

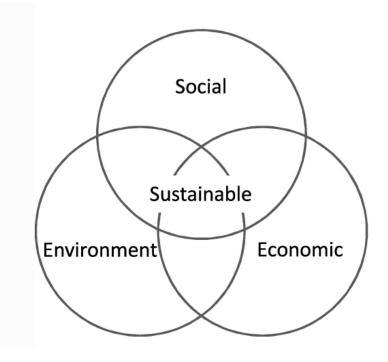
# Sustainable Jersey Program Update

New Jersey League of Municipalities
November 16, 2022



## What is Sustainability?

Sustainability is most often defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. It has three main pillars: social, economic, and environmental.



## The Way Forward

**Build the movement** 

**Build local capacity** 

Everyone is included and benefits

Share the movement beyond our borders



## A Framework for Action

- Coordinates priorities, resources, and policy among public and private state and local actors
- Develops tools, resources, and guidance to make progress
- Provides access to grants and assistance
- Recognizes accomplishments

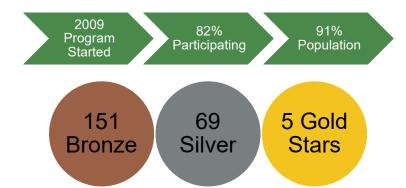


## Statistics

23,467
Actions
Implemented

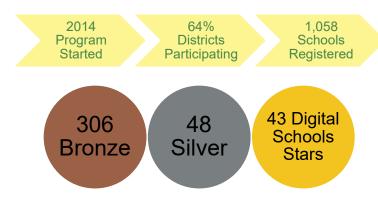


Sustainable Jersey



Allentowr SUSTAINABLE

Sustainable Jersey for Schools





## Water Gold

## Launched in May 2021

- Woodbridge Township 2021
- Readington Township 2022



## Sustainable Jersey's Water Goal:

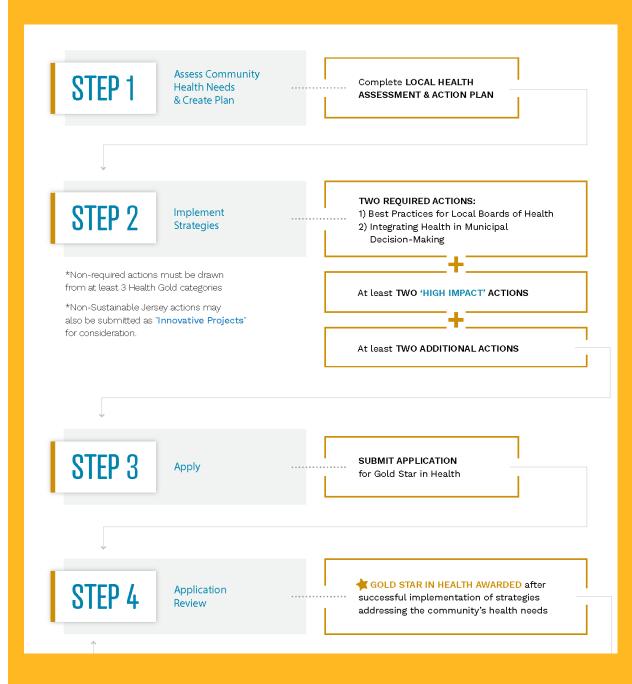
New Jersey's water system provides an adequate and affordable supply of clean and safe drinking water for everyone, while also safeguarding water sources to ensure sufficient quality and supply to support healthy ecosystems and biodiversity.

