Continuing Education Units | CEU's

To verify your attendance at this session **Scan in** at the BEGINNING and **Scan out** at the END

For your <u>PRINTED CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE</u>, follow the directions found in the "CEU Procedures" section of the printed Conference Program Book



Community
Engagement Strategies

November 14, 2023

New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference



Other questions, please consult the League Staff at the Information Booth on Level 2



Community Engagement Strategies

November 14, 2023

New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference





Improving Community Engagement through Sustainable Jersey Actions

Melanie McDermott Senior Researcher, Sustainable Jersey mcdermom@tcnj.edu



Levels of Engagement

- 1. Outreach
- Consultation
- 3. Involvement
- 4. Collaboration
- 5. Empowerment
 - -Shared leadership
 - -Community-driven

Inclusive, data-informed engagement strategies for municipalities

- Engagement of whom?
- Who makes up the community?
- Who participates in municipal programs/decisions, who isn't being heard & why?
- What channels & methods of communication would enable the inclusion of diverse groups?

Two SJ actions will help you get there...

Community Equity & Diversity Profile Part I: Demographics

- Describe community diversity with demographic data
- Describe neighborhood-level diversity with maps
- Identify social groups that are vulnerable, marginalized and/or with special communication needs

Pilot: Technical Assistance for Advancing Equity in Your Municipality

Introducing... Dunellen!

Population: 7,637





Demographic Data for Dunellen

Sustainable Jersey's Equity Profile Project
Presented by William Robins, Borough Administrator | Prepared by **Julie Grof** | April 15, 2023











Profile Categories

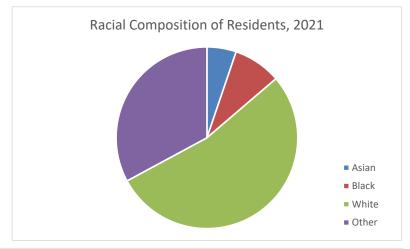
Age | Race and Ethnicity | Residents with a Disability | Income | Housing Tenure and Affordability | Language | Immigration Status | Country of Origin | Overburdened Communities | Environmental & Social Vulnerability | School Aged Children | And More



What is the racial composition of Dunellen's residents?

Percent of residents who identify as:

refeelt of residents who lacitally as.			
White	53.4%		
Black	8.5%		
Asian	5.2%		
Other	32.9%		



What is the ethnic composition of Dunellen's residents?

Percent of Dunellen **RESIDENTS** who identify as:

Hispanic or Latino of any race 42.8%

Not Hispanic or Latino

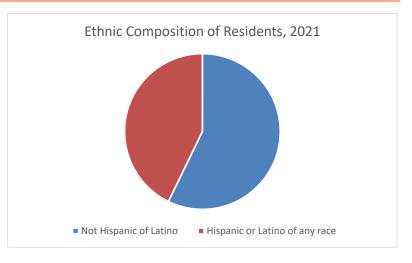
57.2%

Compare to Dunellen STUDENTS who identify as:

Hispanic 53.0%

Not Hispanic 47.0%

(Source: National Center for Education Statistics)





A Detailed View of Dunellen



Dunellen is in Census Tract 3, which is broken into 4 block groups.

- Block Group 1: largest population (30%) and the most housing units (29%); 35% of the population in block group 1 identifies as Hispanic or Latino
- Block Group 2: smallest population (20%) and the fewest housing units (22%); 31% of the population in block group 2 identifies as Hispanic or Latino
- Block Group 3: 25% of Dunellen's population, 26% of the housing units and 40% of block group 3's population identifies as Hispanic or Latino
- Block Group 4: 24% of the Borough's population, 23% of the housing units and 41% of block group 4's population identifies as Hispanic or Latino

