



Sustainable Jersey Business Leadership Award Recipients

This award recognizes New Jersey companies that demonstrate a significant commitment to the core sustainability principles of people, planet, and prosperity, along with strong support for values that the Sustainable Jersey program advances.

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2024 Recipient: Helpsy

As a clothing collection company and a certified B corporation with an environmental mission to extend the useful life of clothing, Helpsy partners with municipalities, schools and organizations across 10 states to collect unwanted clothing. Helpsy operates 1,200 clothing collection points and provides free curbside service to millions of Americans. The company funds numerous charities and thrift stores to give consumers convenient alternatives to garbage. Currently they collect an item of clothing every second. In 2023 alone, Helpsy diverted nearly 15,000 tons of textile waste out of landfills saving municipalities about \$1.3 million in tipping fees. Helpsy reported that 95% of what is collected is salvageable; 50% is sold as clothing and used again, while 45% becomes things like furniture insulation or wiping cloths. Helpsy is the official textile recycling partner of 48 municipalities, including Toms River.

2023 Recipient: Trex Company

Trex Company was built on eco-minded values and is the world’s largest manufacturer of high-performance, wood-alternative decking and railing. It works with communities and organizations as partners in its robust recycling efforts. The recently launched NexTrex Grassroots Movement provides a turnkey framework for municipalities to serve as centralized drop-off locations for recycling



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polyethylene plastic film while earning funds for their organizations. Trex has been advancing green team efforts including the plastic bag collection for benches and the NexTrex program.

2022 Recipient: Solar Landscape

Asbury Park-based Solar Landscape is making renewable solar energy accessible to more than 11,000 New Jersey residents – most of them low- and moderate- income (LMI) households, making it the nation’s largest clean energy portfolio specifically designated for LMI communities. As part of its participation in community solar, the company works with local and national partners to train New Jersey residents in solar installation and educate students about career opportunities in clean energy.

2021 Recipient: Ørsted

Ørsted ranks as the world’s most sustainable energy company in Corporate Knights’ 2021 Global 100 index of the most sustainable corporations and is recognized on the CDP Climate Change A List as a global leader on climate action. The company develops, constructs and operates offshore and onshore wind farms, solar farms, energy storage facilities and bioenergy plants. Ørsted is on track to becoming carbon neutral in energy generation and operations by 2025, making it the first major energy company to transform from fossil fuels and reach net-zero emissions. Ørsted has been on the ground in New Jersey for more than five years, developing the state’s first offshore wind project –Ocean Wind 1, in partnership with PSEG. This project will deliver enough offshore wind capacity to power an average of 500,000 New Jersey homes. Earlier this year, the State of New Jersey selected Ørsted’s Ocean Wind 2 as part of the State’s second offshore wind solicitation. This project is poised to deliver over 1,148MW of offshore wind to the Garden State. In addition, Ocean Wind 2 has committed \$1 billion of in-state spending for workforce development to create new green jobs and build specialized manufacturing capabilities and is committed to creating good-paying union jobs from workforce hiring from areas most affected by climate change.

2020 Recipient: Hackensack Meridian Health

Hackensack Meridian Health is New Jersey’s largest health care system and a nationally recognized leader in sustainability. Hackensack University Medical Center, the network’s flagship hospital, earned national recognition as a Practice Greenhealth Top 25 Green Hospital—one of only three hospitals in the United States, and the only hospital in the tristate area to receive this recognition—for a seventh consecutive year. All of Hackensack Meridian Health hospitals are enrolled in utility and state programs for energy efficiency funding which resulted in \$30 million commitment to energy efficiency at six of its hospitals. At the height of the pandemic, Hackensack Meridian Health partnered with local farms and community groups to provide over 140,000 pounds of local produce that provided 117,250 meals to families in need. Hackensack Meridian Health continued to drive safer chemicals throughout its network by standardizing all cleaning products to meet green third-party certification.