> Source: The New Jersey Sustainable State of the State Report, 2015, Sustainable Jersey



## **Health Gold**

- Launched July 2021
- 2 Gold Stars in Health awarded in 2022!
  - \* Princeton
  - \* Woodbridge





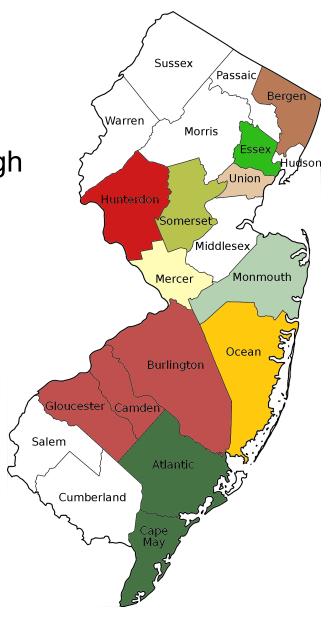
## Regional Hubs

Ten hubs around the state to help green teams build capacity through training, best practices resources and networking. Learn more

sustainablejersey.com/get-involved/

### **Benefits**

- Peer mentoring
- Project collaboration
- Online communication platform
- Network of Leaders
- Quarterly Events
- Help Peers Get Certified
- Technical assistance & administrative support from SJ



# 2023 Certification Cycle & Action Support



## 2023 Certification Cycle (\*)





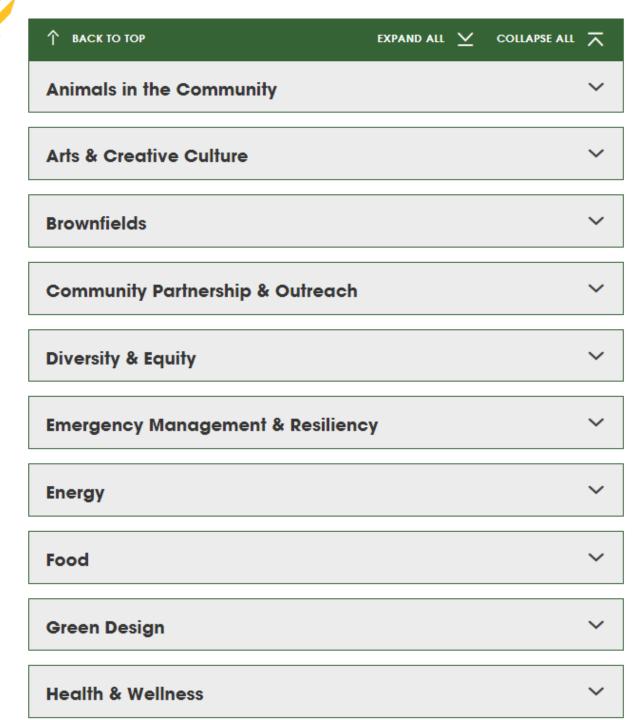


	FIRST ROUND	SECOND ROUND	THIRD ROUND
Submission Deadline	Feb. 26	May 12	July 27
Return Date	Early-April	Mid-June	Mid-Sep.

- Municipalities can submit for the first time in any round, but it is recommended to submit in the first two rounds to receive feedback to help achieve certification.
- **Expiring Municipalities:** Municipalities certified as part of the 2020 certification cycle that feel this change would impact their 2023 recertification efforts, can request a one-year extension on their certification.
- Informational webinar December 13 at 12:00pm

More information & webinar registration: sustainablejersey.com/2023-certification-cycle

# Actions & Resources



## **New Actions Implemented in 2022**

Category	Action
Diversity & Equity	Community Equity & Diversity Profile
Energy	Energy Assistance Outreach
	Electric Vehicle Community Outreach
Food	Promoting Safe Food Donation for Food Security
Land Use & Transportation	Community Design for All Ages

## 2022 Action Updates

Category	Action	
Natural Resources	Water Conservation Ordinance	
Energy	Energy Efficiency for Municipal Facilities Municipal Onsite Solar System Renewable Government Energy Aggregation Fleet Inventory Make Your Town Electric Vehicle Friendly	
Waste Reduction	Reusable Bag Education Program	