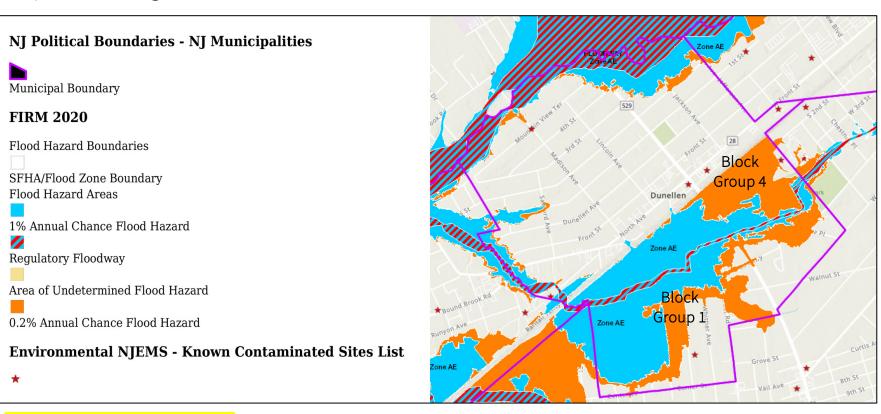
	Block Group 1	Block Group 2	Block Group 3	Block Group 4
Population	2,308	1,597	1,899	1,833
Housing Units	786	600	710	631
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	<mark>35%</mark>	<mark>31%</mark>	<mark>40%</mark>	<mark>41%</mark>

Source: US Census, 2020



Environmental Vulnerability

Map of Flooding and Contaminated Sites in Dunellen



Census Block Group 1

- Flood hazard area
- Block group with largest population in Dunellen
- Block group with most housing units in Dunellen
- 57% minority population
- 43% low income

Census Block Group 4

- Flood hazard area
- 64% minority population

Source: https://www.njfloodmapper.org/



And more...

DUNELLEN

Average life expectancy for:

• Dunellen 80.8 years

• New Jersey 80.5 years

Households without vehicle: 4% (110 households/2,508)

No computers in household: 7% (182/2,508 households)

No internet in household: 8% (216 /2,508 households)

Total homeless person: 1

Sources: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data-visualization/life-expectancy/index.html, https://monarchhousing.org/nj-counts/#1664828789385-ffcb6d03-b970, 2022, US Census

Thoughts?

- Did any of the data in this presentation surprise you?
- Is there anything missing that you feel is important?

Equity Profile Part II: Vulnerable Populations

- Identify 5 or more social groups that are vulnerable, marginalized, or have distinct communication needs.
- What communications networks and channels do they rely on?
- What barriers do they face communicating and engaging the municipality?
- Report results to governing body, public

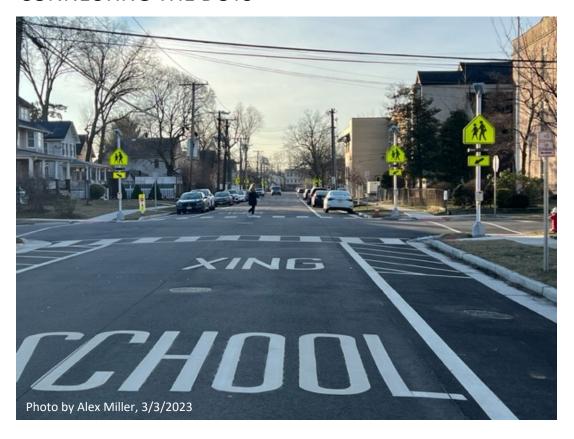
Municipal Communications

- Inventory municipal communication channels
- Identify potential channels/methods to reduce barriers and engage the whole community
- Develop & implement equitable communications strategy

Mayor Jason F. Cilento O: 732-882-4551 E: jcilento@dunellen-nj.gov FB: facebook.com/MayorCilento Instagram: @mayorcilento

Borough of DUNELLEN

CONNECTING THE DOTS





CONTENTS

- Mobilizing citizens
- Survey, assessing and planning for the future through citizen engagement
- Implementing public input
- Equity Profile & Communications Strategy
- Connecting the dots



Source: Citizenlab, Ilona Lodewickx, 9/10/2020, https://www.citizenlab.co/blog/civic-engagement/what-is-the-difference-between-citizen-engagement-and-participation/

MOBILIZING CITIZENS

Citizen engagement and participation have the same goal:

- improving public service deliveries and
- policy projects.

Officials must encourage citizens to:

- discuss,
- assess policies and
- contribute to projects.

For municipalities to be successful in community engagement, they must find means to:

integrate public input into its governanceordinances, policies, formation of committees, etc. –

Only then does engagement become formalized and TRUST IS BUILT

with the public to participate in public outreach.

