



## Sustainable Jersey Certification Report

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

Bergenfield Boro was certified on November 04, 2019 with 150 points. Listed below is information regarding Bergenfield Boro's Sustainable Jersey efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

### Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Jersey contact for Bergenfield Boro is:

Name:	JOSEPH VERGA
Title/Position:	CHAIR-GREEN TEAM / GREEN TEAM MEMBER
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### Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Bergenfield Boro was approved for in 2019 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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##### Companion Animal Management Pledge \*Retired 12/31/22\*

5 Points

**Program Summary:** Community Animal Management Pledge Pet ownership is an integral part of any community; over 50% of households have at least one pet. Municipalities are responsible for minimizing the impact of animals in the community on public health and safety. Bergenfield offers accessible licensing for dogs and cats and makes free rabies vaccinations available to residents. An annual census is already in place to extend licensing compliance, educating residents on the importance of licensing and rabies protection. In developing the Companion Animal Pledge, we are establishing a team that will promote an environment of responsible and considerate pet ownership, lessening the potential for conflict among residents. Through education, outreach and marketing we seek to increase the rate of stakeholder participation and to ensure that Bergenfield is a pet-friendly community where pets are protected and where pet nuisance is minimized.

PDF: [COMPANION ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLEDGE DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [COMPANION ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLEDGE DOCUMENTATION](#)

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

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Notes on revision. Items pertaining to transportation and traffic are handled by the Police Department, Animal control is managed by the Health Department. Despite its location in densely populated Bergen County, Bergenfield has a variety of wildlife including mammals: raccoons, possums, groundhogs and rabbits; birds: Hawks (Red-tail, Coopers and Sharp-shins), Osprey, Great Blue Herons (especially at Coopers Pond), Woodpeckers, migrating Warblers, and many different types of birds at the feeders. The Borough's Code - Article VII - sets General Animal Control Regulations and standards for Wildlife Rehabilitators, in addition to Dog and Cat control and licensing. Code prohibits native wildlife as pets. The keeping of wildlife native to the State of New Jersey is prohibited excluding those persons who are licensed as wildlife rehabilitators by the New Jersey Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Game. The Mayor and Council approved Resolution 17-322 in support of New Jersey's Wildlife Action Plan.

IMAGE: [PLEDGE SUPPORTING NJ WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN RESOLUTION 17-322 P1](#)

IMAGE: [PLEDGE SUPPORTING NJ WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN RESOLUTION 17-322 P2](#)

PDF: [PLEDGE SUPPORTING NJ WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN DOCUMENTATION](#)

## Community Partnership & Outreach

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### Green Team

10 Points

 Bronze Required

**Program Summary:** The Bergenfield Green Team was created and approved by resolution by the Bergenfield mayor and council on February 16, 2010. It is an ongoing team approved by the mayor and council each January at the swearing-in of town officials. There are several organizations within Bergenfield that are striving to improve the local environment. These organizations include the Major and Council, Shade Tree Committee, The Environmental Committee, the Board of Education, the Department of Public Works and many private citizens working through their respective clubs such as the Lions Club and Optimist Club. The purpose of the green team is to bring together all these organizations that are contributing to the Bergenfield community to improve the environment where we live and work. The team actively working toward recertifying the Sustainable Jersey Certification for Bergenfield with the support and encouragement of the mayor and council. The current green team members who are working to earn Bergenfield the Sustainable Jersey Certification are attached. The team continues to work on the activities submitted in this application along with other notable activities including: town clean up projects, environmental conservation information distribution at our Family Fun Day celebration, poster contest for the schools, Earth Day celebration with distribution of conservation information and recognition for poster contest winners, community garden, bicycle safety initiative concluding with a bicycle safety fair, and a green challenge to increase recycle volume.

PDF: [CREATE GREEN TEAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [CREATE GREEN TEAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [CREATE GREEN TEAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

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### Green Challenges

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Bergenfield Environmental Committee's environmental challenge initiative is an opportunity for residents to get actively involved in improving our community's environment. The challenge sheets were prepared containing 25 everyday activities that residents could do to improve the environment. We asked each family to select at least 10 of the 25 items. The pledge sheets were showcased and distributed at our Government Day Event on April 7th. They were also distributed to the middle and high school students and placed in the Bergenfield Public Library. The challenge raised awareness of the opportunities that families have to improve the environment in the areas of water conservation, efficient energy consumption and waste reduction through reducing waste, reusing materials and expanded recycling. It is a long range challenge which will be promoted for the remainder of the year, including during our Founders Day celebration on June 23 and other activities being celebrated in the 125th anniversary year. The four must selected items were shutting off water while brushing teeth, more adherence to town recycle program, turning off lights when leaving the room and don't let water run while brushing your teeth. Other popular items were closing blinds to conserve heat and cooling and turning off electronics when not in use. Over 1800 of the 9000 families responded (an increase from 700 families in 2017 challenge). Attached is a spread sheet showing 300 family responses. Other responses are available upon request.

