10 Points

Program Summary: In the spring of 2016, local parents and community members fundraised for and built a school garden at Frenchtown Elementary (FES). The municipality donated mulch to the garden and members of the Frenchtown Green Team (before it was branded "Sustainable Frenchtown") met with the parents to advise during the planning process. The entire planning/building of the school garden was spearheaded and directed by Sustainable Frenchtown member, Leigh Marino. The Frenchtown Community Garden (FCG) Committee President is John Mizin, one of the founding gardeners. This spring John provided advice and support to the Frenchtown School garden. This past spring, the school hosted a very successful after-school Garden Club. This fall, another after-school Garden Club will begin and several workshops are currently being planned to take place during the school day. Future plans involve working the garden directly into school curriculum so that students can utilize and learn from the garden during school hours. This is expected to grow over time. There was huge support shown from parents, School Board, and local community members and \$2,500 was raised by a GoFundMe account to fund the garden. Many local businesses donated money and supplies to make this garden a reality. The garden was also awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Hunterdon & Mercer Counties' Regional Chronic Disease Coalition. An article about the school garden was published in the Bucks County Herald and one of the Garden Club teachers and an FES student/garden club member were interviewed this summer on "Into the Garden" on WDVR radio. The first 9 pages of the uploaded "Community or School Gardens Documentation" are the pages used to outline and present to the FES School Board when we were in the planning stages.

PDF: [COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL GARDENS DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT](#)

PDF: [FINAL SCHOOL GARDEN CLUB CURRICULUM](#)

PDF: [MUNICIPALITY SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION](#)

Natural Resources

Environmental Commission

10 Points

Program Summary: In 2012 Mayor Warren Cooper established Frenchtown's first Environmental Commission. The Borough of Frenchtown is located entirely within the Delaware River watershed, provides habitat for several threatened species, and is home to a C-1 protected creek that flows through two nature preserves. The Environmental Resources Inventory (ERI) inherited by the Commission was very outdated, from circa 1992. However, with the expertise of the chair, Joel Boriek, who is an environmental engineer, the Commission was able to submit comments on

development proposals to the Planning Board over the past four years. In the meantime, Frenchtown passed an Open Space tax in 2013. Borough Council recently approved using this fund in 2016 and 2017 to cover the cost of hiring a consultant to update the ERI. This tool will transform the ability of the Commission to advocate for and protect Frenchtown's natural resources and to provide comprehensive site plan reviews for the zoning board. The Borough will be faced with a number of development in the coming years, so the updated ERI will become available at a critical time. We have uploaded documentation that includes our 2015 accomplishments, 2016 work plan, and organizational chart.

WORD: [ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ORDINANCE](#)

WORD: [ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES 4-2013](#)

PDF: [ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION DOCUMENTATION](#)

Environmental Commission Site Plan Review

10 Points

Program Summary: Frenchtown has not had a lot of development activity in the past 18 months, but the planning board does provide a copy of every development application to the Environmental Commission (EC). The Environmental Commission chair, Joel Boriek, is an environmental specialist with 30 years of experience in civil engineering and surveying. He has reviewed development applications in the past to evaluate potential environmental impacts and submitted comments to the planning board. The EC is in the process of updating our site plan review process based on a recent ANJEC training that two commissioners attended, and the Borough Council has authorized the Environmental Commission to engage a consultant to update the Environmental Resources Inventory. In February 2016 the Distillery / Event Space, block 57, lot 1, 13 Front Street, underwent a full site plan review. The Feb., 23, 2016 report is attached and was sent to the Planning Board for their review. Additionally, two wetland applications were evaluated and reports delivered to the planning board. These included the Dec. 2015, Frenchtown LLC application for block 3, lot 1 and 2, and block 10, lot 1, at 8th and Harrison Streets. The Freshwater Wetlands mapping was reviewed on site and a summary letter was issued to the Planning Board. In May 2015, Jackmark Properties LLC, block 45, Lot 2, Jackson Street, a Freshwater Wetlands review was also conducted and a summary report was delivered to the planning board.

