

2021 NEW JERSEY

# SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT



## Look at Where We Are and the Road Ahead

May 17, 2021

# Speakers

- Randall Solomon,  
Executive Director
- Renee Haider,  
Deputy Director

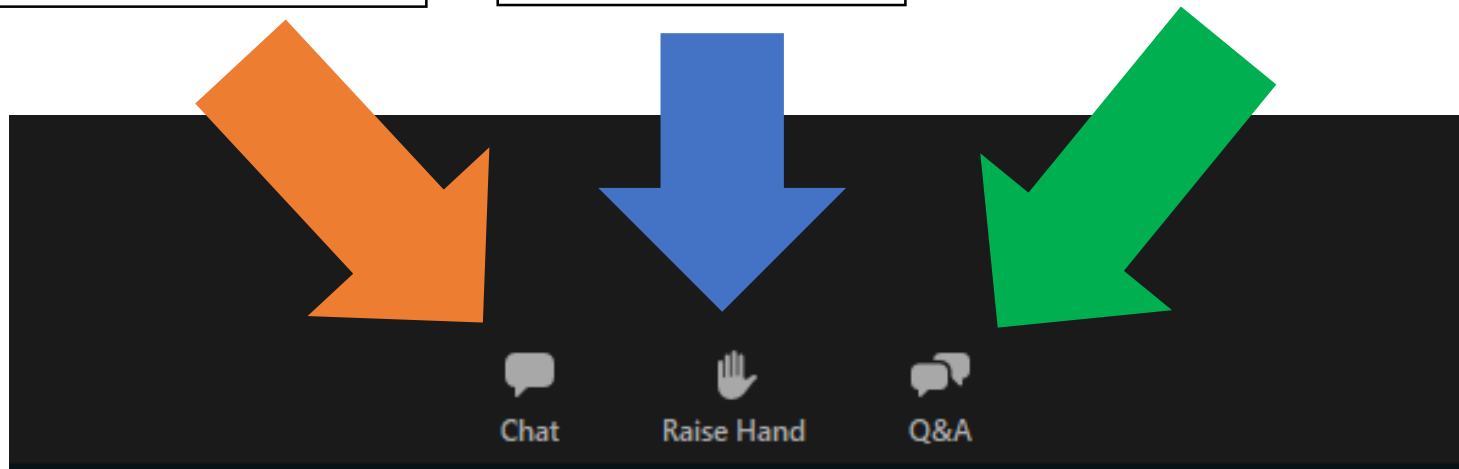


# Navigating Zoom

Use the chat feature for **panelists and attendees** to respond to presenter questions and share your thoughts on what the speakers are saying.

If you are asked to raise your hand to respond to a presenter question, click on this icon.

If you have questions **for the presenters**, enter the question using the Q&A feature. You can also “like” questions to move them up on the list.





# Announcements

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- June 6 – Municipal Certification Deadline
- June 21 – School Certification Deadline
- FREE Technical Assistance to Develop a Water Story ([sustainablejersey.com/grants](https://sustainablejersey.com/grants))
  - Tues, 5/18, 1pm – Enhance Community Water Resources Through Water Gold
- Resiliency & Environmental Stewardship Grant Opportunity for Municipalities in Atlantic City Electric Territory ([sustainablejersey.com/grants](https://sustainablejersey.com/grants))



# Certification Update



# 2020 Certification Cycle Outcomes

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- **2020 Municipal Program**
  - 55 Municipalities Certified
  - Island Heights, Madison and Woodbridge Champions
- **2020 Schools Program**
  - 147 Schools Certified
  - Ramtown Elementary, Winslow Township Middle School, and Raritan High School Champions
- **Total # of Actions Approved = 1,928 (-26%)**

Municipalities and schools with expiring certifications were automatically granted a one-year extension and the look back period for annual actions changed to 2018 to Present.



# 2021 Certification Cycle Adjustments

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- Municipal Program – Initial Submission Deadline 6/6
  - 2021 Expiration Extensions – Upon Written Request
- Schools Program – Final 2021 Submission Deadline 6/21
  - New 2021 Expirations – Automatically Extended
  - Extended in 2020 – Upon Written Request
- Lookback Period for Annual Actions 2019 – Present



# 2020 Accomplishments

[View video link](#)





# The Road Ahead

# Strategic Priorities

- Reducing the documentation burden while maintaining program integrity
- Maintaining the quality of the program actions
- Increasing opportunities for grants and direct technical assistance to municipalities and schools

**Private Well Outreach and Testing**

10 Points 15 Points 20 Points 25 Points

Print Get PDF

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

**What to submit to earn points for this action**

In order to earn points for this action, the following documentation must be submitted as part of the online certification application in order to verify that the action requirements have been met.

**Tier 1 (Required) - For 10 Points, submit the following:**

- **Description of Implementation** - In the text box provided on the submission page for this action provide a short narrative (300 words or less) of what has been accomplished including which Tier or Tiers your community completed and the impact it has or will have on the community.
- **Upload a Municipal PWTA Report.** A Word document or PDF that includes the following:
  - Name of the municipality, authors of the document and the date it was prepared.
  - The map (screen grab) of the entire municipality with the grid numbers labeled.
  - Data for each of the grids with test results that exceed a contaminant level, or show a presence of coliform.





