

2020 NEW JERSEY

# SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT



## SUSTAINABILITY SESSIONS: 10:45 – 12:00pm

### AMPLIFYING SUSTAINABILITY NEWS: LOCALLY AND BEYOND SJ, SJS

Rising average temperatures, water, air and soil degradation, food waste, bio-diversity loss; these and other sustainability topics are the critical issues of our times. How can we ensure NJ's efforts to reverse these trends and get the news coverage they deserve? Learn about a ground-breaking collaborative project to amplify NJ sustainability news and what you can do to highlight your most newsworthy initiatives! Our colleagues at the NJ Sustainability Reporting Hub will discuss best practices for getting coverage of your green team's accomplishments locally, state-wide and beyond.

### GROWING TOGETHER: STRATEGIES FOR A SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY GARDEN SJ, SJS

School and community gardens are among the most popular actions both the Sustainable Jersey and Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification programs. Hear about some of the successful, innovative, people-powered gardens across the state. Learn about funding opportunities and common pitfalls on the road to maintaining a successful school or community garden.

### ADVANCING THE PLASTICS POLLUTION SOLUTION SJ

Plastics are pervasive in our environment, causing negative impacts to fish and wildlife, and now entering and being passed along the food chain into humans. While the jury is out on health effects on humans, society has recognized the threat of plastics and the world is taking action. This session will focus on the problem posed by the proliferation of plastics, look at the current status of single-use plastics bans in New Jersey and nationally, and review broader public policy options for ending our reliance on plastics.

### ADDING ELECTRIC VEHICLES TO YOUR MUNICIPAL FLEET AND COMMUNITY SJ, SJS

Municipalities play an important role in supporting the transition to electric vehicles (EVs). This session includes best practices for procuring EVs for municipal fleets, technical support for installing EV charging stations, crafting EV ordinances, and creating public awareness of EVs.

## SUSTAINABILITY SESSIONS: 1:15 – 2:30pm

### SMALL BUT MIGHTY: CAPACITY BUILDING STRATEGIES FOR SMALL TOWNS SJ

Just because your town is small, it doesn't mean it can't succeed in achieving certification. Sustainable Jersey staff, resource providers, and certified small town green teams will share strategies to help your town achieve certification.

### SUSTAINABLE ORGANIC MATERIAL MANAGEMENT PLANNING SJ, SJS

New Jersey has had mandatory recycling for 33 years dating back to 1987. Studies have shown that the single largest material remaining in the homeowner garbage can after mandatory recycling is food (about 25% to be exact). While New Jersey is the second most affluent state in the country in terms of median family income, 11% of our general population and 15% of kids under the age of 18 are underserved in the most basic provision of food. Much has happened over the past several years toward feeding hungry people and toward advancing sustainable organic material management. This session will focus on food waste reduction planning

in New Jersey, backyard composting, maximizing the use of community gardens and higher technology commercial composting systems.

### **WATER CHALLENGES, HABs AND MORE: A MUNICIPAL FRAMEWORK FOR WATER IMPROVEMENT** SJ

Learn about Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs) and the impact of climate change on our water resources. This session will explain what green teams can do to improve water quality, water supply and the enjoyment of water resources by employing the growing suite of actions and best practices found in the latest Sustainable Jersey Gold Star Standard for Water. Use your new water know-how to target and address your local water issues.

### **SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITIES** SJ, SJS

Local communities can advance energy sustainability in a myriad of ways, including best practices from New Jersey's Energy Master Plan, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)'s City Clean Energy Scorecard, Urban Sustainability Directors Network's High Impact Practices and Sustainable Jersey's Gold Star Standard in Energy. Case studies will illustrate high impact strategies and how to implement them using Sustainable Jersey actions.

## **SUSTAINABILITY SESSIONS: 3:00 – 4:15pm**

### **EXPANDING BOUNDARIES: THE MUNICIPAL ROLE IN NURTURING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES** SJ

How do everyday decisions that municipalities make about land use, accessible and safe streets, housing quality, lead contamination, remediating brownfields, and other elements of sustainability influence the health status of its residents? Learn how Sustainable Jersey is linking population health at the community level to our certification program. We will highlight the forthcoming new Gold Star Standard in Health and case studies successfully addressing these issues in New Jersey.

### **THE COMPLETE STREETS DOCTOR IS "IN"** SJ

Come find the cure for what ails your town's roads – learn how to make the streets in your community safer and greener. This session will provide tools and strategies for green teams interested in using a new model New Jersey Department of Transportation Complete Streets policy as a guide to updating an existing municipal complete streets policy or adopting one for the first time. The new model policy served as the framework for updating the Sustainable Jersey Complete Streets action. Discover how to advance meaningful complete streets policies that incorporate best practice in green infrastructure, local economy, health, equity and fairness in transportation expenditures. Topics will include how the new policy is changing the process by requiring project checklists, evaluating benchmarks, and providing meaningful public engagement.

### **ENACTING EQUITY: STRATEGIES FOR ADDRESSING INSTITUTIONAL BIAS** SJ

Participate in an interactive workshop that introduces the new Sustainable Jersey action: Building Municipal Capacity to Recognize Organizational Bias and Promote Equity and Inclusion. This workshop will guide participants on similar first steps as in the action: understanding and recognizing the existence of various forms of individual and institutional bias based upon race, gender, age, (dis)ability, or other forms of social difference. This will be followed by a feedback session and discussion of how the new action could help build shared understanding to assess bias, prevent and manage bias-related crises, institutionalize bias-free policies and practices, and advance on the journey to inclusive and equitable local governments.

### **GRANTS ROUNDTABLE: FUNDING SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES** SJ, SJS

Does your municipality have a wish list of projects but needs funding to complete them? Is your green team recently formed and beginning to work on its first initiatives and could use some support? Learn how the Sustainable Jersey Grant Program provides funding for municipal and school green team sustainability initiatives. Sustainable Jersey grant recipients will also share projects that addressed a need, enhanced the community, and contributed toward Sustainable Jersey certification.