## Actions to be Retired at the end of 2022

Category	Action	
	Companion Animal Pledge	
Animals in the Community	Companion Animal Management Plan	
	Enhanced Licensing Compliance	
	Pledge Supporting NJ Wildlife Action Plan	
Emergency Management & Resiliency	Climate Adaptation: Flooding Risk	
Emergency Management & Resiliency	Coastal Vulnerability Assessment	
Land Use & Transportation	Historic Preservation Master Plan Element	
Sustainability & Climata Dlanning	Community Carbon Footprint	
Sustainability & Climate Planning	Community Visioning	

## **New Actions in Early 2023**

Category	Action
Emergency Management & Resiliency	Heat Island Assessment & Mitigation Plan
Operations & Maintenance	Green Grounds Maintenance Policy & Implementation
	Green Purchasing Policy
	Green Cleaning Products & Motorized Cleaning Equipment
	Recycled Copy Paper
	Recycled Office & Restroom Paper Supplies
	Recycled Recreation & Transportation Equipment & Materials
Sustainability & Climate Planning	Community Sustainability Plan



### **Additional Action-related Initiatives**

- Community Energy Plan to replace Climate Action Plan
- Wind Ordinance Action update
- Solar Friendly action update
- Commercial Property- Assessed Clean Energy/ C-PACE (possible)

## Technical Assistance



## **Technical Assistance Overview**

- Health
- Water
- Energy
- Equity
- Complete Streets





## Complete Streets Technical Assistance

- 9 communities in 2019
- 8 communities in 2020
- 7 communities in 2022
- https://www.sustainablejersey.com/ grants/complete-streets-technicalassistance/











Pedestrian Safety
Demonstration Project
Borough of Red Bank, Monmouth County, NJ
2019



Washington Street, Main Street, and Franklin Avenue
Walkable Community Workshop
Township of West Orange, Essex County, NJ
2020

# Sustainable Communities Partnership Program







- Partnership with the PSEG Institute for Sustainability Studies (PSEG ISS) at Montclair State University (MSU).
- Upper-level students commit to approximately 80 100 hours of time in the February April 2023 timeframe to make progress on the action under the guidance of their instructor and an assigned municipal contact.
- Informational webinar to be scheduled in mid-December. Information will be posted on our website and in our bi-weekly Update.

## Grants





## SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GRANTS PROGRAM



**CYCLE SPONSOR** 

**PROJECT TYPE** 

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

GRANT AMOUNTS

CYCLE LAUNCHED

FUNDING TO DATE



Env. Stew. and Resiliency

Munis in ACE Territory

\$2k, \$5k & \$10k

Late April

\$225,000



Energy

Public Schools & Munis

\$10k and Larger

TBD

\$1,120,000



General Sustainability Public Schools Munis \$2k & \$10k \$2k, \$10k & \$20k

Mid-Oct Mid-Nov

\$3,100,000





## New Funding Cycle Announced!

- \$200,000 is available to New Jersey municipalities participating in the Sustainable Jersey program
  - -\$2k, \$10k and \$20k grants for sustainability projects and green team support

## Informational Webinar

1-2pm on Thursday, **December 8,** 2022

## Application Deadline

By 11:59pm on Friday, February 10, 2023

## Award Notifications

By early April 2023 with an event in early May 2023

### Performance Period

10k Grants:

18 months

2k Grants:

12 months

### **Learn More & Apply**





## Energy

Nancy Quirk Senior Program Manager



## **Municipal Energy Actions**

	Energy Efficiency	Renewable Energy	Alternative Fuel Vehicles
Municipal Operations	<ul> <li>Energy Efficiency for Municipal Facilities</li> <li>Energy Tracking and Management</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>On-Site Geothermal</li> <li>On-Site Solar</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Fleet Inventory</li> <li>Purchase Alternative Fuel Vehicles</li> <li>Meet Green Fleet Targets</li> </ul>
Community Energy Use	<ul> <li>NEW Energy Assistance Outreach</li> <li>Commercial Energy Efficiency Outreach</li> <li>Residential Energy Efficiency Outreach</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Make Your Town Solar Friendly</li> <li>Municipally Supported Community Solar</li> <li>Solar Outreach</li> <li>Renewable Government Energy Aggregation (R-GEA)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Make Your Town Electric Vehicle (EV) Friendly</li> <li>Public EV Chargers</li> <li>NEW Electric Vehicle Community Outreach</li> </ul>