PDF: [GREEN CHALLENGES DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [GREEN CHALLENGES DOCUMENTATION](#)

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### Green Fair

10 Points

**Program Summary:** GREEN FAIR NARRATIVE Bergenfield High School partnered with the Borough of Bergenfield to host a Green Fair on Wednesday April 17, 2019 at the Bergenfield High School at 80 South Prospect Avenue, Bergenfield, NJ. The event ran from 9 am to 1 pm. The purpose for the fair was to raise awareness of the environmental activities that are part of our everyday lives and to recognize those organizations that contribute to improving the environment. The event provided an opportunity for organizations to share their environmental accomplishments. The Fair was publicized on the Borough electronic bulletin board. Notices were sent by the school, borough and public library announcing the Green Fair. The school and borough contacted utility companies and organizations that participate in environmental initiatives in town. The school provided the facilities and setup. Participants in the Green Fair included representatives and informational material from the Atra Janitorial Supply Co, Suez Water, PSE&G, Department of Public Works, Bergenfield Museum, Bergenfield Environmental Committee and the Shade Tree Committee. Items covered included hazardous waste management, water and energy conservation, mayor's wellness initiative, recycling and town beautification, the importance of trees and town heritage and history.

PDF: [HOLD A GREEN FAIR DOCUMENTATION](#)

POWERPOINT: [HOLD A GREEN FAIR DOCUMENTATION](#)

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## Emergency Management

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## Vulnerable Populations Identification for Emergencies

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Bergenfield Emergency Management recognizes the importance of reaching the vulnerable population during times of emergency. Contact information for all locations within the borough that may have vulnerable residents is maintained by OEM and updated annually.

**PDF:** [VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IDENTIFICATION FOR EMERGENCIES CHECKLIST](#)

## Food

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### Community Gardens

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Bergenfield Community Garden The Bergenfield Community Garden has received significant support from the municipality. The DPW provides locally produced top soil at the beginning of the planting season and the 6 foot fence around the garden is checked for damage. The garden is then roto-tilled by the department so that vegetable and flowers can be planted in the spring. The water containers are filled weekly, as well, by the DPW. The Bergenfield Alternate School and the high school actively participate in the garden along with the garden club, Saint John's youth group, boy scouts and several individual gardeners. The community garden has been continually active during the last six years. Last year our sustainable jersey green team introduced a compost facility at the garden. Enclosed is a copy of the community garden application for 2019 and the rules and regulations for participation in the project. All gardeners grow or pay for their plants. They are also required to remove all waste and litter from the garden area. During the summer the health departments holds a seminar at the community garden to discuss health eating from your backyard garden. This workshop was also held at the library and BHS students made a video tape which is on their website. Bergenfield is a community of two square miles and most residents do not have a place to grow a garden. Six years ago a request was made at a borough mayor and council meeting for the establishment of a community garden and the Sustainable Jersey Committee is responsible for this project. Insurance is provided under the municipal umbrella policy. The garden will be active 9 months a year. The alternate and high school give academic credit for their students participating in the garden. In 2018, 10 gardeners or groups participated in the Garden, In 2019, 20 participates have registered to participate

**PDF:** [COMMUNITY GARDENS DOCUMENTATION](#)

**POWERPOINT:** [COMMUNITY GARDENS DOCUMENTATION](#)

**PDF:** [COMMUNITY GARDENS DOCUMENTATION](#)

**PDF:** [COMMUNITY GARDENS DOCUMENTATION](#)

## Health & Wellness

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### Building Healthier Communities

