

2021 NEW JERSEY

# SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT



## Enhance Community Water Resources through Water Gold



# Announcements



- June 6 – municipal certification deadline
- June 21 – school certification deadline



- \$75,000 in grants for resiliency & environmental stewardship projects in Atlantic City Electric territory ([sustainablejersey.com/grants](https://sustainablejersey.com/grants))



# Speaker



## Municipal Dashboard

### > Action Development

### Priority & Prerequisite Actions

### 2021 Certification Cycle

### > Gold Star Standards

### Program Updates

### Search Participating Municipalities & Approved Actions

### Resources

## Program Updates

On a continuous basis, through the help of the Task Forces, the Certification Standards Committee reviews Sustainable Jersey program content, standards, and feedback to ensure actions are relevant, appropriate and up-to-date with current trends, information and expertise. Sustainable Jersey announces new program and action updates every year at the annual New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference. New actions and action updates are typically implemented in January.



### NEW! Gold Star Standard in Water

View the new Gold Star Standard in Water - a new action-based approach to improving water quality, quantity and use is now available. [Learn more.](#)

### 2021 Retired Actions

**Institute Complete Streets:** Implementation aspects of this action are now found in the updated Complete and Green Streets for All Policy (formerly

# Gold Star Standard in Water



Why are we talking about water?



Tools you can use!



Are we asking too much?



What will you do?





# Why are we talking about water?

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[Rectangular Sign](#)

# Severe weather spurs flooding, disrupts rail service in Pa., N.J.

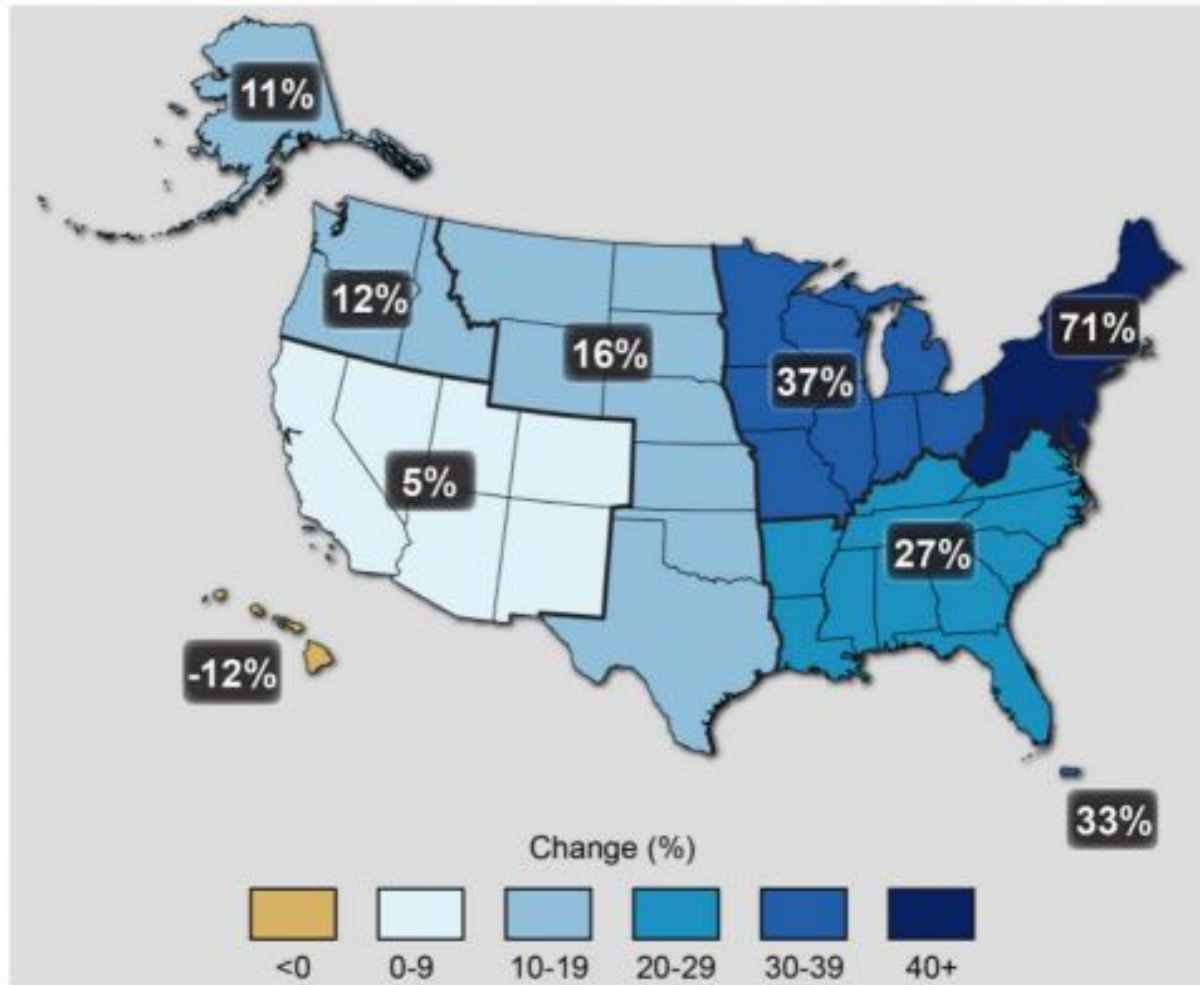
By [WHYY Staff](#), [Associated Press](#) · June 20, 2019



Children on bicycles check out the flooding on High Street in Westville, N.J. (Emma Lee/WHYY)



