



# 2026 - 2028 Major Program Refresh

Website: [sustainablejersey.com](https://sustainablejersey.com) | IG: [Sustainable\\_Jersey](#) | X: [@SJ\\_Program](#) and [@SJ\\_Schools](#) | FB: [@SustainableJersey](#) | LinkedIn: [sustainable-jersey](#)

## Background and History

- 2006 Program Conceived
- 2007-2009 Program Development:
  - Two statewide conferences, 15 Task Forces, hundreds of volunteers, massive research and writing
- 2009 Program Launch
- 2011 Program becomes Non-Profit
- 2019 Sustainable Jersey 2.0 – Listening sessions, stakeholder input, priorities for program updates identified and partially implemented
- 2023 Sustainable New Jersey Act becomes law
- 2026 Full Program Refresh

## Goals

- ✓ New user-friendly website, enhanced search features
- ✓ New content: weed, seed, upgrade unsatisfactory actions
- ✓ Streamline documentation requirements
- ✓ Gold level of certification
- ✓ Star recognition integrated into the certification application
- ✓ Explore Sustained Excellence Tier

## Timeline

1. **Municipal Certification Program**
  - 2026 Certification Cycle Paused (including Gold Stars)
  - Refresh Completed for 2027 Cycle
2. **Schools Certification Program**
  - 2027 Certification Cycled Paused (including Digital Schools Star)
  - Refresh Completed for the 2028 Cycle
3. **Annual Activities Unchanged**
  - Grant Cycles
  - Technical Assistance Opportunities
  - Topic Focused Professional Development
  - Annual Luncheon and Sustainability Summit



## Impact on Your Municipal Certification

- Certifications and Stars expiring in 2026 will be automatically extended by one year
- All action submissions expiring in the 2026 will automatically be extended by one year
- The lookback period for action documentation will be extended by one year (2025, 2026, 2027)
- The current websites will remain operational until the implementation of the new site. Certification applications can continue to be updated.
- All current and prior information will be migrated to the new sites.

## Ideas for Keeping Green Team Engaged and Working Towards Certification in 2027


**GRANTS PROGRAM  
FOR MUNICIPALITIES**


**Have a municipal sustainability project that needs funding?  
Consider applying for a Sustainable Jersey grant**

Sustainable Jersey is pleased to announce that the PSEG Foundation is contributing \$240,000 to support another cycle of funding for New Jersey municipalities.


**Available Grants**  
 \$20,000 and \$10,000 municipal project grants  
 \$2,000 green team support or project grants


**Eligibility**  
 New Jersey municipalities participating in the Sustainable Jersey program with an established green team. Previous grant recipients must meet additional requirements.


**Application**  
 Submit via the online portal by 11:59pm on Friday, February 13, 2026


**Informational Webinar**  
 Thursday, December 18, 2025, from 1pm - 2:30pm


**Learn More & Apply**  
 Application and webinar links:  
[bit.ly/MunicipalPSEGGrants](https://bit.ly/MunicipalPSEGGrants)









## Community Energy Planning

### ➤ Community Energy Plan Grants

- Grant funding from NJBPU – **\$10,000 (\$25,000)**
- Purpose – **Preparing a community energy plan**
- Includes – **Free Technical assistance** and resources from Sustainable Jersey
- New Community Energy Plan Action – **10 points**

### ➤ Community Energy Plan Implementation Grants

- Grant Funding from NJBPU - **\$\$\$**
- Purpose - **Implementing** projects identified in the community energy plans

**Stay tuned! New rounds of grant funding expected soon.**

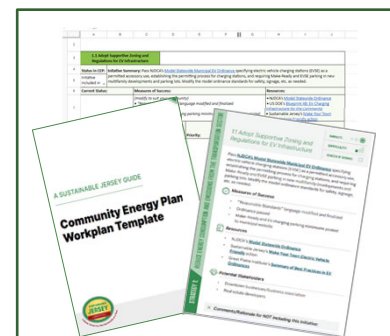
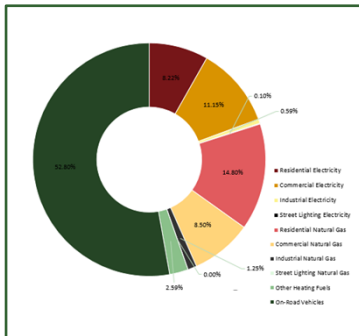


## CEP Technical Assistance

**Data Presentation**

**Resource Investigation**

**Workplan Template**





## Sustainable Jersey has provided technical assistance to over 100 municipalities and school districts

Sustainable Jersey Energy Technical Assistance is funded by NJBPU, Elizabethtown Gas, New Jersey Natural Gas, PSE&G, Rockland Electric and South Jersey Gas.

## Sustainable Jersey Energy Technical Assistance

- Assistance applying for State and utility energy efficiency incentives
- Energy tracking and management
- Completing energy actions for Sustainable Jersey certification
- Assistance with energy outreach campaigns (PSE&G, NJNG, and RECO)

**To request Energy Technical Assistance:**

[bit.ly/SJEnergyTARquestForm](http://bit.ly/SJEnergyTARquestForm)



## SJ-PSE&G Energy Efficiency Partnership Program



- Robust SJ staff support for municipalities and school districts to upgrade buildings
- \$2,500 Start-up grant for municipalities  
Eligible municipalities are served 100% by PSE&G (exceptions can be granted)
- Grants of up to \$25,000 are available to outreach campaign track participants that have a demonstrated track record of Program engagement.

### Program Tracks

- 1) Residential Energy Efficiency Outreach Campaign
- 2) Commercial Energy Efficiency Outreach Campaign
- 3) Technical Assistance for Energy Efficiency in Municipal Facilities



## Upcoming Events

<https://www.sustainablejersey.com/nc/events/>

### Helping Municipalities Plan, Fund, and Implement Electric Shared Mobility Projects Webinar

Sustainable Jersey Events, Trainings & Hub Events

Dec 17, 2025  
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

### Save the Date: 2026 New Jersey Sustainability Summit

Sustainable Jersey Events, Trainings & Hub Events

May 15, 2026  
8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

# Your Feedback is Important!

- Complete our upcoming Participant Survey
  - Link to be provided via email and website by early January
- Reach out to our staff
  - Renee Haider, haider@tcnj.edu
  - Lauren Skowronski, skowronl@tcnj.edu
  - Maureen Jones, info@sustainablejersey.com