## **Energy Assistance Outreach Action**

### 10 points

- Energy assistance resources outreach campaign
  - o LIHEAP, Payment Assistance for Gas and Electric (PAGE), etc.
- Meet with local community organizations serving low- and moderate-income residents to:
  - Collaborate on outreach campaign
  - Share energy efficiency incentives available to community organizations

### **Additional 10 points**

- New Jersey Comfort Partners Program outreach campaign
  - Coordinate with Comfort Partners Utility Working Group
  - Resource Sustainable Jersey Comfort Partners Outreach Toolkit



Volunteer briefed on Comfort Partners talking points at Newark's Lincoln Park Jazz Festival.

## **EV Community Outreach Action**

### For 10 points

- Select two audience types to target
  - Residents
- Commercial fleets
   Commercial properties
- Multifamily
- WorkplacesAuto dealerships



Maywood's June 2021 FV awareness event

- For each selected audience, complete two "Outreach Tasks"
  - Materials informational webpage, social media posts, brochure, video
  - Events webinar, in-person training, tabling

### For additional 5 points

 2-3 Letters of Certification from target audience members verifying that they are installing EVSE, purchasing an EV, or training staff in EV sales (dealerships)

### **On-Site Solar Action**

- Additional 5 pt for solar thermal system
  - Can reduce water heating costs by 80%
  - More affordable than solar PV
- Can be used in:
  - City Hall
  - Fire Stations
  - Rec Centers
  - Senior Center
  - Homeless Shelters
- "Lead by Example"
  - Multifamily housing
  - Commercial properties



Manchester, NJ solar thermal installation



Solar thermal installation on historic fire house in Minneapolis

## **Community Energy Planning**



## Why do a community energy plan?

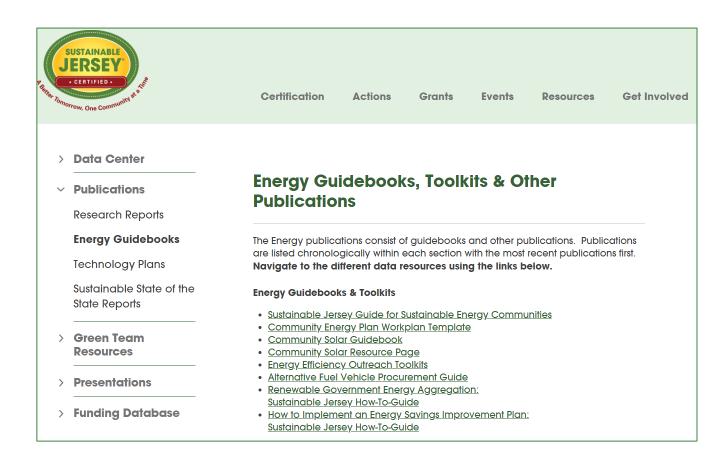
- Improve quality of life
  - Lower utility costs
  - Reduce transportation emissions
  - Create local jobs
- Create a Sustainable Energy Community





### Resources for Community Energy Planning

- Sustainable Jersey Data Center
- Sustainable Energy Communities
   Guide
- Community Energy Plan Workplan Template
- Community Energy Plan Guide