# Observed Change in Very Heavy Precipitation



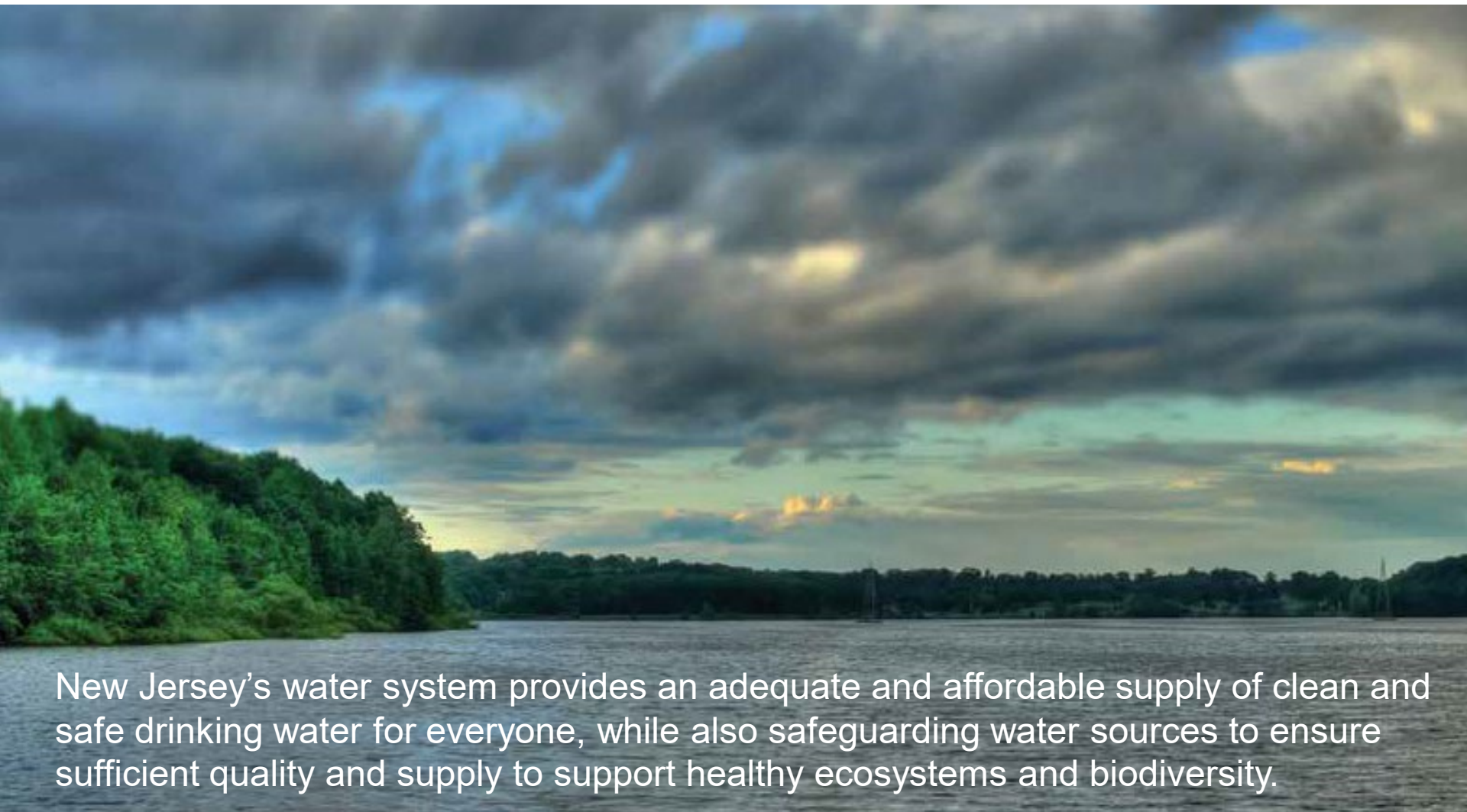
NOTES  
This map shows percent increases regionally in the amount of precipitation falling in very heavy events (defined as the top 1% of all daily events) from 1958 to 2012.

SOURCE  
National Climate Assessment (NCA) Global Change Research Program, 2014



# Why are we talking about Water?

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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.





## Municipal Dashboard

### > Action Development

#### Priority & Prerequisite Actions

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#### Resources

Download Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet

Download Sustainable Jersey Brochure

Tour the Sustainable Jersey Website

## Actions

Sustainable Jersey actions are designed with flexibility to meet the varying needs of all municipalities. Actions are organized within action categories. Each action description below outlines steps for completion, certification points, resources, and municipal spotlights. Review the requirements to earn Bronze or Silver certification [here](#). Many actions have variable points, which means there are several ways to complete the action based on the work done. Access your municipality's application for certification through the [Municipal Dashboard](#).

**Important Note:** Due to changes in Chrome, some documents in Sustainable Jersey actions may not download after clicking on the link. The documents can still be downloaded in Chrome by **right clicking** on the link and selecting to **open it in a new tab or window**.

### Search Actions

Type in a word(s) to identify all actions with that word(s) in the title



Mandatory



Priority

Search Actions

Clear Search

↑ BACK TO TOP

EXPAND ALL



COLLAPSE ALL



Animals in the Community



Arts & Creative Culture



Brownfields



Community Partnership & Outreach



Diversity & Equity



Emergency Management & Resiliency



# Tools you can use!

## Actions



- Action purpose and points
- Why is it important?
- Who should be involved?
- How long will it take and what will it cost?
- What to do and how to do it
- What to submit
- Spotlights
- Resources



# Tools you can use!

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## Drinking Water



Its delivery is unique to your municipality as well as your location within your municipality.

- Approximately 10% of New Jersey residents get their drinking water from private wells.
- Remaining 90% are using public water systems:
  - 40% are relying on aquifers for drinking water
  - 60% are relying on surface waters for drinking water





# Tools you can use!



↑ BACK TO TOP	EXPAND ALL	COLLAPSE ALL	^
Health & Wellness ^			
<u>Anti-Idling Education &amp; Enforcement Program</u>			
10 Points			
<u>Building Healthier Communities</u>			
5 Points			
* THIS ACTION HAS VARIABLE POINTS: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 * COMPETITIVE FUNDING AVAILABLE			
<u>Health in All Policies Professional Development</u>			
10 Points			
<u>Private Well Outreach and Testing</u>			
10 Points			
* THIS ACTION HAS VARIABLE POINTS: 10, 15, 20, 25			
<u>Removing Lead in Drinking Water</u>			
10 Points			
* THIS ACTION HAS VARIABLE POINTS: 10, 30, 40			
<u>Safe Routes to School</u>			
10 Points			

# Tools you can use!

## Removing Lead in Drinking Water



Wednesday, March, 13, 2019 Ed Murray |  
NJ Advance Media

- The goal of this action is to reduce exposure to lead by raising awareness of its presence and requiring abatement. Authority for municipalities to address lead is found under the powers granted through the public health code (N.J.S.A. 26:3A-2 et seq and N.J.A.C. Title 8).