2017 DUNELLEN Community Survey

a SNAPSHOT in TIME



Arts and culture are important to

QUALITY OF LIFE,

stated 83% of survey respondents.

OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

and participate in my community are important, stated 83% of survey respondents.

90% of survey respondents were

PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DUNELLEN COMMUNITY.

Sponsored by:



July 2018

By Julie Grof, AICP | Planning Consultant & DACC Commissioner

SURVEYING, ASSESSING & PLANNING

for the future through citizen engagement

2017 Dunellen Community Survey

by the Dunellen Arts and Culture Commission

2019 Dunellen Transit Hub Study

by Together North Jersey and the North Jersey

Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA)

2019 Downtown Revitalization Strategies for Dunellen, NJ

by the Redevelopment Studio at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning

and Public Policy with David Listokin, Ph.D.

2020 High Street to Madison Avenue

Walkable Community Workshop

by NJTPA, Sustainable Jersey and the Alan M.

Voorhees Transportation Center

2021 Downtown Visual Preference Survey

by DMR Architects

2021-2022 Analysis of Murals as an Arts and Economic Revitalization

Strategy

By the Mural Studio at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy with David Listokin, Ph.D. and

Mason Gross School of the Arts with Raul Ayala

2023 Dunellen Master Plan Re-Examination and

Climate Resiliency Plan

by DMR Architects

2023/24 Equity Profile and Communications Strategy





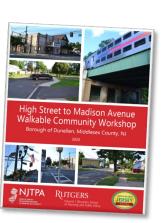


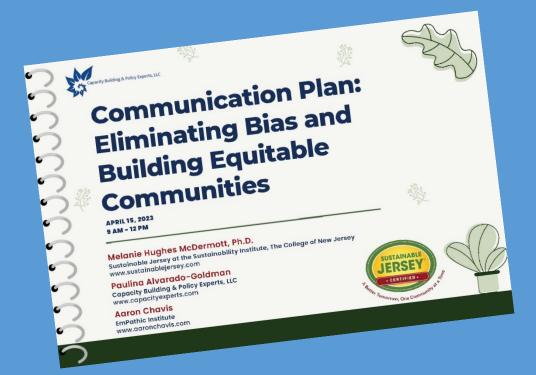
IMPLEMENTING PUBLIC INPUT

Support walking and bicycling in the community and improve safety for walkers and bicyclists:

- Enhanced striping
- Better signage
- Bike lanes and sharrows
- Rapid flashing beacon lights at key pedestrian crosswalks
- Coordinated in conjunction with road improvements







EQUITY PROFILE &

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

with Sustainable Jersey

Dunellen has engaged in a communication planning process that has INTEGRATED EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE PRACTICES with the goals of increasing community participation and building community trust.

The process included:

- Workshops,
- Focus groups,
- Surveys,
- · Webinars, and
- Coaching sessions.





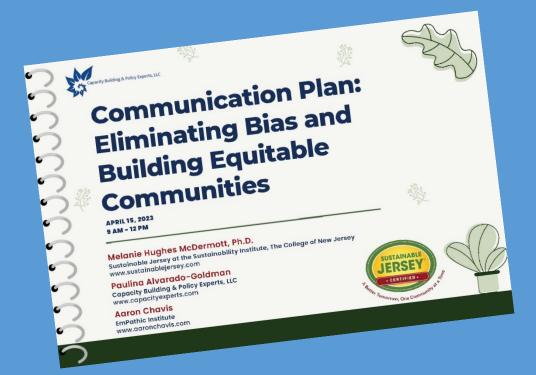
EQUITY PROFILE &

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

with Sustainable Jersey

Based on information from the Sustainable Jersey Equity Profile, five of the MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS in Dunellen were identified:

- People with disabilities,
- Residents living below the poverty level,
- Spanish speaking population,
- Senior citizens, and
- Adults ages 30 and younger.



