

2021 NEW JERSEY SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT



SJS = session has schools related content | **SJ** = content relates to municipal certification program

MONDAY, MAY 17

1:00 – 2:00PM - A LOOK AT WHERE WE ARE AND THE ROAD AHEAD SJ, SJS

Join us as we kick off the 2021 NJ Sustainability Summit with an overview of Sustainable Jersey's strategic priorities and new program components, including new actions, certification tiers, training and networking opportunities, and technical assistance and grants. Register for this opening session [here](#).

Randall Solomon, Executive Director, Sustainable Jersey • Renee Haider, Deputy Director, Sustainable Jersey

2:30 – 3:45PM - GET THE LEAD OUT! SJ

Learn about new, upgraded and forthcoming actions and strategies your community can implement to reduce harmful lead exposure, prevent childhood lead poisoning and promote healthy homes. Register for this panel discussion [here](#).

Chris Hellwig, Health Officer, Hamilton Township • Elyse Pivnick, Senior Director of Environmental Health, Isles • Jael Davis, Program Manager, Lead-Free NJ • Julia Taylor, Senior Director of Programs & Partnerships, Trenton Health Team • Kelvin Boddy, Community-building Coordinator, Housing & Community Development Network of New Jersey • Melanie McDermott, Senior Researcher, Sustainable Jersey

4:00 – 5:00PM - GREEN TEAM MIXER SJ, SJS

An opportunity to virtually mingle with other green teamers, environmental commission members, municipal and school leaders, and sustainability enthusiasts from around the state. Learn about initiatives from other communities that you can bring back to your own. Make connections to help advance your own sustainability projects. Be ready to share! Participants will be put into small, rotating, 8-minute breakout groups. Register to join this networking opportunity [here](#).

7:00 – 8:15PM - SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS SHOWCASE SJ, SJS

Learn from municipalities and schools at the forefront of sustainability. 2020 award winners will share highlights from last year's certification applications. Grab some tips to take back to your own community! Register for this panel discussion [here](#).

Island Heights: Tanara Hall, Member, Green Team and Environmental Committee • Ramtown Elementary School: Albert J. Bohrer, Principal; Stephen Rao, Teacher • Raritan High School: Joseph Annibale, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Andrew Piotrowski, Principal; Mike Miller, Supervisor of Science; Kevin Cable, Biology Teacher/Environmental Club Advisor • Winslow Township Middle School: Stella Nwanguma, Principal; Portia Kiett, Green Team Chair/7th Grade Science Teacher; Michael Weppler, Green Team Committee Chair/7th Grade Math Teacher; Ross Cruz, Green Team Committee Chair/Environmental STEM Teacher; Jessica Glatz, Green Team Committee Chair/Graphic Arts Teacher • Woodbridge Township: Thomas Flynn, Floodplain Manager, Division of Engineering • Madison Borough representative TBA

TUESDAY, MAY 18

10:00 – 11:15AM - EDUCATION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE: A NONPARTISAN PRIMER SJ, SJS

Beginning in September 2021, Climate Change Education will be a required component of the NJ Student Learning Standards. Educators will need to have a foundational knowledge of climate change in order to effectively integrate climate change education into a wide variety of subjects. Join us for a nonpartisan presentation from [C-Change Conversations](#) as we talk climate change facts, immediate needs and hope for the future. C-Change has given this informative climate change primer presentation over 10,000 times in over 29 states. Whether you're an educator, board member, parent, local leader or green team member you'll take away something new to help bridge the partisan gap in this issue and feel more confident in your understanding of this pressing challenge. Register for this panel discussion [here](#).

Kathleen Biggins, Founder & President, C-Change Conversations

11:30 – 1:00PM - CHALLENGING IMPLICIT BIAS: EXPLORING THE WAY FORWARD SJ, SJS

Engage in an interactive, guided discussion of implicit bias as it may show up in your municipality or school. This session will use a participatory approach to explore how local governments and communities may be affected by individual and institutional bias, reflecting assumptions based on race, gender, sexual orientation, ability, immigration status or other perceived identities. What are the challenges in your locality, and what ideas can we collectively generate on the way forward to an equitable, bias-free future? This session is co-sponsored with the [Health Equity Initiative](#). Space is limited. Register for this coaching opportunity [here](#).

Melanie McDermott, Senior Researcher, Sustainable Jersey • Renata Schiavo, Founder and President of Board of Directors, Health Equity Initiative and Senior Lecturer, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University • Tina Wong

1:00 – 1:45PM - ENHANCE COMMUNITY WATER RESOURCES THROUGH WATER GOLD SJ

Faced with a range of concerns around water – its quality, quantity and use - what can municipalities do? Sustainable Jersey's newest Gold Star Standard in Water is our latest approach to assist you to understand and identify water issues in your community and develop a game plan to address them. Learn about updates to existing water-related actions, as well as new guidance, to address some of your municipality's most pressing issues including stormwater runoff, flooding, poor water quality in streams and rivers, and clean drinking water while working toward Water Gold. Register for this short talk [here](#).