# Tools you can use!

## Removing Lead in Drinking Water

- Tier 1: Education and Testing (10 pts)
- Tier 2: Education and Ordinance to require testing in change of residency (20 pts)

OR

- Tier 3: Education and Ordinance to require testing; and remediation before change of residence (30 pts)

### Removing Lead in Drinking Water

10 Points

30 Points

40 Points

New Action March 2020

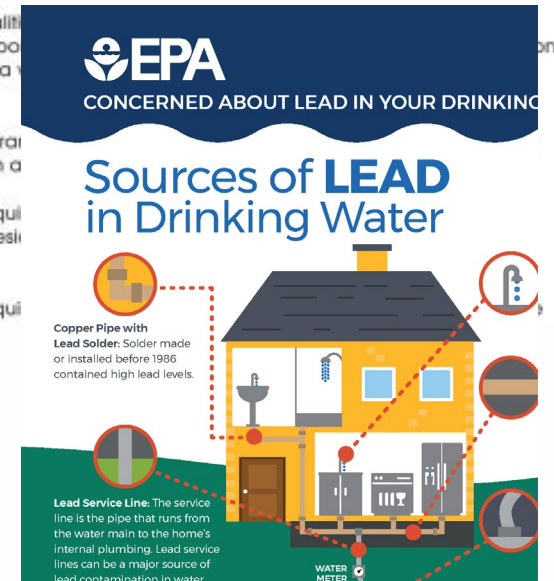
Lead is a common metal that was once widely used across America in paint, gasoline, and plumbing. However, as lead's toxicity and negative health impacts on humans were discovered by scientists, its use was banned in a number of applications. In 1986, the Federal government prohibited the use of lead in pipes and plumbing, as lead was found to leach into the water supply. While the ban prevented new lead pipes and plumbing from being installed, it did nothing to address the millions of lead service lines that were already buried in the ground and carrying water into homes.

The purpose of this action is to encourage municipal awareness, education and remediation. The tiered program reduces lead in drinking water. This action awards a score based on the following:

**Tier 1 (10 points)** – Establish a voluntary testing program for drinking water. The testing program must have been a

**Tier 2 (20 points)** – Implement an ordinance that requires that ownership or tenancy is granted by the town for a residential municipality is applying for certification.

**Tier 3 (30 points)** – Implement an ordinance that requires





# Tools you can use!

## Removing Lead in Drinking Water

### Removing Lead in Drinking Water

10 Points

30 Points

40 Points

## Who should be involved?

 Print

 Get PDF

#### Why is it important

#### Who should lead and be involved with this action?

#### Timeframe

#### Costs and resource

#### How, and how to do it

#### How to submit to earn points

#### Submission Requirements

#### Approved Action Expiration

Since the presence of lead in drinking water is a public health issue, reducing lead exposure through drinking water can help reduce the overall amounts of lead exposure in the population, and can reduce the negative health impacts of lead exposure.

#### **Who should lead and be involved with this action?**

Municipalities that have significant housing stock that was built before 1986 or have known elevated lead levels should consider this action. Once the need for this action has been identified the following could lead or be involved with this action:

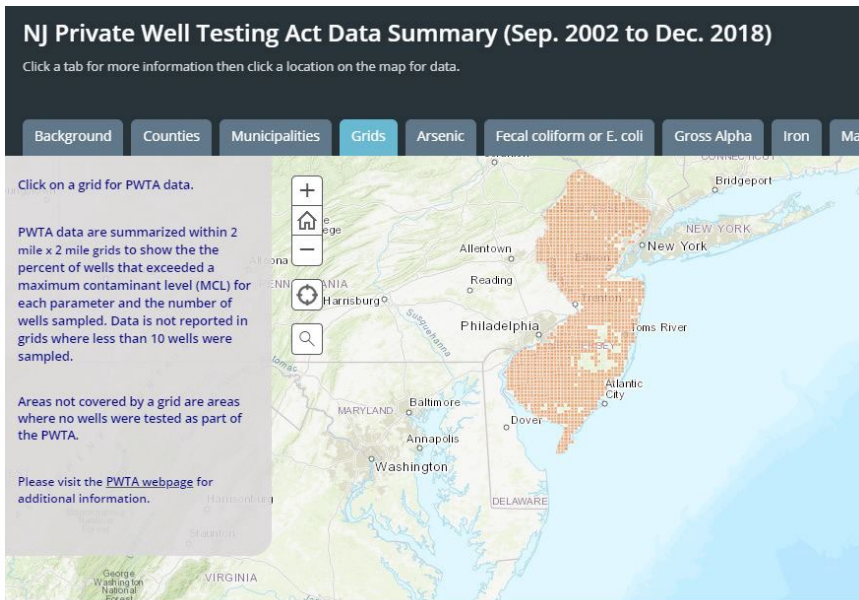
- Green team
- Municipal government representative
- Board of Health
- Environmental Department/Environmental Commission
- Municipal Utility/Water Utility representative

Lead is a public health issue, and local health officials should play a critical part in implementing any of the tiers available for this action.