EQUITY PROFILE &

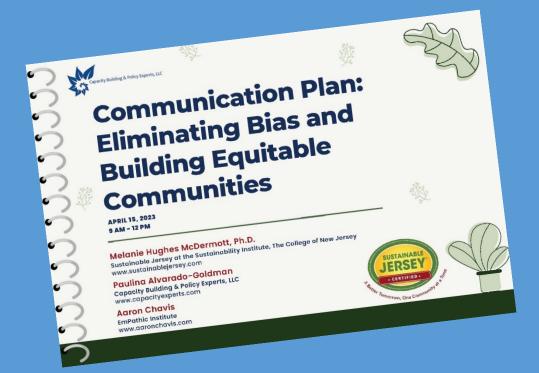
COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

with Sustainable Jersey

The process has been VALUES-DRIVEN with the below principles in mind. These are the stepping stones to building a robust democratic process:

- a. Transparency,
- b. Multiculturalism,
- Inclusivity that includes racial minorities and groups beyond race,
- d. Building trust in government,
- e. Good governance,
- f. Accountability,
- g. Equity,
- h. Empowerment and Self-Advocacy,
- i. Honesty, and
- i. Balance old and new traditions.

These values then serve as the foundation for the 3 pillars of the Dunellen dream: 1) building relationships, 2) embracing small town vibes, and 3) innovation.



EQUITY PROFILE &

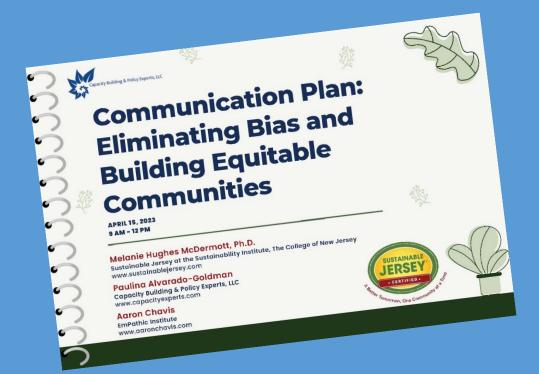
COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

with Sustainable Jersey

Dunellen ENGAGED COMMUNITY MEMBERS, COUNCIL

MEMBERS, AND DUNELLEN EMPLOYEES in the development of
this plan, which is still unfolding. As part of this process, Dunellen
has:

- Identified potential biases that they may hold,
- Explored intersectionality and how policies, situations,
 and experiences can impact communities differently,
- Has conducted an inventory of existing communication sources to help in the planning process, and
- Created an inventory of the existing Dunellen population and different community needs.



EQUITY PROFILE &

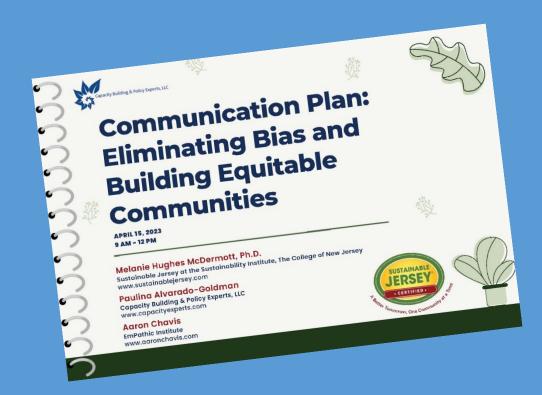
COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

with Sustainable Jersey

Dunellen is triaging its PRIORITIES based on the following criteria:

- a. Community need,
- b. Logistical realities,
- c. Administrative realities,
- d. Financial realities,
- e. Capacity,
- f. Impact on workflow,
- g. Available resources, and
- Impact on varying communities.

An implementation timeline will then be developed accordingly that will take into consideration the steps that need to be carried out in the planning, start-up, rollout out, implementation, and monitoring phases of each priority that is identified.