sustainablejersey.com/resources/publications/energy-guidebooks/



### sustainablejersey.com/resources/data-center/

Certification

Actions

Grants

Events

Resources

Get Ir

### Data Center

### Sustainable Jersey Data Resources

State Data Resources

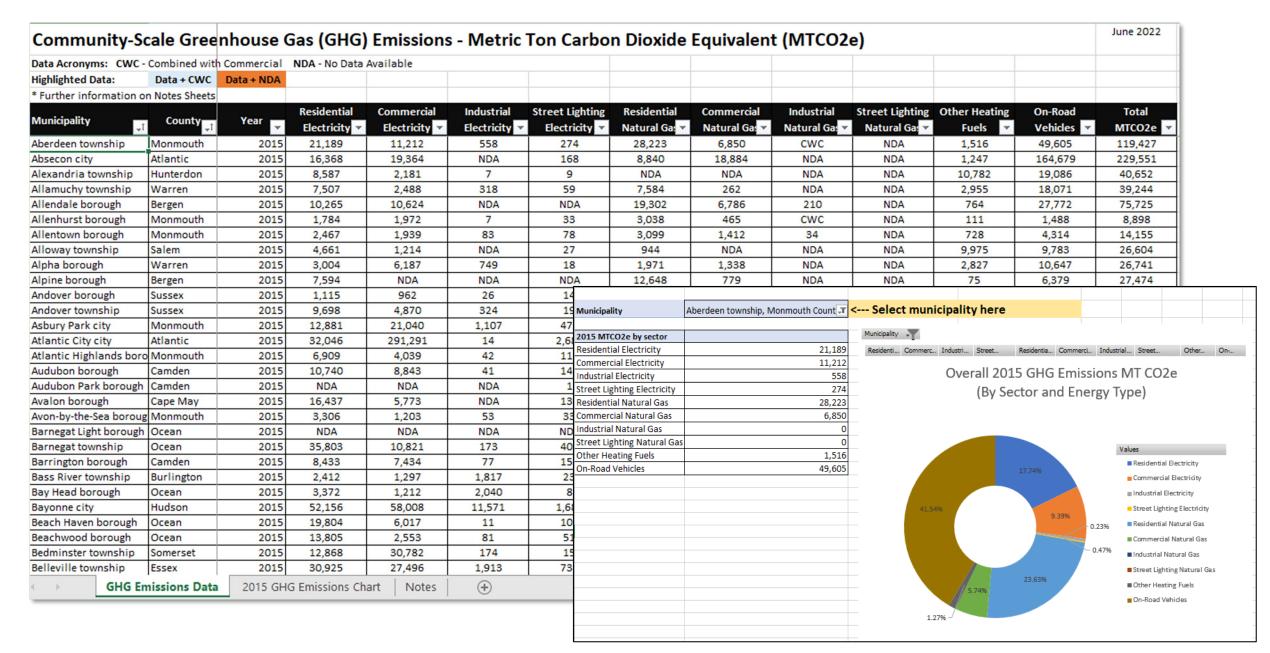
- > Publications
- > Green Team Resources
- > Presentations
- > Funding Database

### Sustainable Jersey Data Resources

The following resources are data files and interactive maps that Sustainable Jersey processes and prepares. Navigate to the different data resources using the links below.

#### **Municipal Data**

- Community Profile Data by Municipality
- Aggregated Community-Scale Utility Energy Data
- Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)/On-Road Vehicle GHG Emissions Data
- Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Data
- Electric Vehicle (EV) Ownership Data
- Solar Installation Data
- Energy Efficiency Program Participation (2008-2021)
- NJCEP Local Government Projects 2008-2021





Nancy Quirk
Senior Energy Program Manager
quirkn@tcnj.edu
609.771.2902

## Technical Assistance for Energy Initiatives

- Review current energy use
  - Utility billing data
  - Energy tracking
- Apply for utility and NJCEP incentives
- Fleet Inventory and Analysis/EV Adoption
- Submit for SJ certification points
- Community Energy Planning



## SJ-PSE&G Partnership Program



### Three tracks

- Technical Assistance (TA)
- Residential Energy Efficiency Outreach
   Campaign
- Commercial Energy Efficiency Outreach
   Campaign

### **Customized Outreach tools**

- Video
- Outreach campaign website
- PSE&G giveaways

- Robust TA and implementation support for upgrading municipal buildings
- Technical and financial support for community outreach campaigns
- Sustainable Jersey points

Sign up today at Booth # 103

## **New Jersey Community Solar Project Finder**

- Allows customers to search by zip code for projects serving their municipality
- Allows subscriber organizations to list and update community solar projects
- Provides overview and FAQs of community solar

Anticipated Launch in January 2023!