# Tools you can use!

## Private Well Outreach and Testing



<https://www.nj.gov/dep/dsr/pwta/>

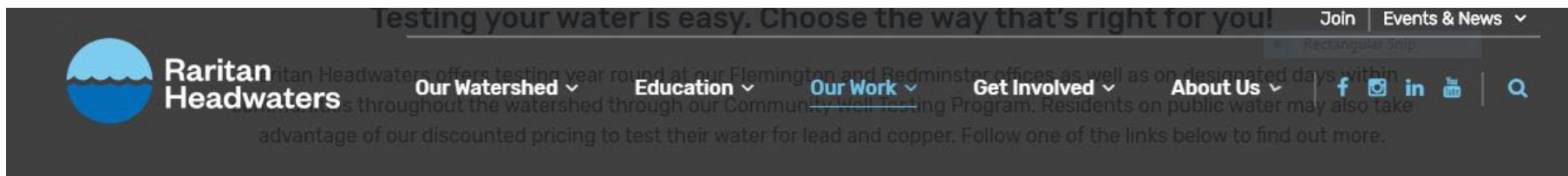
- Tier 1: Prepare Community Well Test Report (10 points)
- Tier 2: Promote more frequent well testing (additional 5 pts)
- Tier 3: Adopt a well testing ordinance that requires testing procedures established by the New Jersey Private Well Testing Act (PWTA) AND remediation if needed, prior to the transfer of property or change in use or tenancy (additional 10 pts)



# Tools you can use!



## Private Well Outreach and Testing



### Participate in a Community Well Testing event in your town.

RHA partners with municipalities throughout the region each spring and fall to offer residents the opportunity to test their well water. This program makes the important practice of regular well testing even easier and more convenient for residents.



### Pick up a testing kit at a Raritan Headwaters office.

Well test kits are available throughout the year at both our South Branch Flemington office and our Fairview Farm Bedminster office. Explore our menu of testing options below, **then order a kit online**, or request a kit by calling our well test office at 908-234-1852 ext. 401.



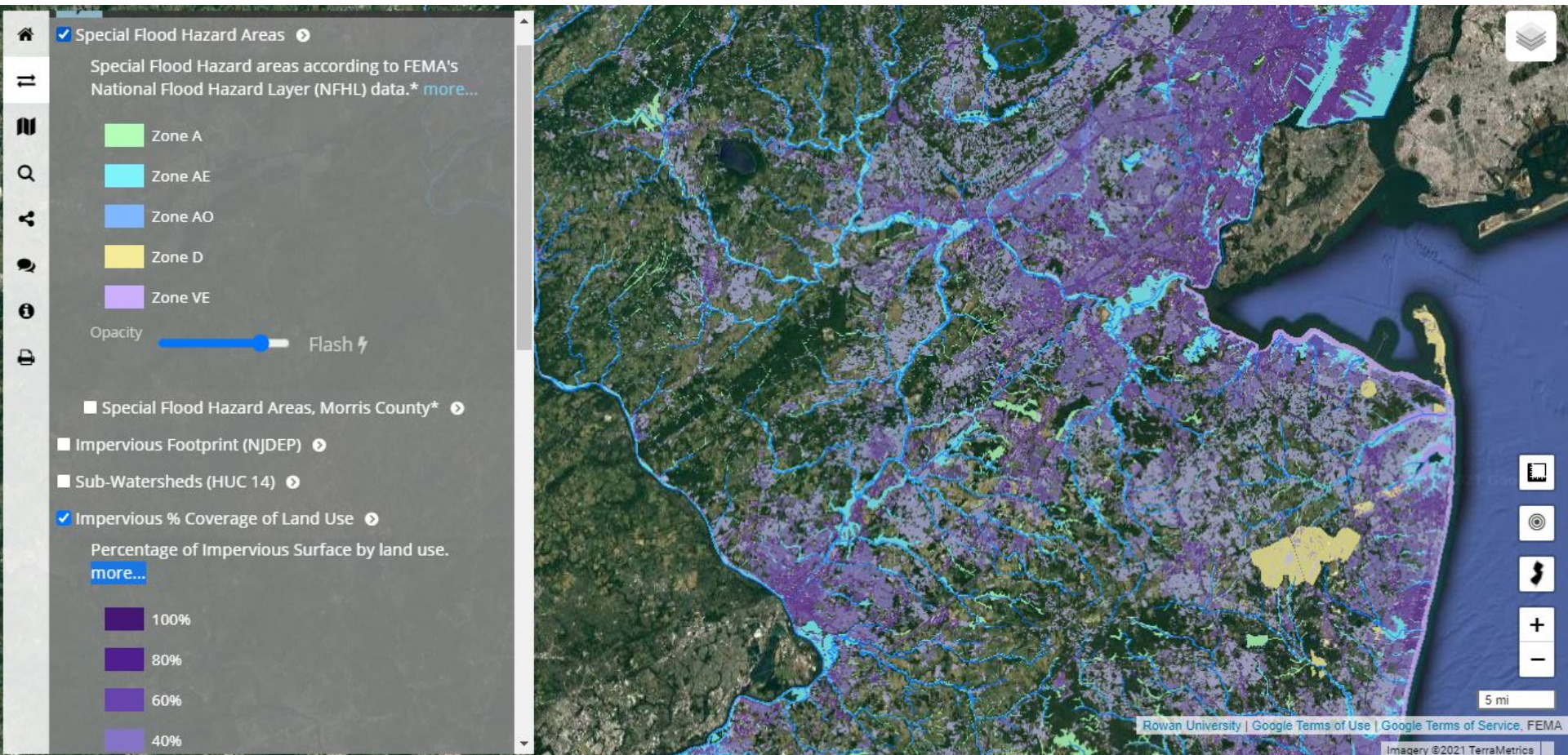
### On public water? Test for lead and copper.

Public water purveyors test regularly for a variety of contaminants. However, their responsibility for water quality ends at your property line. Since lead and copper contamination often occur as the water travels through pipes in the home, it's important to test your water at the tap, especially if your house was built before 1986.