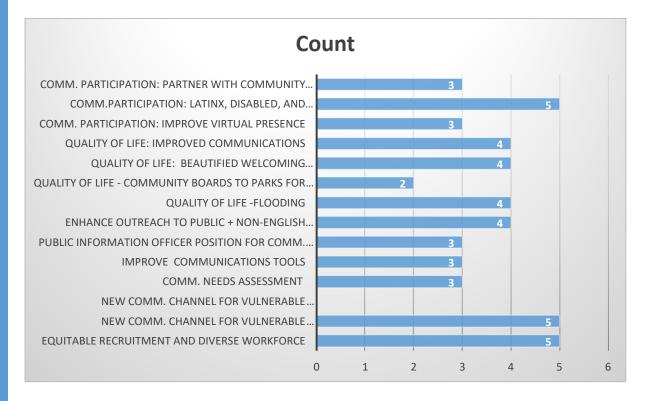


EQUITY PROFILE &

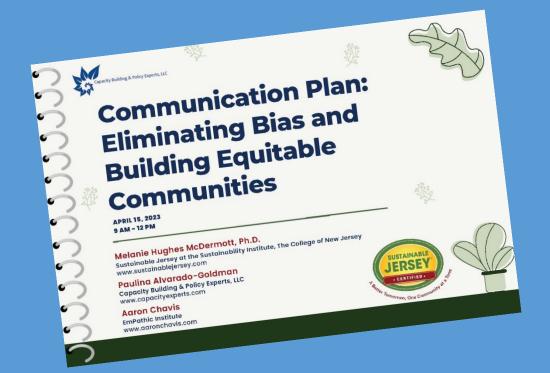
COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

with Sustainable Jersey

A survey has been disseminated to the participants of the working group and the following top-ten priorities have been identified:



^{*} This survey is still collecting data so the results will change.



EQUITY PROFILE &

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

with Sustainable Jersey

The ultimate PRIORITIES will be selected based on:

- · Values alignment,
- Urgency,
- Impact on vulnerable communities and identified populations,
- Facility of operationalization, and
- Impact on community as a whole.



EQUITY PROFILE &

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

with Sustainable Jersey

Next Steps

Final coaching session

Decisions – What will Dunellen have to consider in order to implement communication plan:

- Prioritize the priorities
- Assign money and staff to these potential initiatives
- Perform outreach to ask how vulnerable groups would like to receive information and participate
- How will this draft plan be shared with the community and how can the public provide feedback
- Establish qualitative performance outcomes of plan

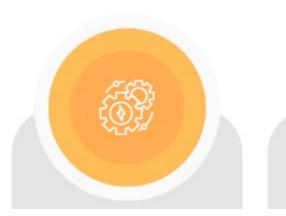


Mayor Jason F. Cilento, Borough of Dunellen

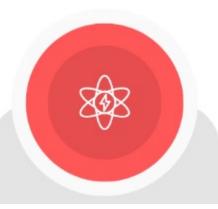
O: 732-882-4551 | E: jcilento@dunellen-nj.gov FB: facebook.com/MayorCilento | Instagram: @mayorcilento Final thoughts on how to be successful

CONNECTING THE DOTS

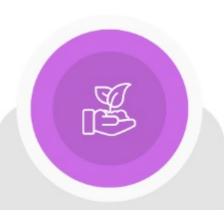
- If you want to engage a broader public, you need to identify who has been missing out and target your engagement strategy to include them.
- Know your community.
- Prepare for your strategy to be a living document and to periodically evaluate and reassess.
- Do not take for granted FREE advice from technical assistance grants.











Community Engagement Strategies for Effective and Inclusive Outreach

Kristy Ranieri

- 14+ years Communications Consultant for Sustainable Jersey
- 25+ years of experience that includes public outreach and public involvement, strategic communications, media relations, education and awareness campaigns and stakeholder management for complex, multi-agency programs
- 45+ projects involving public engagement, environmental analysis or a combination, including 10 environmental studies involving the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and led public participation programs across the country
- 16 years as a Maplewood Township Green Team Member



Start with a Plan



Engagement and Communication Plan

- What are your objectives?
- Who are your priority audiences?
- Where can those audiences be found and engaged?
- Which forms of communication best reach your target audiences?
- What type of outreach will provide meaningful input?



