



# Sustainable Jersey Mayor Art Ondish Leadership Award Recipients

This award is given annually by Sustainable Jersey in memory of Mayor Arthur Ondish of Mount Arlington. He was a true leader and an original member of the visionary mayors who founded the Sustainable Jersey program. He was a key thinker and doer during the growth of the Sustainable Jersey movement. In the early days, he spent countless hours meeting with local officials to promote Sustainable Jersey and was instrumental in the program's acceptance in rural parts of New Jersey.

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## 2024: The Honorable Robert H. Conley, Madison

Under Mayor Conley's leadership, Madison Borough has achieved silver certification and the Sustainability Champion award 6 times since the awards began in 2009. The Mayor is an active participant with the Sustainable Madison Advisory Committee and the Climate Action Committee. Mayor Conley serves as a mentor to surrounding mayors and is a frequent panel speaker to share the success stories from his borough. It's even been said that he walks around town with his own garbage picker.

## 2023: The Honorable Ravinder Bhalla, City of Hoboken

Mayor Bhalla has been active in the accomplishments of the Hoboken Green Team and Hoboken's achievement of silver-level certification with Sustainable Jersey. He has focused on making the City of Hoboken more resilient to climate change, signing the City's Climate Action Plan in 2019 with the goal of the City of Hoboken being net zero energy by 2030 and carbon neutral by 2050. The plan includes expansion of Hoboken's residential composting drop-off program, a full ban on all carry-out plastic bags and Styrofoam and the purchasing of 100% renewable electricity for all Hoboken municipal operations. Hoboken offers a renewable energy program for residents and has completed energy efficient upgrades in 11 municipal buildings. Under Ravi's leadership, Hoboken has become a national model for creating safer streets for all residents and modes of transportation. In 2019, he signed an executive



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order launching Hoboken's Vision Zero initiative, forming a Vision Zero Task Force, and creating a Vision Zero Action Plan. His involvement has been exemplary.

## 2022: The Honorable Lisa Jiampetti, Mayor of Egg Harbor City

Mayor Jiampetti is an active member of the Egg Harbor City Green Team, also known as Sustainable Egg Harbor City. Mayor Jiampetti's involvement has been instrumental in the green team successfully achieving Sustainable Jersey certification. For every new certification action and initiative, she consults with the council members, does her research and pursues the solutions that are best for Egg Harbor City--her involvement has been exemplary.

## 2021: Honorable Ras J. Baraka, Mayor, City of Newark

Under Mayor Baraka's leadership, Newark has made sustainability a priority. Mayor Baraka appointed a Chief Sustainability Officer to develop and implement the City of Newark's Sustainability Action Plan. Mayor Baraka issued a directive to all department directors to incorporate sustainability priorities into their annual plans. The Sustainability Action Plan includes commitments for interdepartmental collaboration to make Newark cleaner, greener, healthier, more engaged and more prepared in the face of climate change. Sustainability commitments include actions related to litter and recycling, brownfields remediation, green infrastructure, urban forestry management, open space planning, inclusive development, idling enforcement, healthy homes, urban agriculture, climate planning, renewable energy and alternative fuels infrastructure, energy efficiency savings, and internships for young sustainability champions. The City of Newark City achieved Sustainable Jersey certification as part of the 2020 certification cycle at the silver-level with 375 points.

## 2020: Mayor Anthony Talerico, Jr., Eatontown

Since Anthony Talerico, Jr. was elected mayor in 2019, Eatontown was the first municipality to pass an ordinance using the Complete and Green Streets for All model policy. Mayor Talerico, Jr. is actively involved in making Eatontown's roads safe for all users - drivers, cyclists, pedestrians and those with disabilities, and improving the connectivity in its existing neighborhoods. Reaching beyond his borders, Mayor Talerico, Jr. hosted a meeting with ten other municipalities in Monmouth County to discuss the opportunity to group purchase energy for residents with significantly higher renewable energy content than what is required by New Jersey. This initial effort has materialized into the Monmouth Renewable Government Energy Aggregation Collaborative, with eight communities participating.

## 2019: Mayor Victor DeLuca, Maplewood

Victor De Luca has served 20 years in office for Maplewood. Maplewood Township has been certified with Sustainable Jersey since 2009 and has maintained certification at the silver-level since 2013. Mayor DeLuca serves on the Sustainable Jersey Certifications Standards Committee, which vets all of the Sustainable Jersey actions and program changes, and is one of 12 New Jersey mayors who publicly pledged to collaborate with Sustainable Jersey and make a significant effort to achieve Sustainable



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Jersey's Gold Star Standard in Energy. He has demonstrated bold leadership to move sustainability forward at the local level. Maplewood signed the Paris Climate Agreement and changed local laws to facilitate the installation of residential solar energy systems. The town set up an electric vehicle charging station for the public and has banned single-use plastic shopping bags. Maplewood is also the lead municipality for the Sustainable Essex Alliance Energy Procurement Cooperative, a multi-municipal cooperative that purchased greener and cheaper electricity and promote energy efficiency for residents.

## 2018: Mayor Packer, Glen Rock

Mayor Packer makes sustainability a priority for Glen Rock and together with a very active green team, Mayor Packer encourages residents to live in a sustainable manner through innovative initiatives such as local campaigns to reduce the use of single-use plastics bags and Styrofoam, renewable government energy aggregation, and encouraging the use of electric vehicles. Mayor Packer was one of 12 New Jersey mayors that publicly committed to collaborate with Sustainable Jersey and make a significant effort to achieve the Gold Star Standard in Energy at the New Jersey Mayors' Climate Summit this year. Mayor Packer also leads a Mayor Wellness Campaign with a "Walk with the Mayor" program.

## 2017: Mayor Bruce Harris, Chatham Borough

Mayor Bruce Harris has made sustainability a priority for Chatham Borough for many years. The Borough, a two-time winner of the Sustainability Champion Award, is focused on encouraging residents to live in a sustainable manner.

## 2016: Caroline Ehrlich, Woodbridge

This year Sustainable Jersey renamed the Leadership Award to recognize our friend Mayor Art Ondish; he was a true leader and an original member of the visionary mayors who founded the Sustainable Jersey program. Caroline Ehrlich, serves as treasurer on the Sustainable Jersey Board and is the chief of staff to Woodbridge Township Mayor John E. McCormac and executive director of the Woodbridge Township Redevelopment Agency. Caroline Ehrlich leads the Sustainable Jersey Certification Standards Committee, and she spearheaded efforts to designate Woodbridge Township a Sustainable Jersey community and was instrumental in creating the Greenable Woodbridge program. Under Caroline Ehrlich's leadership, Woodbridge Township received a 3-STAR Community Rating for national leadership in sustainability—a designation that places Woodbridge among the top sustainable cities and communities in the nation. Woodbridge Township has received the Sustainable Jersey Sustainable Champion award seven times for achieving the most certification points and has been certified at the silver-level certification for seven years.