# Tools you can use!

## Flooding



# Tools you can use!

## Enhanced Stormwater Management Control Ordinance

Tier	Action	Points
1	Low impact techniques	5
2	Applicability; Retention and definition of Major Development	15
3	2 additional enhancements	25
4	4 additional enhancements	35





# Tools you can use!

## Green Infrastructure Planning

Tier	Action	Points
1	Impervious cover assessment	5
2	Action Plan	5
3	Strategic Plan	10





# Tools you can use!

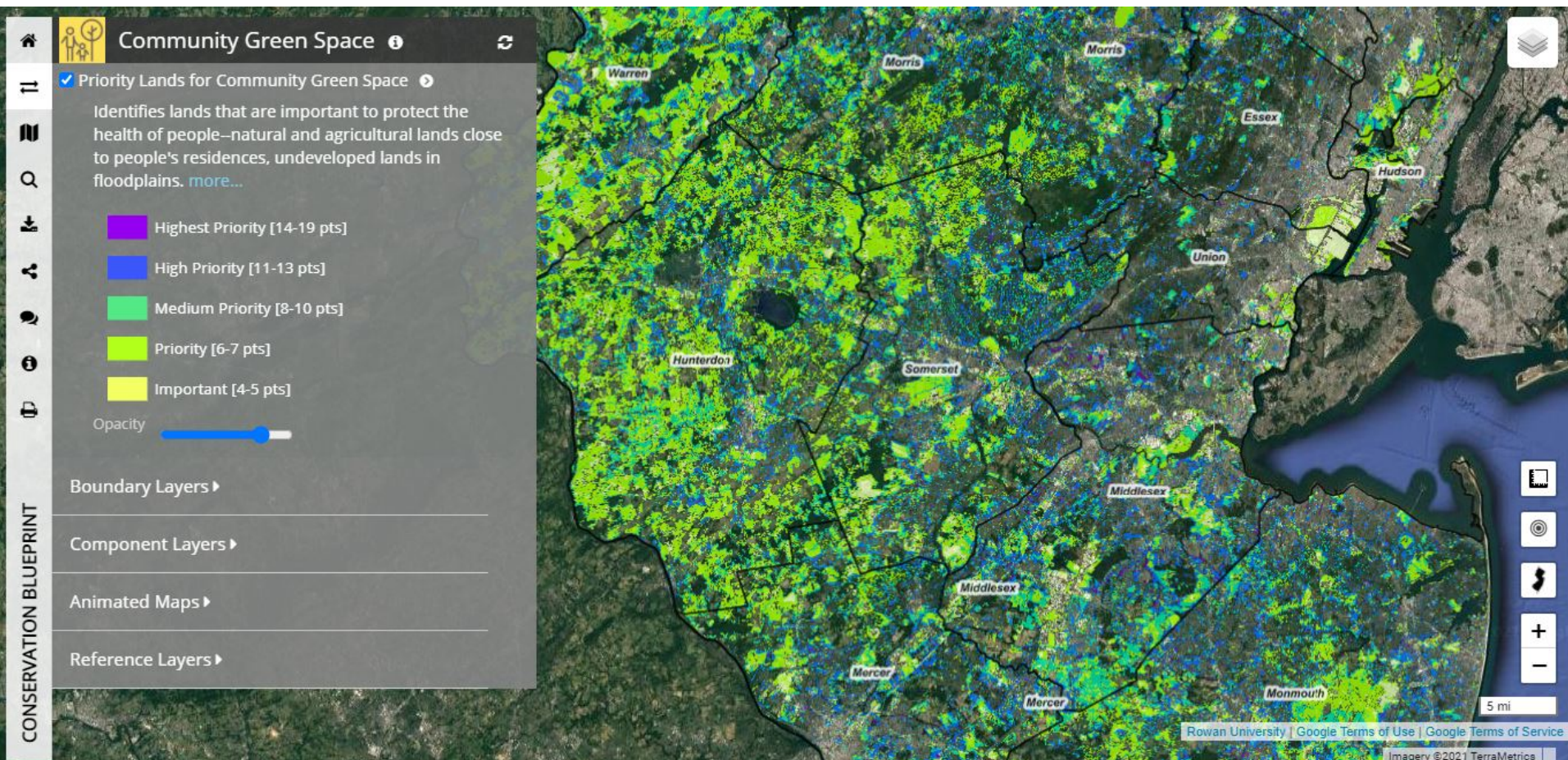
## Green Infrastructure Implementation

Tier	Action	Points
1	Demonstration projects Impervious cover assessment	10
2	Implement Action Plan	10
3	Implement Strategic Plan	20



# Tools you can use!

## Access to Water





# Tools you can use!

## Access to Water

### Open Space Plans

10 Points



#### Why is it Important?

Who should lead and be involved with this action?

Timeframe

Project Costs and Resource Needs

What to do and how to do it ("How to")

What to submit to earn points for this action

Resubmission Requirements

Approved Action Expiration Date

Updated April 2021

The goal of this action is municipal preparation of an Open Space Plan and Recreation Plan and its adoption by the Planning Board as an element of the local Master Plan. An Open Space and Recreation Plan, OSRP, (also known as the Open Space Plan, OSP) should follow the guidance provided by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). Green Acres Planning Guidelines. The Green Acres guidelines require a specific format and content for municipal OSRP if a town wishes to participate in the Green Acres Planning Incentive Program for enhanced open space funding. The municipality establishes open space goals and policies in the OSRP, based on an inventory of existing and potential open space, an assessment of recreation needs, as well as conservation objectives and public access opportunities. The OSRP provides a framework and direction for achieving these goals by identifying areas for preservation, improvement and maintenance.

In addition to addressing the 10 components outlined in the NJDEP - [Green Acres Program - Open Space and Recreation Plan Guidelines](#), the OSRP needs to be completed or updated and adopted as part of the local Master Plan within the last 10 years.