WORD: [ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW DISTILLERY EVENT SPACE FEB 2016](#)

Community Forestry Management Plan & NJUCF Accreditation

20 Points

Program Summary: The Frenchtown Shade Tree Commission submitted our 3rd 5-year Community Forestry Plan to the DEP in 2016, which was approved on September 6, 2016. Attached is the 3rd 5-year Community Forestry Plan (2016-2020) and the Certificate of Approval from the NJ State Forestry Service, DEP. There is an error on the approval certificate, as it references approval of the 2nd 5-year plan, when in fact it is the 3rd 5-year plan. The NJ Annual Shade Tree Commission Conference was held on October, 28 and 29, 2016. One of our Frenchtown Shade Tree Commissioners attended the 2-day conference, earning 10 CEU's, which in addition to the 2 CEU's previously earned and noted in the Frenchtown Borough 2016 Community Forestry Status report (attached), exceeds the 8 CEU's required for this action. The Shade Tree

Commission has met the CORE training requirements, and is recorded in the attached 2016 Community Forestry Status Report. Attached is a letter from the Shade Tree Commission stating the current tree canopy percentage of 45.5%, and in conjunction with the NJDEP approved 2016-2020 5-year plan, the confirmation of Frenchtown Borough's intention to maintain this percentage, or improve it as funds allow. All documentation supporting this Sustainable Jersey action is attached and should meet or exceed the requirements for completion of the action.

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

PDF: [2016-2020 FRENCHTOWN COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN](#)

PDF: [2016 5-YEAR PLAN / NJ STATE FORESTRY SERVICE DEP CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL](#)

PDF: [FRENCHTOWN BOROUGH 2016 COMMUNITY FORESTRY STATUS REPORT](#)

PDF: [SHADE TREE COMMISSION TREE CANOPY PERCENTAGE AND GOAL](#)

PDF: [2 DAY 2016 SHADE TREE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND RECEIPT](#)

Waste Management

Prescription Drug Safety & Disposal

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: The Frenchtown Police Department is a permanent drop-off location for prescription drugs, and also hosts Operation Take Back events for drug prescription disposal every year. The most recent was in April 2016 (see news article documentation).

PDF: [PRESCRIPTION DRUG SAFETY AND DISPOSAL DOCUMENTATION](#)

IMAGE: [PRESCRIPTION DRUG SAFETY AND DISPOSAL DOCUMENTATION](#)

IMAGE: [PRESCRIPTION DRUG SAFETY AND DISPOSAL DOCUMENTATION](#)

IMAGE: [PRESCRIPTION DRUG SAFETY AND DISPOSAL DOCUMENTATION DROP-OFF PHOTO](#)

IMAGE: [PRESCRIPTION DRUG SAFETY AND DISPOSAL FRENCHTOWN BORO WEBSITE](#)

PDF: [PRESCRIPTION DRUG SAFETY AND DISPOSAL FRENCHTOWN PROGRAM OUTLINE](#)

Community Paper Shredding Day

5 Points

Program Summary: Recycling and reducing waste in our community is a priority. We currently have single stream recycling, a permanent prescription drug drop off, and a yard waste collection depot where residents can also pick up mulch. Our single stream recycling is convenient, but presents security concerns when it comes to personal documents. Sustainable Frenchtown worked with the Borough to hold a Community Paper Shredding Event for sensitive documents on Saturday, August 27 from 9 am to 12 noon. The paper shredding was held at our Department of Public Works (DPW), in coordination with our monthly yard waste drop off. Sustainable Frenchtown member Holly Low and Mike Reino, DPW manager/Sustainable Frenchtown member, coordinated the date and Mike arranged for DPW staffing of the event. Michele Liebttag, Borough Council President gathered quotes, booked a vendor and secured funding through the Borough's Clean Communities grant. Sustainable Frenchtown advertised the event through a press release

(see uploaded documentation for coverage in a local paper), multiple posts on the Frenchtown Facebook page, the Borough website, and the Mayor's email list. Our Facebook posts can be viewed here: <https://www.facebook.com/SustainableFrenchtown/> According to the report from the vendor, 1,520 pounds, or .76 tons, of paper was shredded at the event.

WORD: [PRESS RELEASE](#)

PDF: [LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE](#)

PDF: [TONNAGE REPORT](#)

Materials Reuse Program

10 Points

Program Summary: The Frenchtown Lions Club is an invaluable community service organization and an important partner to Sustainable Frenchtown. Every year, the lions club hosts a town wide yard sale to raise funds for community programming and to support materials reuse in our community. This is a popular event, for residents and visitors to Frenchtown. In 2015, the townwide yard sale was held on September 11 - 13, and 14 households registered to participate. In 2016, the yard sale was held on October 14 and 15, and 21 households registered, though many more participated. Sustainable Frenchtown promoted this event through social media outlets, including the Frenchtown Facebook page, Sustainable Jersey's Facebook page, and on the Borough's website.

IMAGE: [MATERIALS REUSE PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

IMAGE: [MATERIALS REUSE PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

IMAGE: [MATERIALS REUSE PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION](#)