Anne Heasley, Program Manager for Policy and Planning, Sustainable Jersey

3:00 – 4:00PM - GREEN BIZ SPEED NETWORKING: ENERGY SJ, SJS

Municipalities and schools need a wide range of energy services, such as building efficiency, energy consulting, renewable government energy aggregation, electric vehicle charging, municipal & school fleet analysis, and more. Relevant vendors will make a short pitch and have a chatroom available for follow up. Register for this vendor networking event [here](#).

7:30 – 9:00PM - TRIVIA NIGHT SJ, SJS

Get together with others from across the Sustainable Jersey community for a fun night of trivia. Bragging rights to the winning team! Hosted by "Gentleman" Jim Norton - the THIRD best trivia host in North America. Register to join this fun-filled experience [here](#).

Gentleman Jim Norton, Host, Trivia Hubhub

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

11:30 – 12:30PM - GREEN BIZ SPEED NETWORKING: GREEN PRODUCTS & SERVICES SJ, SJS

Whether a municipality or school is looking for a better bargain on green cleaning products, recycled paper products, or the latest tech products to green your operations, this session introduces you to some innovative companies looking to satisfy your community's needs. Register for this vendor networking event [here](#).

1:00 – 2:15PM - BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE WORKPLACE CULTURE SJ, SJS

Hillsborough Township leads Somerset County municipalities in the number of times it has achieved certification and is second statewide. It has successfully applied for certification in eight of the last nine years steadily increasing its points totals from 215 points to 645 in 2020. Learn how they achieved this level of success by setting goals, educating staff, empowering and recognizing employees for their contributions. Township staff and volunteers will share insights from their journey and discuss their plans for the future. Register for this panel discussion [here](#).

Anthony Ferrera, Township Administrator • David Kois, PP, AICP, Business Advocate & Sustainability Director • Mike Carr, Director of Environmental Programs & Recycling Coordinator • Pamela Borek, Township Clerk • Rich Resavy, Director of Public Works

2:30 – 3:30PM - THE COMPLETE & GREEN STREETS DOCTOR IS "IN" SJ

Come find the cure for what ails your town's roads. Tap the experts to learn how to make the streets in your community safer and greener. This coaching session will provide tools and strategies for green teams interested in using a new model New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Complete and Green Streets for All policy as a guide to updating an existing municipal complete streets policy or adopting one for the first time. This new NJDOT model policy served as the framework for updating Sustainable Jersey's Complete and Green Streets for All Policy and Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Improvement Projects actions. Bring your existing complete streets policy or questions about how to adopt one and join us in an informal discussion on how to advance meaningful policies that incorporate best practice in green infrastructure, local economy, health, equity and fairness in transportation expenditures. Register for this coaching opportunity [here](#).

Anne Heasly, Program Manager for Policy and Planning, Sustainable Jersey • Kandyce Perry, Director of Stormwater, New Jersey Future • Leigh Ann Von Hagen, PP, AICP, Senior Researcher & Adjunct Professor, Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center

3:30 – 4:15PM - CLIMATE INTERPRETER: BEST PRACTICES FOR TALKING ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE SJ, SJS

Meet NNOCCI, the [National Network of Ocean & Climate Change Interpretation](#). NNOCCI is a network of individuals and organizations in informal education, the social sciences, and climate sciences working in 184 institutions in 38 states. Learn about the Climate Interpreter training program, an evidence based communication training program that empowers climate communicators to engage in public discourse that is positive, civic minded and solutions focused. Register for this short talk [here](#).

Cassie Klein and Dave Grant, Membership Committee, National Network of Ocean & Climate Change Interpretation

4:30 – 5:30PM - IDEA GENERATING HAPPY HOUR SJ, SJS

Join us for an informal "happy hour" and opportunity to network with peers. Share what has been working for your municipal or school green team. Ask for advice or bounce ideas off of colleagues. How has your team been addressing local sustainability challenges in the midst of the pandemic? This is your chance to share your experience and pick the brains of like-minded folks working on similar issues across the state. Register to join this networking opportunity [here](#).

Moderated by Gary Sondermeyer, Vice President of Operations, Bayshore Recycling

7:00 – 8:15PM – SUSTAINABLE JERSEY TAG TEAMS SJ, SJS

We will spotlight successful municipal and school green teams working together to advance sustainability in their communities. Learn how collaborations can help your own green team build capacity. Register for this panel discussion [here](#).

Debra Hammond, Delran Green Team • Erica DeMichele, Sustainability Program Coordinator, Delran School District Green Team • Christa Delaney, Egg Harbor School District • Kristen Hall, Chair, Rumson Environmental Commission

THURSDAY, MAY 20

10:00 – 11:15PM - JOIN THE EVOLUTION! SJ, SJS

New Jersey's 2020 Electric Vehicle Law (S-2252) calls for significant expansion of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure and electric vehicle adoption by 2025. Municipalities will play a key role in this transition by ensuring that zoning ordinances do not create barriers to electric vehicle charging infrastructure. As electric vehicle adoption becomes the norm for local governments, a comprehensive fleet analysis can help guide fleet decision making with data on current vehicle use. Understanding current fleet needs is key to identifying opportunities for fleet 'right sizing', vehicle retirements, and transition to electric vehicles. This session will cover zoning needs for an electric vehicle future, with particular consideration for DC Fast Chargers, as well as guidance for streamlining permitting processes for EV charging infrastructure. The session will also include information about using fleet analysis to identify vehicles that can be cost-effectively replaced with EVs. Register for this panel discussion [here](#).