20 Points

**Program Summary:** The programs listed were prepared for all citizens young and old, employees and residents. Much of the documentation distributed during the event has been discarded. Considering the extent of the activities offered and taken advantage of, the program was a success and helpful for town residents. Programs specifically for seniors are offered through the Bergenfield Senior Activity Center with is managed by the county. A copy of the current calendar of activities can be found here: [https://www.co.bergen.nj.us/images/Departments\\_\\_Services/Human\\_Services/Senior\\_Services/Senior\\_Activity\\_Centers/Bergenfield\\_Calendar.pdf](https://www.co.bergen.nj.us/images/Departments__Services/Human_Services/Senior_Services/Senior_Activity_Centers/Bergenfield_Calendar.pdf) The 5th Annual Mayors Healthy Living Challenge, was again sponsored by Mayors Wellness Campaign, CHIP, Bergenfield Health Dept., Bergenfield Elks and numerous local businesses. Once again, Mayor Schmelz, challenged residents to improve their physical, mental, environmental, spiritual and financial health. It's a popular town-wide event with workshops, exercise class & fitness trials, weigh-ins, health & fitness guidance. The event was promoted through the Borough's website, social media (including youtube) fliers at the Municipal Building and Library and an article in the local newspaper (please see documents). Support from local businesses and organizations again made the Challenge a success. Yoga, Zumba and meditation classes were available, as were weekly weigh-ins, health monitoring and information on diabetes & blood pressure (by nurses from local hospitals) Presentations on "Healthy Eating from the Garden" by the Borough's public health nurse supervisor were held at Senior Center library, Community Garden and Garden Club of Bergenfield. - Wheel Chair Exercises were presented by the Blue Dragon Martial Arts Academy and were offered for Bergenfield residents at the Senior Center - Bergenfield Recreation Department and Committee <http://www.bergenfield.com/departments-offices/bergenfield-recreation-department-parks/programs-events.html> Programs sponsored or co-sponsored include: ....For adults - Adult Volleyball Nights, Coaches' Clinics ....For children/young adults - Bergenfield Baseball League, American Legion Baseball Team, Junior Wrestling, Junior Football and Junior Football Cheerleading (grade 3-8), Valley Central Scholastic Baseball Team, UGALS Softball Team ....The popular Summer Recreation Program at Memorial Park runs for 6 weeks M-F 9a - 4p. It is reasonably priced making it accessible to resident families and, for a slightly higher fee, it is available to non-resident families. The Health Dept. vaccination records for Boro Employees and Volunteers at risk for Hepatitis B infection. New employees' vaccinations are coordinated with the Boro's Safety Coordinator. The dept. has health days devoted to employees, and regardless of what town they live in, they are encouraged to join in these programs, which include: massage therapy chair sessions, food samples for healthy snacks, cooking classes, healthy eating, weight loss and walk for a healthy heart programs, and weekly hypertension monitoring. 2017/2018 saw the addition of an accessible splash pad for handicapped children and young adults at Memorial Park and an

initiative to help eliminate stigma in Bergenfield (see doc below - also the Facebook page.)

IMAGE: [BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES DOCUMENTATION](#)

IMAGE: [BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES DOCUMENTATION](#)

IMAGE: [BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES DOCUMENTATION](#)

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## Innovative Projects

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### Innovative Community Project 1

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Innovative Community Projects The Bergenfield municipal government has initiated a two prong approach to improving the water quality of Cooper's Pond. First is the purchase of a special aerator which helps purify the water so that a greater variety can live in the pond. Most aerators function for their beautiful appearance but are not very efficient in purifying the water. The DPW, in conjunction with the Green Team and the Health Department, is the lead agency for the project. The need for this technology was requested by the Environmental Committee and the Bergenfield Elks Lodge which held its first fishing derby in fifteen years in 2017. The second phase of new technology at Cooper's Pond will be a custom designed encatchment litter and garbage collector at the mouth of the pond to keep it clean. This state of the art collector will eliminate the need for the manual collection of litter throughout the pond. The Borough of Bergenfield has received a rant to fabricate the encatchment collector which will be installed in late 2017 or early 2018. Extensive discussion about the encatchment collector occurred at the Elks fishing derby and during Green Team and Environmental Committee meetings. The need for this technology was at the request of the DPW, Green Team, Environmental Committee.

PDF: [INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY PROJECT 1 DOCUMENTATION](#)

POWERPOINT: [INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY PROJECT 1 DOCUMENTATION](#)

## Land Use & Transportation

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### Sustainable Land Use Pledge

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** The Borough of Bergenfield has adopted a Resolution 12-0431 supporting a sustainable land use pledge. The pledge was reviewed by the mayor and council, zoning and planning boards, the department of public works and the environmental committee. The pledge was unanimously approved by the mayor and council recognizing that poor land use decisions affect social stability, reduce mobility, raise housing costs, increase harmful pollutants, reduce open space and waste natural resources. The resolution was passed in December 2012 and announced to the general public in a news article in January 2013. In order to confirm continued compliance with the intent of the resolution, the resolution was re-distributed to all departments, boards and commissions in April 2017. Boro Administrator Boro Clerk Planning Board Zoning Board Building/ Construction Dept Superintendent of the DPW --roads Chief of Police --traffic flow Barrier Free Advisory Committee (ADA) --disabled accessibility Site Plan Committee Boro Engineer

PDF: [SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLEDGE DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLEDGE DOCUMENTATION](#)

## Natural Resources

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### Community Forestry Management Plan & NJUCF Accreditation