#### New Jersey Community Solar Project Finder

Enter your zip code to see a list of community solar projects that are available in your municipality.

Some zip codes may not overlap perfectly with municipal boundaries. Community solar project sign-ups are by municipality, please check the chart to verify your eligibility.

Community solar subscribers can only subscribe to a project located in their electric utility service territory.

#### Enter your zip code to see projects serving your community

Enter a value

to leave the

ngs change over

neth: 3 years

fee: None

Not sure what some of the terms included in the chart below mean? See the glossary of common community solar terms.

Project Name Electric Link to Subscriber Organization **Date Project Estimated Percent** Utility Municipalities Served by Project **Eligibility Requirements** Subscription Contract Terms Operational Customer Savings\* Service Project Website Project Description . Emerald City Solar projected to be Credit check required? NO All customers 20% Subscription contract length: 1 year Atlantic Emerald City, West more information operational Emerald City 02/25/2023 Subscriber Organization: Automated payment required LMI customers 25% Deposit or subscription fee: None Subscibex LLC (credit/debit card)? YES and sign up.



### New Jersey Community Solar Project Finder

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY

GERTIFIED.

GERTIFIED.

Enter your zip code to see a list of community solar projects that are available to residents in your zip code.

Find Community Solar
Projects Near You

Community Solar FAQ and Glossary

#### What is Community Solar?

Community solar is for anyone who wants to benefit from solar energy generation without installing panels directly on their roofs. This is an ideal opportunity for renters, homeowners with shaded roofs, or anyone else that is unable to install their own solar array on their property to participate and benefit from the generation of renewable energy.

A community solar project is a solar array whose energy generation is financially divided among multiple participating subscribers. As a subscriber, you will receive a financial credit on your utility bill for the portion of power generated by the array on your behalf. Separately, you will be responsible for paying a subscription fee to the community solar project. Community solar projects are designed so that your utility bill credit is larger than the subscription fee, meaning that you save money!



ngth: 2 years PSE&G Emerald City, South
Gotham

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Mayberry



## Resiliency

Anne Heasly Program Manager





### Climate Adaptation and Resilience

# Pursuant 2021 amendment to New Jersey's Municipal Land Use Law, Sustainable Jersey:

- Retired two actions in 2022
  - Climate Adaptation: Flood Risk
  - Coastal Vulnerability Assessment
- Updated 10 actions with new climate-focused resources
- Released new interim climate resilience planning guidance titled "Sustainability and Resiliency"
- Working closely with partners to develop more comprehensive local climate resilience planning guidance
- Developing Gold Star in Resilience

#### Sustainability and Resiliency:



Guidance on Creating Climate-Ready Communities

#### **PREFACE**

This guide presents 10 strategies that municipalities can implement to foster climate-resilient communities. These strategies are Sustainable Jersey "actions" that score points in the <u>municipal certification program</u>. These actions make sense to implement now - and will still be relevant in the future as a new, more comprehensive climate resilience framework is being developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. This guide goes beyond the traditional reactive mindset in emergency management and encourages municipalities to prepare for the worst of climate change impacts and adapt as seen necessary by the community as a whole.

Sustainable Jersey has numerous Emergency Management & Resiliency actions to help municipalities prepare for and respond to climate change. They address a variety of climate hazards, including sea level rise, increased precipitation, and extreme heat. These impacts damage infrastructure, overwhelm utility systems, and disrupt vital ecological and agricultural processes, which, as they progress in severity, will only increasingly impact New Jerseyans' everyday lives. Thus, communities are turning to these actions - now more than ever - as climate change progresses in the Garden State and around the world.

Municipalities stand at the forefront of climate change adaptation. New Jersey's Home Rule Act (1917) grants municipal governments authority to enact ordinances and regulations to promote and improve environmental public health. Municipalities are in charge of land use practices, stormwater management, and energy. They also possess the ability to address social inequality and create mechanisms that foster equitable and resilient communities.