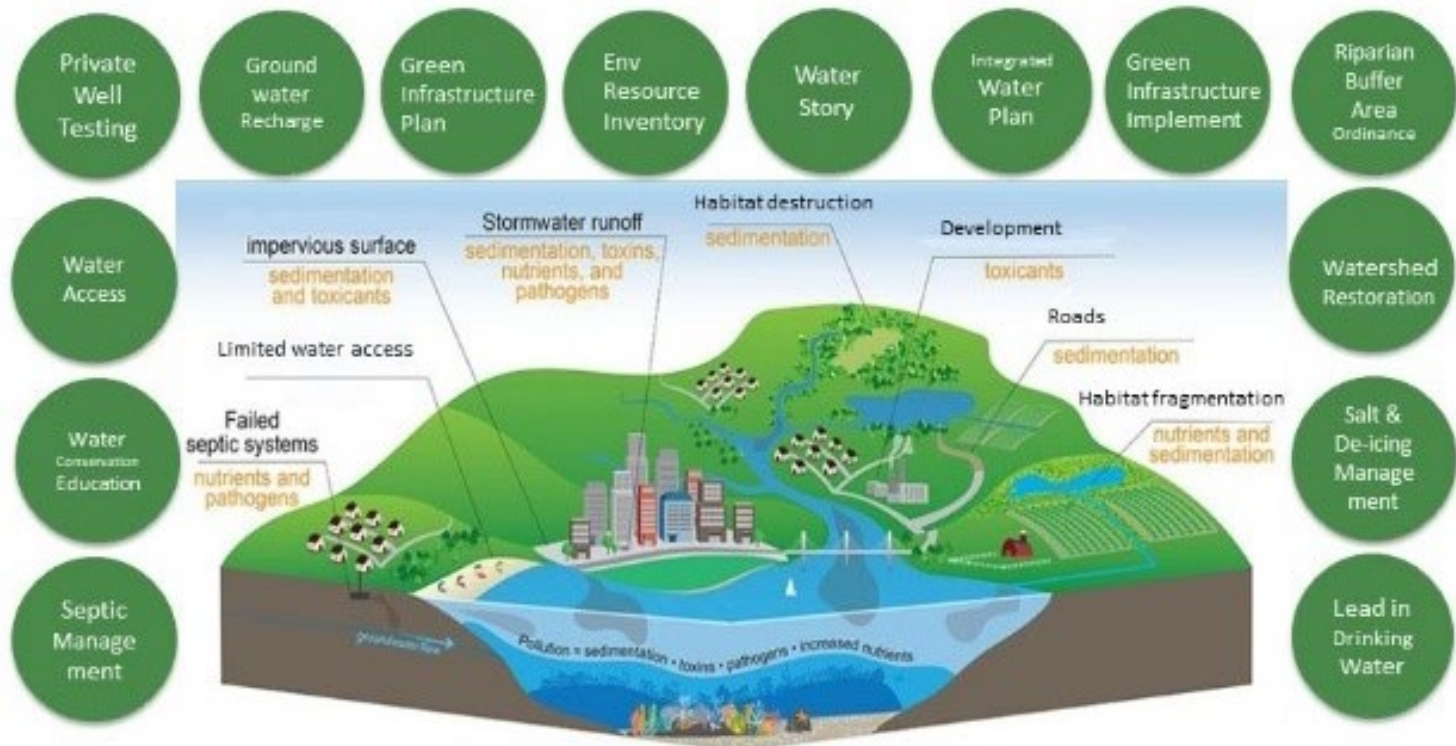
#### **Why is it Important?**





# Are we asking too much?

## Threats to water from land and Actions to address them



# Are we asking too much?



# Water Gold Task Force

- Jennifer Feltis – Cortese, **NJDEP & Chair**
- Andrew Hendry, **New Jersey Utilities Association**
- Dan Van Abs, **Rutgers University**
- Ed DiFiglia, **New Jersey Future**
- Ellen Creveling, **The Nature Conservancy**
- John Hasse, **Rowan University**
- Jennifer Coffey, **ANJEC**
- Kristi MacDonald, **Raritan Headwaters**
- Margaret Waldock, **Dodge Foundation**
- Swarna Muthukrishnan, **Clean Ocean Action**
- Thomas Flynn, **Woodbridge Township**
- Michael Furrey, **American Water Works Association**
- Jim Waltman, Michael Pisauo, **The Watershed Institute**





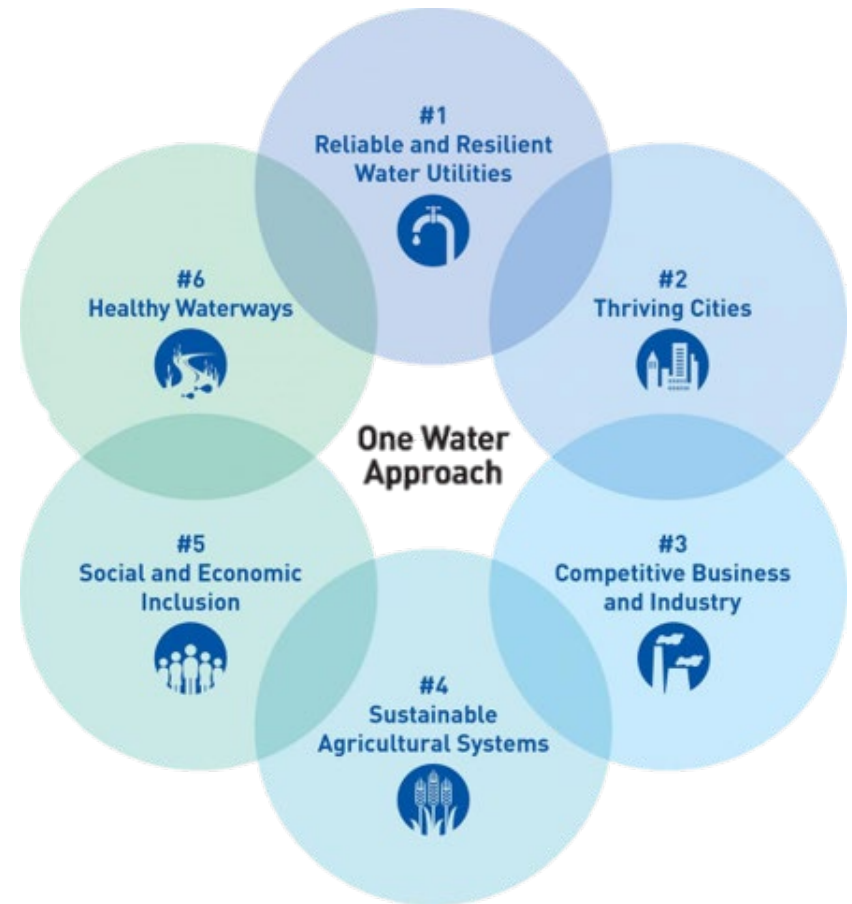
# One Water Approach

*“all water has value and should be managed in a sustainable, inclusive, integrated way”.*