Audience: Traditionally Underrepresented Communities

Title VI of Civil Rights Act

- Minority
- Place of Birth

Environmental Justice - Executive Order 12898

- Low Income
- Minority

Additional Civil Rights Considerations

- Limited English Proficiency
- Age Population 65 years and older; young people
- People with Disabilities

Equity Factors

- Education
- Zero-Vehicle Households
- Digital Divide



Build Stakeholder List; Include Nontraditional Groups

Social Service Agencies/Partners

- Social Services
- Social Security Administration
- Veterans Administration
- HeadStart
- HUD certified housing counselors
- SNAP
- Child and Adult Care Food Program

Key Employers/Businesses/Business Associations

- Large and small businesses
- Health Systems
- Hospitals
- Supermarkets
- Business associations

Environmental/Social Justice

Advocates

- Green Teams/Environmental Commissions
- Faith Groups
- Catholic Charities
- Jewish Family Services
- Refugee Services

Other Partners/Stakeholders

- Tribal nations
- Local elected officials, particularly in underserved communities
- Higher education institutions
- Technical colleges
- Military installations



Audiences

Strategies for Effective and Inclusive Outreach

- Make it easy to participate
- Provide opportunities for constructive dialogue and communication
- Provide timely, easy-to-understand information to encourage informed comments
- Leverage communications resources
- Provide multiple ways to obtain information and provide comments
- Ensure stakeholders are aware of the planning process or campaign
- Show how community input will be used



Challenges to Engaging Underrepresented Communities

Barriers

- Cultural
- Language
- Mobility and Other Disabilities
- Economic/Income
- Lack of trust; distrust of government

Bottlenecks

- Complex, technical decisions
- Lack of time
- Capacity to get involved



Effective and Inclusive Outreach Tactics

Reach people where they live, work, learn, play and pray





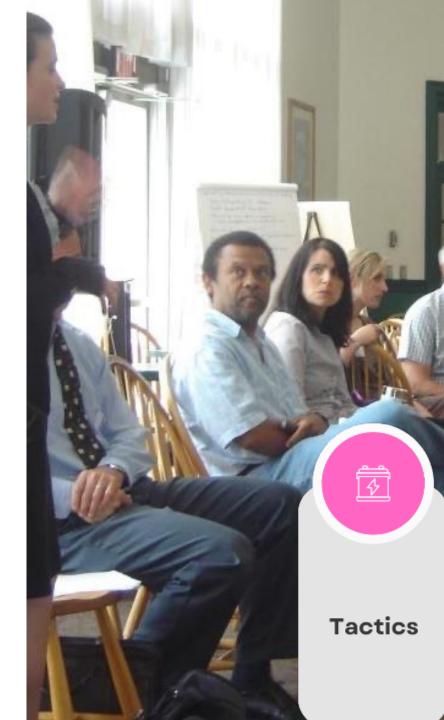
Bridge Cultural, Economic and Linguistic Differences to Enhance Engagement

Activate Local Champions: Trusted Voices

- Local community-based organizations and leaders who understand the needs and resources of local population
- Partner with faith groups/large places of worship

Events in Underserved Areas to Reach Wide and Diverse Audience

- Tabling at shopping malls, street fairs, farmers markets and libraries
- Door-to-door canvassing
- Convene community advisory boards
- Outreach at sporting events; soccer and football games



Effective and Inclusive Communication Tactics





Effective and Inclusive Communication Tactics

- Advertise in multicultural media
- Materials on public transit
- Post fliers in high-traffic community locations; hair salons, laundromats, barber shops and faith-based organizations
- Social media/information in languages
- Sharing Toolkits: Talking points, testimonials, videos, social media



Community Testimonials





Be Part of the Solution

#NJStudentClimateChallenge #WhyIParticipate

"I believe that young people are the answer to facing the climate crisis, but change can only be made with resiliency and cooperation. I want to continue to learn more from the climate advocates around me, especially those from disadvantaged communities that face the brunt of climate change."

-- Rhythm Chaudhary Co-Chair, NJ Student Climate Advocates





"Because young folx particularly black, indigenous, and people of color—are being left out of the conversations about the "environment" that disproportionately negatively impacts their lives. I participate to inspire and TO BE INSPIRED."

--MEISHKA L. MITCHELL, AICP, PP VICE PRESIDENT COOPER'S FERRY PARTNERSHIP



Be Part of the Solution

#NJStudentClimateChallenge #WhyIParticipate



"I would love to get to know other students interested in sustainability better and also learn about all the amazing initiatives students across the state are involved in."