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY ENVIRONMENT IN NEW JERSEY**

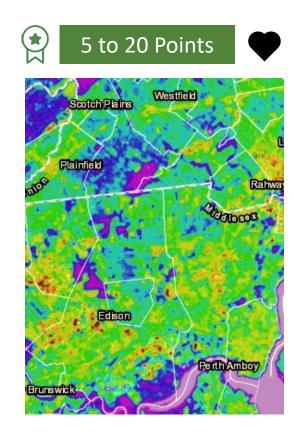
In 2020, Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 100 asking the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NIDEP) to begin a regulatory reform effort to help reduce greenhouse gas and other climate pollurant emissions while making the natural and built environments more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

On February 4, 2021, Governor Murphy signed into law P.L. 2021, c6, amending the Municipal Land Use Law, to require municipalities to incorporate a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment into any Master Plan Land Use Element. These assessments will need to analyze current and future threats associated with climate change-related natural hazards, including increased temperatures, drought, flooding, hurricanes and sea-level rice.



# Climate Adaptation and Resilience Heat Island Assessment and Mitigation Plan updates

- Update Sustainable Jersey Heat Map with July 2022 ortho-imagery
- Tiered point system allows a municipality to still obtain 10 points the previously received for doing assessment and mitigation plan:
  - Tier 1: Complete Assessment
  - Tier 2: Mitigation Plan
  - Tier 3: Implement one strategy from action plan, extra points if it relates to vulnerable population
- New climate change-focused resources





# Equity

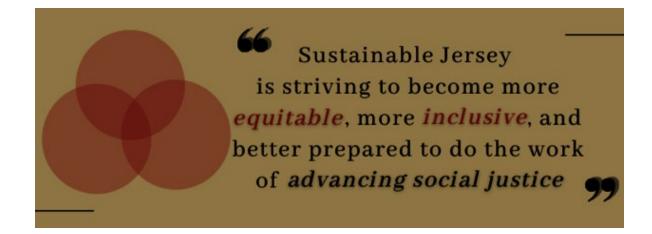
Melanie McDermott Senior Researcher





# Sustainable Jersey's Commitments to Advance Equity:

- Increase diversity among Board, staff & volunteers
- Develop actions to advance social equity & inclusion
- Provide training & support to municipalities to advance equity





## New: Community Equity Profile

Describe diversity of community with demographic data;

Describe neighborhood diversity with maps;

Identify vulnerable social groups;

Identify communications barriers, preferences & networks;

Report findings to municipal government.

Action under development: Municipal Action to Advance Equity



# FREE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ADVANCING EQUITY IN YOUR MUNICIPALITY



APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOV. 11, 2022 bit.ly/2022EquityTA

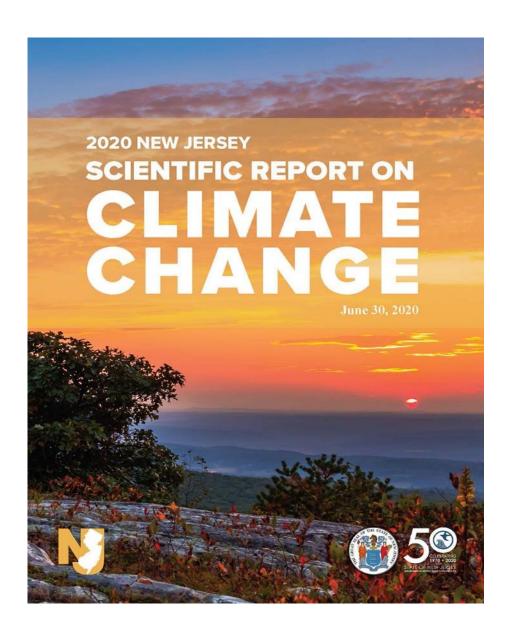
- One selected pilot municipality
  - Professional coach & Sustainable Jersey staff assist with:
    - Training
    - Equity profile action
    - Action or initiative using equity best practices to address local priorities