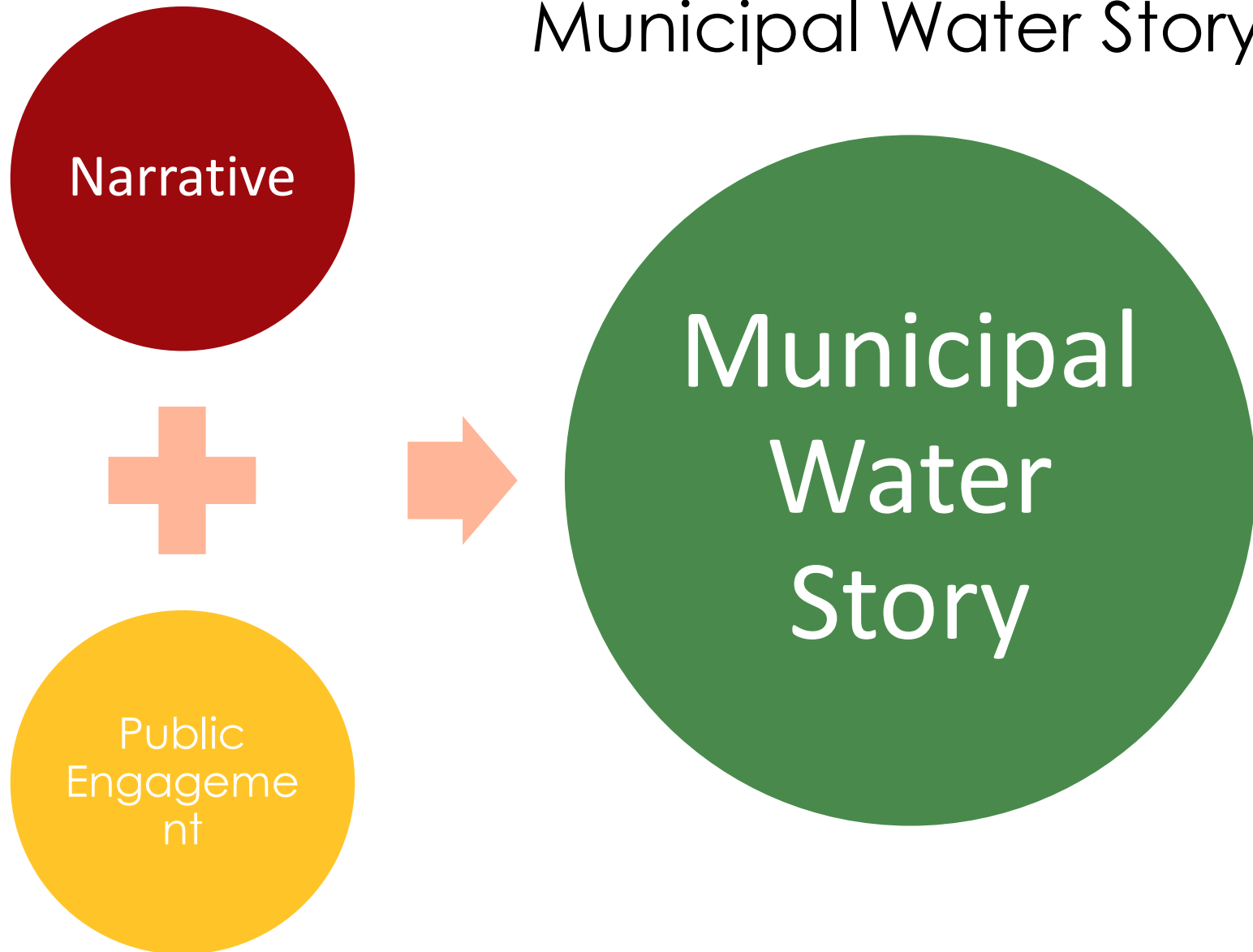
- US Water Alliance on One Water Approach

Stormwater, drinking water, waste water and water resources

- Update existing actions
- Create new actions



# Municipal Water Story



# Are we asking too much?



YouTube

Search



World Water Day: Donna Liu

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SswRYGlzG5Y>

59 views • Mar 19, 2021

2 0 SHARE SAVE ...



# Municipal Water Story

## The Water Pantry

Every Mason jar in this display contains a water story. What's yours?

This project sets out to explore connections between people, place, and water through storytelling. Each Mason jar is filled, literally and figuratively, with a New Jersey water story. Just as a kitchen pantry is a collection of separate items related to food, we're creating a "pantry" of water (and stories) from around the Garden State. This Water Pantry display is intended to make sensible the often-unnoticed role of water in our everyday lives.

A South Jersey invention of the nineteenth century glassworks, the Mason jar has persisted for 160 years, inspiring continuous innovation, adaption, and reuse. So much more than an empty vessel, Mason jars contain the products of labor, livelihood, craft, and care. Most importantly, Mason jars preserve what we need for the future. Such a simple glass container invites us to collect, make, remember, and imagine.

In considering our personal connections to New Jersey's water ways, we turn to the Mason jar to guide our thoughts.  
What New Jersey water source is most meaningful to you?  
Why do you want to preserve this water for the future?

There are two ways to participate in the Water Pantry:

**Option 1**

Pick up a 'Water Pantry Kit', follow the instructions, and return your Mason jar by **Thursday July 19th**. At the end of the display period (Friday July 27th) you may collect and keep your jar.

**Option 2**

Join us for a public Water Pantry story telling workshop on **Thursday July 26th, 7:00 pm** at the Library!