-Joyce Mo, B.S.E., Chemical and Biological Engineering, Princeton University Class of 2024

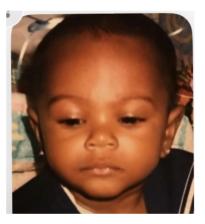


Messaging

- Make it personal: Why should I care?
- Appeal to health, family, safety, cost savings
- Keep it simple.
- Don't just translate. Create message rooted in the target audience's culture, language and values
- Nearly 1/3 of NJ residents speak a language other than English at home



How Operation Grow Inc. Engages Underrepresented Voices Environmental Sustainability Meets EJ and the SDGs



By Sharonda Allen, MPA Founder and Executive Director of Operation Grow Inc.



2023 New Jersey League of Municipalities 108th Annual Conference

A little about Environmental me....

- Bachelor's Degree in Sociology with a Minor in Africana Studies
- Masters Degree in Public Administration
- Certified Educator: K-8 Elementary, Social Studies K-12, and Supervisor's Certifications
- NJ Audubon Teacher of Ecology
- Rutgers Environmental Steward, Class of 2023
- Certified Rutgers Green Infrastructure Champion
- Certified Kid Wind ReCharge Educator

- Chapter Co-Chair of the Greater NJ Gateway Climate Reality Project
- Committee Member for NJPEEC
- EJ Committee Co-Chair for Tri-County Sustainability
- Member of NJ Green Faith Circle
- Member of Extinction Rebellion NYC
- Author, Curriculum and Grant
 Writer

Operation Grow Inc.

Mission: Improve Quality of Life, Build Economic Prosperity,

Develop Good Citizenship, and Foster Environmental Stewardship

through Human, Economic, Social, and Environmental Sustainability.

Vision: A Pipeline to Progress, Productivity, and Prosperity



OPERATION: Grow, Inc.











When engaging Underrepresented groups, Authenticity is key!

Why are you concerned about this issue?

Are you sincere about the impact or only preoccupied with photo ops?

Do you have a Paternalistic view of Underrepresented groups?

Are you cognizant of the Historical, malicious Laws, Policies, and Practices that facilitated the current status of Underrepresented groups?

Are you cognizant of Benign Neglect?

Environmental Sustainability



<u>Environmental Sustainability for Operation Grow</u> <u>Inc.:</u>

To maintain the Natural world, resources, and the proper utilization of the environment to prolong the life of Earth and its inhabitants to inspire Environmental Stewardship; including Recycling, Conservation (Energy, Land, Water, Air Quality), Green Technology, Gardening, Horticulture, Agriculture, Hydroponics and Aquaponics, Geography, Science, STEAM, Consumption of resources, Halt and reduce pollution, Better land utilization, Better waste management (Composting), Scientific research, Eco Action, Species preservation, Energy efficiency, Animal and pet care/preservation, Climate Change/Action, and Alternative Energy.

Environmental Justice





Defined as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

www.epa.gov

"All New Jersey residents, regardless of income, race, ethnicity, color, or national origin, have a right to live, work, and recreate in a clean and healthy environment."

www.dep.nj.gov

We do our part at Operation Grow Inc.!











The Climate Reality Project®

GREATER NEW JERSEY GATEWAY CHAPTER



A PROJECT OF ICIVICS













Unite in Service. Never Forget.

Activities and Events

Our impact on Human Sustainability:

- · Food Sovereignty
- · Food Distribution
- · Parenting and Adulting Education
- · Literacy and Social/Emotional Learning
- · Health, Nutrition, and Wellness
- Housing Advocacy

Our Impact on Economic Sustainability:

- · College and Career Prep Program
- · Financial Literacy
- · Workforce Development and Readiness
- Green/Clean Jobs
- · Financial Juneteenth Initiative













Our Impact on Environmental Sustainability:

Urban Farming and Agriculture

Our Impact on Social Sustainability:

- Climate Justice, Action, and Advocacy
- City Clean Ups
- STEAM

Civics

· Social Justice

- · Green Initiatives
- Environmental Justice







National Day of Service Parkside Family Garden Day Theme: Addressing Food Insecurity SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023 1PM TO 4 PM 25 PARKSIDE STREET SOMERSET, NJ NEXT TO THE GARDEN SPACE FREE FOOD, ARTS & CRAFTS, LEARNING ACTIVITIES, FOOD INFORMATION, SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES, GARDEN BED SIGN-UP, EARN COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS. AND FUN FOR ALL AGES SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP! (ALTHOUGH SIGN UP IS NOT REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE, WE WOULD LIKE TO BRING ENOUGH FOOD AND SUPPLIES FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS) SPONSORED BY DIMENSION RENEWABLE ENERGY, ATTENTIVE ENERGY, AND TRADER JOE'S

