



Sustainable Jersey®

ORGANIZATION BACKGROUNDER

Sustainable Jersey is a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey. By supporting community efforts to reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and improve environmental equity, Sustainable Jersey is empowering New Jersey towns to build a better world for future generations. It provides tools, training and financial incentives to support and reward communities as they pursue sustainability programs. New Jersey is the first state in the nation to have a comprehensive sustainability program for communities that links certification with strong state and private financial incentives, and a fully resourced program of technical support and training.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Municipal Government Focus: Only New Jersey municipalities apply for certification.

Free: No registration fee or certification fees are charged to local governments.

Voluntary: Local government participation is strictly voluntary and never mandated.

Specific Menu of Actions: The program provides local governments with a clear mission and a menu of sustainable actions to achieve. [Sustainable Jersey Actions](#)

New Jersey Based and Consensus Driven: The technical content of the program's actions are developed with the help of 22 task forces that comprise New Jersey state local officials, experts, non-profit groups, and members of the business community. Recommended best practices/actions are vetted with local government officials.

Program Training, Workshops and Technical Support: Training, monthly workshops and technical support is provided to communities in order to build general capacity and effectiveness of local governments and Green Teams for implementing the program.

Green Teams: Each registered community is required to have a Green Team. The Green Team is appointed by the municipal governing body and includes representatives from the Environmental Commission, Operations and Maintenance, Planning and Zoning, and other relevant municipal departments as well as volunteers from the community and key constituencies such as the business community, faith based groups, and school groups.

Political Affiliation: The number of republican and democratic led municipalities participating in the program is nearly equal.

PARTICIPATING TOWNS

359 towns are registered and working towards certification. That is 63% percent of towns from the 566 municipalities in New Jersey. Nearly 75% of New Jersey's population lives in registered/certified Sustainable Jersey communities.

CERTIFIED TOWNS

108 municipalities are certified: 9 towns at the [silver level](#) and 99 towns at the bronze level: Asbury Park City, Atlantic Highlands, Bedminster, Belmar, Bethlehem, [Berkeley Heights](#), [Bernards](#), [Bernardsville](#), Bloomfield, Bordentown City, Bridgewater, Buena Vista, Burlington, [Cape May](#), Chatham Borough, Chatham Township, [Cherry Hill](#), Chester, Cranford, Denville, East Brunswick, East Windsor, Edison, Elizabeth City, Englewood City, Fair Lawn, Franklin, Flemington, [Galloway](#), Glen Ridge, Gloucester, Haddon, Haddonfield, Hammonton Town, Hanover, Hawthorne, High Bridge, Highland Park, Hillsborough, Hillsdale, Hoboken, Hopewell, [Jersey City](#), Kearny Town, Lawrence, Leonia, Lincoln Park, Linwood City, Little Silver, Livingston, Long Branch, Lower Alloways Creek, Lower, Madison, Manalapan, Manchester, Maplewood, Marlboro, Middletown, Middle Township, Millburn, Monmouth Beach, Montclair, Montgomery, Morristown Town, Mountain Lakes, Mount

Olive, Mullica, North Brunswick, North Plainfield, Nutley, Oakland, Ocean City, Oceanport, Ocean Township (Monmouth County), Old Tappan, Orange, Park Ridge, Parsippany-Troy Hills, Paterson City, Princeton Borough, Princeton Township, Rahway City, Ramsey, Raritan, Readington, River Edge, River Vale, Rutherford, Saddle River, South Orange Village, Shrewsbury, Sparta, Summit City, Teaneck, Tenafly, Union Township (Hunterdon County), Union Township (Union County), Upper Saddle River, Warren, Washington Township, West Amwell, West Milford, West Windsor, Westwood, Woodbine, Woodbridge and Wyckoff

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM Sustainable Jersey provides funding to local governments for sustainability projects. To date, \$595,000 has been awarded through the 2009-2011 Sustainable Jersey Small Grants program funded by Walmart. Eighty grants have been given to New Jersey municipalities representing 20 counties for sustainability projects to make communities more livable, environmentally friendly and prosperous.

HISTORY The Sustainable Jersey certification program was launched in February 2009. Sustainable Jersey began as a collaborative effort between the New Jersey State League of Municipalities' Mayors' Committee for a Green Future and the Municipal Land Use Center at The College of New Jersey, in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. In Winter 2011/2012, Sustainable Jersey evolved from a partnership into a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a Board of Directors.

AWARDS & HONORS 2011 U.S. EPA Environmental Quality Award
2010 National Ashoka/Community Matters Changemakers Strong Communities Award
2010 NJ Joint Legislative Resolution from the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly

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CURRENT SPONSORS Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, BPU, PSEG, New Jersey Natural Gas, Church and Dwight, Covanta Energy, EcoMatters, American Water, New Jersey American Water, Real Goods Solar, South Jersey Gas, Terhune Orchards, Waste Management of New Jersey, Atlantic City Electric, Citizens Campaign, Concord Engineering and the New Jersey Food Council.