20 Points

**Program Summary:** The Bergenfield Shade Tree Committee is an organization whose members are dedicated to the preservation of existing borough trees and the replacement of trees lost through age and storms. The committee is made up of volunteers as well as municipal officials and department of public works employees who interact with the general public on a daily basis. In 2012, Bergenfield completed a Community Forestry Plan and received a Certificate of Approval from the New Jersey State Forestry Services in January 2013. The Forestry Plan has been update and is now approved until 2022. Green Team members from the Shade Tree Committee, Environmental Committee, Department of Public Works and town officials evaluated the tree canopy in Bergenfield and estimated that there is approximately a 25% canopy. Working together, a plan was developed to introduce a tree planting program that will increase that canopy by 5 % over the next five years. In 2018, five people obtained 35 CEUs and Bergenfield received 2018 Approved status

PDF: [COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN AND NJUCF ACCREDITATION DOCUMENTATION](#)  
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PDF: [COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN AND NJUCF ACCREDITATION DOCUMENTATION](#)  
PDF: [COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN](#)

## Waste Management

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### Prescription Drug Safety & Disposal

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** Prescription Drug Narrative The Borough continues its commitment to the National Take Back Initiative or Operation Drug Take Back. As early as 2010, twice a year, residents able to drop off unused, expired, or unwanted prescription medications (anonymously) at Borough Hall. The Police Department was responsible for registering with the DEA, obtaining collection boxes and advertising materials. A Detective was present during collection times and secured all collected medications in Bergenfield Police Department Evidence. Medications were subsequently transported by a Detective to the Bergen County Police Academy in Mahwah, where the medication was weighed and secured by the DEA. In 2013 and 2014, information was posted in the Borough's Notices and Announcements in the local paper, Twin-Boro News, and on the electronic message board outside Borough Hall. In 2015, the Borough did not yet have a permanent drug disposal box. When residents contacted the Police Department regarding medication drop-off, they were directed to secure collection boxes in nearby municipalities (Closter, Englewood). In June of 2015 the Borough submitted an application to the state for a permanent drop box. In 2016, Bergenfield received its permanent Drug Drop Off Box. Located in the Municipal Building lobby, it easily accessible 24/7 As of October 2017, Information on the drop-off box and links to the government take-back programs are accessible for all residents via the bergenfield police homepage, ([bergenfieldpd.org](http://bergenfieldpd.org)) bottom left corner titled "Project Medicine Drop". All necessary info has also been added to the Bergenfield Recycling Calendar that is sent to all residents, (See 2019 Municipal Recycling Calendar top right on page 1 of attachment) According to Police Department reports, a total of 375 pounds have been collected in the Dropbox in 2018 and 167 pounds in the first 5 months of 2019. Information about project medicine drop can be found on the homepage of the police department's website: <http://bergenfieldpd.org/>

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

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

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### Community Paper Shredding Day

5 Points

**Program Summary:** Paper Shredding Day The Borough of Bergenfield, in partnership with the Bergen County Utilities Authority and Nexcut hold an annual Paper Shredding Day in August each year. On August 25th, 2016, the event collected 1.1 tons of paper. On Saturday August 12th ,2017, the event collected 2.13 tons of paper. Last year's event was held on August and collected tons of paper with approximately 80 residents participating. The announcement was advertised on the Town electronic bulletin board and on the Bergenfield website. Residents were encouraged to bring their confidential documents to the Borough Hall, 198 N Washington Ave., between 9am and 1pm. Borough employees from the Department of Public Works arranged for the event with the County. They also managed the traffic flow on the day of the event and assisted residents in unloading the paper for shredding. Information about the 2018 and 2019 events is uploaded below.

POWERPOINT: [COMMUNITY PAPER SHREDDING DAY DOCUMENTATION](#)

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

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### Recycling Depot

10 Points

**Program Summary:** BERGENFIELD RECYCLING DEPOT Bergenfield has maintained a recycle center on municipal property since the late 1970s. Weekly paper collections were run by volunteers to raise funds for their organizations. Bins were also provided for glass, plastic and cans as an incentive to those wishing to recycle. With the implementation of mandatory recycling in 1986, the center was easily expanded to accommodate the increased collection of recycled materials. The Bergenfield Recycling Center is located behind the Borough Hall at 198 N. Washington Avenue. The center is open to all Bergenfield residents and businesses. The hours of operation are 8:00am to 3:00 pm Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 1:00pm on Saturday and 1:00pm to 4:00pm on Sunday. The recycle center is closed on holidays. Recycling information with a calendar for curbside pickups is mailed to every household annually. The mailing includes information on the Recycle Depot. (see attachment-2019 Bergenfield calendar/recycling information )

PDF: [RECYCLING DEPOT DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [RECYCLING DEPOT DOCUMENTATION](#)

POWERPOINT: [RECYCLING DEPOT DOCUMENTATION](#)

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