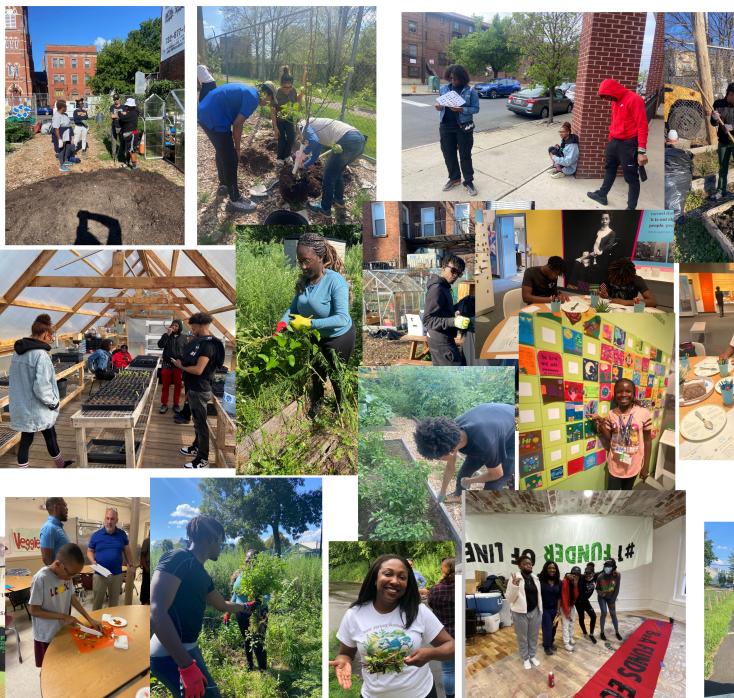
Unite in Service, Never Forget,

MULTIPLYINGGOOD

Our Environmental Impact:











NJ DEP and other legal requirements

NJ EJ Law Chapter 92

...Concerning the disproportionate environmental and public health impacts of pollution on overburdened communities and supplementing Title 13 of the Revised Statute...

October 18, 2023, the NJ Attorney General Matthew Platkin announced that he, the NJDEP, & the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs has filed a Lawsuit to hold Multi-National Oil and Gas Companies accountable for unlawfully deceiving consumers of the harm that their dishonesty has caused to the people of New Jersey... "Fossil Fuels cause Climate Change."

In compliance with the Municipal Land Use Law, passed and signed on February 4, 2021 (law P.L2021,c6) by Governor Phil Murphy, requiring municipalities to incorporate a climate risk plan and policy of best practices for a robust climate resiliency strategy.

Facilitate the right organizations to empower Community members to solve problems in Environmental Justice Communities.

Thank You!

HTTPS://www.operationgrowinc.org

Follow us on our socials!





Human

Economic

Social

Environmental

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainable Jersey Sessions - New Jersey League of Municipalities

THINK OUTSIDE THE BIN: NON-MANDATED RECYCLING INITIATIVES

Wednesday, 11/15, 2:00pm – 3:15pm, Room 421

POWER SURGE: SPARKING SUCCESS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Wednesday, 11/15, 3:45pm - 5:00pm, Room 421

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY PROGRAM UPDATE

Wednesday, 11/15, 9:00am – 10:15am, Room 420

WHAT'S NEW IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS

Wednesday, 11/15, 10:45am – 12:00pm, Room 421

INVESTING IN ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION: TEST IDEAS, FIND FUNDING

Wednesday, 11/15, 2:00pm – 3:15pm, Room 420

PLANNING FOR LOCAL RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Thursday, 11/16 9:00am – 10:15am, Room 420

TREE STEWARDSHIP IMPROVES COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Thursday, 11/16 10:45am – 12:00pm, Room 421

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT: MAP, MONITOR AND MAINTAIN

Thursday, 11/16 2:00pm – 3:15pm, Room 420

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