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2019 Recipient: RPM Development Group

RPM Development Group has acquired and developed properties across the State of New Jersey for three decades. It is an outstanding example of how a developer can take sustainability and community responsibility seriously and contribute locally to improving the quality of life in New Jersey. RPM Development Group has a proven commitment to sustainability – from the first LEED Platinum multi-family building in the State of New Jersey to resident education programs that help ensure green amenities are properly used. RPM Development Group has shown a commitment that is embodied at every level of the firm – from project design to construction through the ongoing management. RPM Development has been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through its ENERGY STAR program as an outstanding partner in energy-efficient building and marketing.

2018 Recipient: Atlantic Health System

Atlantic Health System is an outstanding example of how a health care system can take sustainability and community responsibility seriously and contribute locally to improving the quality of life in New Jersey. Atlantic Health System is a member of the New Jersey Sustainable Business Registry, with five of its medical centers recognized. Their leadership has pursued recycling and energy saving policies from grassroots employee efforts to large-scale construction projects. They also have an employee green team that initiates eco-friendly projects throughout the healthcare system.

2017: New Jersey American Water

New Jersey American Water is the largest water service provider in the state, serving approximately 2.7 million people in 190 communities. Five of their water treatment plants, have been nationally recognized with Directors Awards for participating in the U.S. EPA's Partnership for Safe Water program. The plants earned this award for surpassing federal and state drinking water standards.

At the local level, New Jersey American Water is actively promoting environmental education through its Water Learning Center and Education Toolkit for students, as well as contributing each year to community events, activities and organizations that advance sustainability throughout its coverage area. New Jersey American Water is developing a Climate Resiliency Strategic Action Plan and their parent company, American Water, was at the forefront of environmental leadership when, in 2006, it became the first U.S. water or wastewater utility to join the EPA's Climate Leaders program and subsequently the Carbon Disclosure Program.

2016: Prudential

As part of Prudential's corporate social responsibility commitments, the company has focused on urban renewal and education in the City of Newark, which is where they are based. We recognize their work to support and implement Newark's social and environmental actions that advance quality of life for all. Prudential has taken exemplary steps to reduce the company's environmental footprint and has made a



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commitment to impact investment. Prudential has prioritized its understanding of climate and energy and is a signatory of the Geneva Association's Statement on Climate Risk.

2015: Bristol Myers Squibb

When it comes to environmental stewardship, Bristol-Myers Squibb is a leader. The company has increased its efforts to preserve natural resources, focus on opportunities to reduce packaging and save energy and water. From 2009 to 2012, Bristol-Myers Squibb reduced its total annual greenhouse gas emissions by about 28,000 metric tons. They established a Water Council to assess and implement projects to reduce water use. A few examples of Go Green innovations at Bristol-Myers Squibb include: Promoting Green Chemistry, Using Alternative Energy, Greening their Fleets and Facilities, Conserving Land and Helping Threatened Species. Bristol-Myers Squibb also funded a Green Schools Fellowship to help New Jersey School Districts create healthier, more sustainable learning environments. This fellow was placed at the New Jersey School Boards Association and helped support the development of the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program in addition to other initiatives.

2014: Bayshore Recycling

Bayshore Recycling (Bayshore) is an award-winning leader in the recycling industry and champion for the environment, reintroducing materials into the economic mainstream while reducing the volume of material deposited in New Jersey's landfills. The Company is a model of sustainability. One of the most dynamic, vertically integrated recycling facilities in the country, Bayshore recycles just about everything.

Energy conservation and renewable energy are central to the company's business plans. In 2008, Bayshore installed a rooftop solar energy system that assists in powering the soil operation. Bayshore plans to add wind, additional solar, tidal and biomass to energy portfolio as it pursues its corporate vision of operating 100% green businesses powered 100% by renewable energy.

Beyond the day-to-day management of the largest recycling company in New Jersey, Bayshore is dedicated to corporate responsibility, sound environmental management and sustainability. Valerie Montecalvo and senior members of the Bayshore staff sit on the Boards of Directors or management teams of 14 external organizations at the National, State, County and Local levels, as well as in the non-profit community. As an example, Valerie has served as President of the National Construction & Demolition Recycling Association for the past two years. Gary Sondermeyer, VP of Bayshore Operations leads Sustainable Jersey's Waste Management Task Force which has made a significant contribution to Sustainable Jersey's certification actions.