# Municipal and School Collaborations

Renee Haider Deputy Director

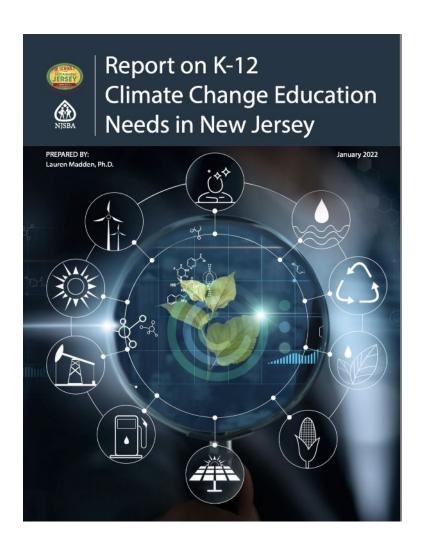




"If just 16% of high school students in middle- and high-income countries were educated about climate change, there would be a tremendous reduction of carbon emissions (nearly 20 gigatons) by 2050. Through education, not simply about climate change itself, but the "green skills" and habits of mind needed to address the effects of climate change, more sustainable future becomes possible."

Kwauk and Wintrop (2021)

### Community-Based Climate Change Education Critical



- Center climate change education and experiences on what is happening locally.
- New Jersey-specific effects of climate change and the local actions are more likely to make a lasting impact on students and motivate communities to commit to solution-building.

### Collaborators







- Municipal Boards & Commissions
- Non-Profits
- State Agencies (DEP, DOT, BPU)
- Colleges & Universities
- Residents & Businesses



Cooperative Extension

**RCE County Office Operating Status »** 







- Students in grades 6 12
- Teams of 2 12 students
- Complete a School or Community Project Addressing the Human Causes or Environmental Impacts of Climate Change
- Produce a Digital Story Video



School finalists awarded grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$500



### **Timeline**

- Teacher Registration Open Now
- March 31 –Submissions are Due
- Early May Finalists Announced
- Early June Awards Ceremony hosted by First Lady Tammy Murphy











# Tree-Planting Grants for Schools, Colleges, and Universities



NJ Department of Environmental Protection partnering with Sustainable Jersey to provide grants to public schools (K-12), colleges & universities for planting trees (planning & implementation)

#### Beneficial outcomes:

- Provide shade and habitat on school grounds
- Combat climate change
- Serve as a teaching tool and positive example







# Upcoming events



SJ-PSE&G Energy Efficiency Program: Information Session for Municipalities

December 7, 1:00pm – 2:30pm

2023 Sustainable Jersey Grants Cycle Funded by the PSEG Foundation Webinar December 8, 1:00pm – 2:00pm

**2023 Certification Webinar** 

**December 13, 12:00pm – 1:30pm** 

Save the Date! 2023 New Jersey Sustainability Summit May 5, 9:00am – 4:00pm



### Sustainable Jersey NJLM Sessions

Wednesday 11/16

**Community Energy Planning** 

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM, ROOM 421

**Set a Sustainable Path Towards Improving Your Community's Health** 

2:00 PM - 3:15 PM, ROOM 420

**Funding Electric Vehicle Initiatives** 

3:45 PM – 5:00 PM, ROOM 421

Thursday 11/17

Food Waste & Recovery: State & Local

**Progress** 

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM, ROOM 420

Funding & Technical Assistance for Brownfields

Redevelopment

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM, ROOM 421

**Climate Ready Communities** 

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM, ROOM 420



## Thank You!

- Stay updated on grants, technical assistance, events and program updates by joining our mailing list
- Questions? Visit our website <u>sustainablejersey.com</u> or contact us at <u>info@sustainablejersey.com</u> or 609-771-2938



Scan QR Code to sign up for our mailing list

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#### **Program Underwriters**











#### **Grant Program Underwriters**





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