Andrea Friedman, Supervisor Electric Vehicle Programs, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Jennifer • Fogliano, Principal Planner of Environmental Planning, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority • Rob Graff, Manager of Office of Energy and Climate Change Initiatives, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission • New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' representative TBA

12:00 – 12:45PM - SHOW ME THE DATA! SJ, SJS

Finding and analyzing sustainability, energy, and climate data can be challenging. Not everyone has the time and expertise to identify data sources and to process the numbers. That's why Sustainable Jersey is working to make that data easily available. Come hear about Sustainable Jersey's exciting new Data Center and various data initiatives. Register for this short talk [here](#).

Zenon Tech-Czarny, Research & Project Specialist, Sustainable Jersey

1:00 – 2:15PM - WANT A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY? GO FOR THE GOLD! SJ

Sustainable Jersey's Gold Star Standard in Health is about to launch. Learn about the requirements to gain a "Health Gold Star" and dig deeper into some of the new actions geared to help build a culture of health in your community. Case studies from New Jersey municipalities will be highlighted. Register for this panel discussion [here](#).

Charles Latini, Jr., President, American Planning Association New Jersey Chapter • Karen Lowrie, Ph.D., Associate Director, Environmental Analysis and Communication Group, Rutgers Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy • Michael Richmond, Attorney, New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association

7:30 – 9:00PM - SUSTAINABLE MOVIE NIGHT: KISS THE GROUND SJ, SJS

Grab a beverage and a snack and join us for a movie screening and post-viewing discussion. *Kiss the Ground* shows us how soil is a missing piece of the climate puzzle in helping to draw down atmospheric carbon, restore lost ecosystems, and create abundant food supplies. The 45 minute movie will be followed by a discussion with experts working on regenerative farming and carbon sequestration right here in New Jersey! Watch the [trailer](#). Register [here](#).

Moderated by Margaret Waldock, Executive Director, Duke Farms • Jeff Tober, Farm Manager, Rancocas Creek Farm, Pinelands Preservation Alliance • Karina Schäfer, Associate Professor of Biology, Rutgers University • Stephanie Murphy, Ph.D., Director, Rutgers Soil Testing Laboratory • Thomas Almendinger, Director of Natural Resources and AgroEcology, Duke Farms

FRIDAY, MAY 21

10:00 – 11:15AM - SUSTAINABLE JERSEY FOR SCHOOLS GOES DIGITAL SJS

Sustainable Jersey for Schools launched the new Digital Schools Star Recognition Program on December 15, 2020 integrating substantial and timely new content that strengthens support for schools in meeting the challenges of remote digital and hybrid learning. The program also creates opportunities for school/municipal sustainability collaboration efforts. The new actions and updates encourage district and school personnel at all levels and in all departments to work together to improve planning, decision making, curriculum, pedagogy, budgeting, and technology resources to help students become better prepared for the future. Join us to learn about this exciting new program. Register for this panel discussion [here](#).

Howell Township Public Schools: Claire Engle, Director Digital Learning and Innovation & Special Projects • Jane Losinger, Supervisor of Language Arts Literacy • Joseph Isola, Superintendent of Schools • Ronald Sanasac, Assistant Superintendent for Business Administration & Board Secretary

11:30 – 12:45PM - REDUCING THE ENERGY BURDEN: ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR ALL SJ

According to the New Jersey Energy Master Plan, low- and moderate-income (LMI) households spend a proportionately higher percentage of their income on energy bills than higher-income households do. To increase participation in the benefits of New Jersey's clean energy transition, programs such as Community Solar and Comfort Partners are especially targeted to achieve greater energy equity. Sustainable Jersey's resources to support these programs include the Comfort Partners Outreach Toolkit and the Community Solar Guide for Municipalities. Join us to learn how your community can create and implement outreach activities to promote programs that can help reduce the energy burden. Register for this panel discussion [here](#).

Dan Jennings, Director of Policy, Planning, and Development, East Orange • Nicole Miller, Chair, Newark Green Team • Tracey Woods, Research & Project Specialist, Sustainable Jersey • New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' representative TBA

1:30 – 2:30PM – GREEN BIZ SPEED NETWORKING: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES SJ, SJS

Find your community's next architect, engineer, planner, or legal counsel specializing in sustainability and green practices. Register for this vendor networking event [here](#).

Thank You to Our Summit Partners!

AARP New Jersey | Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) | Association of New Jersey Recyclers (ANJR)
American Planning Association – New Jersey Chapter (APA NJ) | Clean Ocean Action | Creative New Jersey
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) | New Jersey Audubon | New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition
New Jersey Clean Cities Coalition | New Jersey Future | New Jersey Prevention Network | Pinelands Preservation Alliance