Rowan University

West Deptford Free Public Library

NEW JERSEY COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES





# Are we asking too much?



## Concerns about drinking water quality

- Removing Lead in Drinking Water
- Private Well Outreach and Testing

## Areas of repetitive flooding after heavy rain

- Green Infrastructure Planning
- Green Infrastructure Implementation
- Enhanced Stormwater Management Control Ordinance

## Concerns about water supply

- Water Conservation Education Program
- Water Conservation Ordinance

## Urban flooding and pollution due to combined sewer overflow

- Green Infrastructure Planning
- Green Infrastructure Implementation
- Enhanced Stormwater Management Control Ordinance

## Impaired Surface Water Quality

- Enhanced Stormwater Management Control Ordinance
- Community Forestry Management Plan

## Equity issue related to public access to water

- Open Space Plan



## Section 1 of 6

# Sustainable Jersey FREE Technical Assistance for Municipal Water Story



2021 Application for Municipal Technical Assistance - Deadline, Thursday, June 24, 2021

Municipalities face a myriad of water issues from localized flooding even on sunny days; to degraded water bodies that are unsafe for fishing and swimming, and to concerns about drinking water to name a few. The added threat of climate change to already stressed systems, serves as a strong reminder that preparations today to ensure future well-being is time well spent. Municipalities can play a significant role in creating a holistic and sustainable water system. One way to identify the key water issues your municipality faces is through the completion of a new action in the Sustainable Jersey program – Municipal Water Story.

The Municipal Water Story action is organized to identify and plan for purposeful action to improve water in your town. The Municipal Water Story is also a foundational and required action for municipalities interested in pursuing the forthcoming Gold Star in Water.



# Gold Star Standard in Water



**Complete Four Pre-requisite Actions:** Two required Actions: Water Story and Environmental Resource Inventory as well as selection of a “high impact” and an additional action.

**Prepare Navigational Path:** as part of the Water Story action, in which municipality identifies water issues and corresponding actions to advance improvements in water in the years ahead.

**Water Gold Star Certification:** Apply on the Gold Star portion of the website – four completed actions; navigational path and reviewed during standard municipal certification cycle, if approved gold star awarded for 3 years.

### Sustainable Jersey Actions - Gold Star Standard in Water

Action Name	Action Category	Required Tier - To meet the Gold Star Standard in Water
Required Core Actions		
Natural Resources Inventory	Natural Resources	
Municipal Water Story	Natural Resources	Navigational Path
High Impact Actions - (at least one required)		
Green Infrastructure Planning	Land Use & Transportation	Tier 3
Green Infrastructure Implementation	Land Use & Transportation	Tier 2
Enhanced Stormwater Management Control Ordinance	Land Use & Transportation	Tier 1
Removing Lead in Drinking Water	Health & Wellness	Tier 2
Private Well Outreach and Testing	Health & Wellness	Tier 2
Additional Actions (at least one required)		
Green Infrastructure Planning	Land Use & Transportation	
Green Infrastructure Implementation	Land Use & Transportation	
Enhanced Stormwater Management Control Ordinance	Land Use & Transportation	
Removing Lead in Drinking Water	Health & Wellness	
Private Well Outreach and Testing	Health & Wellness	
Water Conservation Ordinance	Natural Resources	
Water Conservation Education Program	Natural Resources	
Open Space Plan	Natural Resources	
Community Forestry Management Plan and NJ Urban Forestry Program Accreditation	Natural Resources	
Innovative Community Projects	Innovative Projects	Submission must meet the action requirements <b>and</b> address a water issue identified in Navigational Path



# A Better Tomorrow

One Community at a Time

## Action Checklist for Gold Star Standard in Water

Municipality: _____	
County: _____	
Name of Person Completing Checklist: _____	
Email: _____	
Check the action (category) completed by the municipality: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Required Core Actions</li> <li>• 1 High Impact Action at required Tier</li> <li>• 1 Additional Action</li> </ul>	Check the action completed
<b>Required Action:</b> Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) also known as an Environmental Resource Inventory (Natural Resources) <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Water Story with Navigational Path (Natural Resources) <input type="checkbox"/>  <b>High Impact Action (check at least one):</b> Green Infrastructure Planning (Land Use & Transportation) - Tier 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Green Infrastructure Implementation (Land Use & Transportation) - Tier 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced Stormwater Management Control Ordinance (Land Use & Transportation) - Tier 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Removing Lead in Drinking Water (Health & Wellness) - Tier 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Private Well Outreach and Testing (Health & Wellness) - Tier 2 <input type="checkbox"/>  <b>Additional Action (check at least one):</b> Green Infrastructure Planning (Land Use & Transportation) <input type="checkbox"/> Green Infrastructure Implementation (Land Use & Transportation) <input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced Stormwater Management Control Ordinance (Land Use & Transportation) <input type="checkbox"/> Removing Lead in Drinking Water (Health & Wellness) <input type="checkbox"/> Private Well Outreach and Testing (Health & Wellness) <input type="checkbox"/> Water Conservation Ordinance (Natural Resources) <input type="checkbox"/> Water Conservation Education Program (Natural Resources) <input type="checkbox"/> Open Space Plan (Natural Resources) <input type="checkbox"/> Community Forestry Management Plan and NJ Urban Forestry Program Accreditation (Natural Resources) <input type="checkbox"/> Innovative Project (Innovative Community Project) - to address an issue identified in the Municipal Water Story <input type="checkbox"/>	



What  
action(s)  
are you  
ready to  
take?



# PROGRAM UNDERWRITERS



# SUMMIT SPONSORS





# More Sustainability Summit events to come!



2021 NEW JERSEY  
SUSTAINABILITY  
SUMMIT  
MAY 17 - 21, 2021

## NEW JERSEY SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

[bit.ly/SustainabilitySummit21](https://bit.ly/SustainabilitySummit21)

panel discussions, talks,  
coaching sessions,  
networking



### Thursday, May 20

Join the EVolution!, 10:00am - 11:15am

Register

Show Me the Data!, 12:00pm - 12:45pm

Register

Want a Healthier Community? Go for the Gold!, 1:00pm - 2:15pm

Register

Sustainable Movie Night: A Discussion of Kiss the Ground, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

*\*requires screening the film before this panel discussion*

Register





# Questions?



## 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

**Anne Heasly**

Program Manager for Policy and Planning

Sustainable Jersey  
[heaslya@tcnj.edu](mailto:heaslya@tcnj.edu)