# Strategic Priorities

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- Becoming more equitable, more inclusive, and better prepared to do the work of advancing social justice while supporting municipalities and schools in New Jersey to do the same.
- Creating a new Gold level of certification; allowing all certified municipalities to earn topic area stars
- Increasing funding to support core operations



# Annual Grant Cycles



Sponsor	Eligible Applicants	Cycle Announced	Applications Due
NJEA	Schools	Early August	Late October
GARDINIER	Muni's & Schools	Early August	Late October
PSEG	Muni's & Schools	November	February/March
ACE	Muni's	April	June

ACE cycle currently open – Applications due June 30

Be sure to read our bi-weekly e-blasts for information on current opportunities

***NOTE: All cycles are subject to change and official announcement will be made when funding cycles become available.***



# Technical Assistance Opportunities



Sponsor	Topic	Eligible Applicants
NJ AMERICAN WATER	Water	Muni's
GARDINIER/TAUB	Energy	Muni's & Schools
EDF, NJNG, SJG, JCP&L	Energy	Muni's & Schools
NJDEP	Food Waste Recovery	Schools
NJTPA	Complete Streets Initiatives	Muni's

Be sure to read our bi-weekly e-blasts for information on new opportunities!

Food Waste Recovery opportunity to be announced in June.

A Better Tomorrow, One Community at a Time

SUSTAINABLE  
JERSEY®

• CERTIFIED •

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.



# Equity

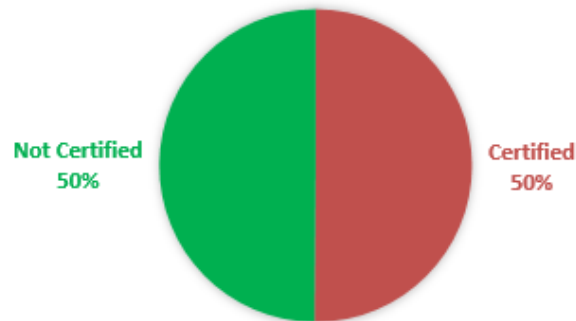


- Program-wide self assessment for municipal certification (complete and published)
  - Continue to monitor performance
  - Implemented internal procedures for assessing equity impact of actions
  - Extend effort to schools
- Ensuring everyone has equal access to benefits; low capacity and overburdened communities receive proactive help
- Helping municipalities and schools engage in difficult conversations

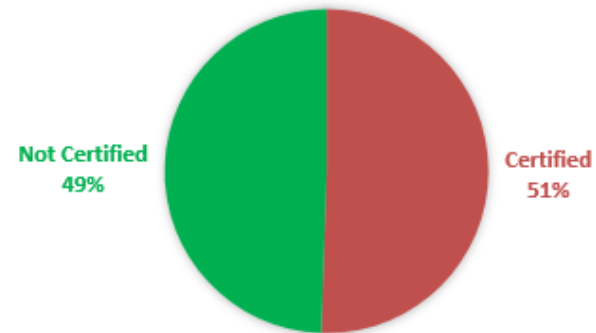


# Certification Status by Race

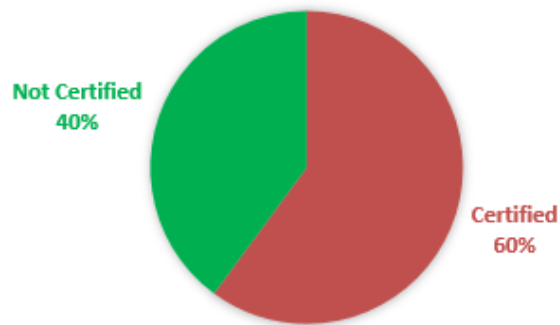
CERTIFICATION STATUS OF NJ WHITE POPULATION



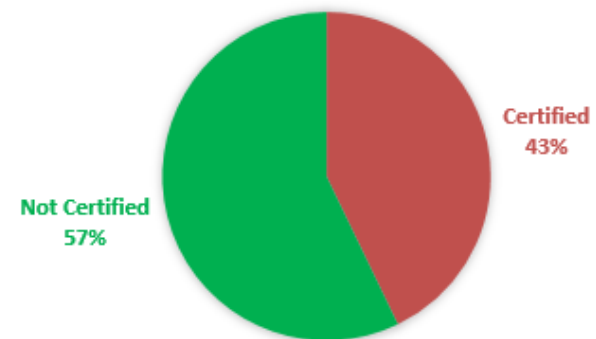
CERTIFICATION STATUS OF NJ BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN POPULATION



CERTIFICATION STATUS OF NJ ASIAN POPULATION



CERTIFICATION STATUS OF NJ HISPANIC OR LATINO (OF ANY RACE) POPULATION







# Equity

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- Program-wide self assessment for municipal certification (complete and published)
  - Continue to monitor performance
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# Energy

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- **Expanded Technical Assistance**
  - Funded by NJBPU, Taub Foundation, and Gardinier Trust
  - Hands-on assistance for buildings and operations, strategic assistance for energy planning
  - Support for all SJ participants, enhanced support for low-capacity and overburdened communities
- **Focus Areas**
  - Electric vehicles, community energy planning, community solar, transition of building efficiency programs to utilities
- **Updating the Gold Star Standard in Energy**
  - Making it simpler, focused on highest impact actions
  - Aligning with NJ Energy Master Plan



✓ **Data Center**

Sustainable Jersey  
Data Resources

State Data Resources

> **Publications**

> **Green Team  
Resources**

> **Presentations**

> **Funding Database**

<https://www.sustainablejersey.com/resources/data-center/>

## Data Center

The Sustainable Jersey Data Center provides sustainability-related data and maps for Green Teams, municipal staff, and researchers. Select data is prepared by Sustainable Jersey, whereas others are links to external resources.

### Sustainable Jersey Data Resources

View data files and interactive maps prepared by Sustainable Jersey.

[View Resources](#)

### New Jersey State Data Resources

View links to external state resources such as New Jersey's Clean Energy Program and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

[View Resources](#)

**Show Me the Data!**  
**May 20 1:00pm - 1:45pm**

The background is a teal gradient with several gold stars of varying sizes scattered across it. The text is centered and reads "Gold Star Standard in Water".

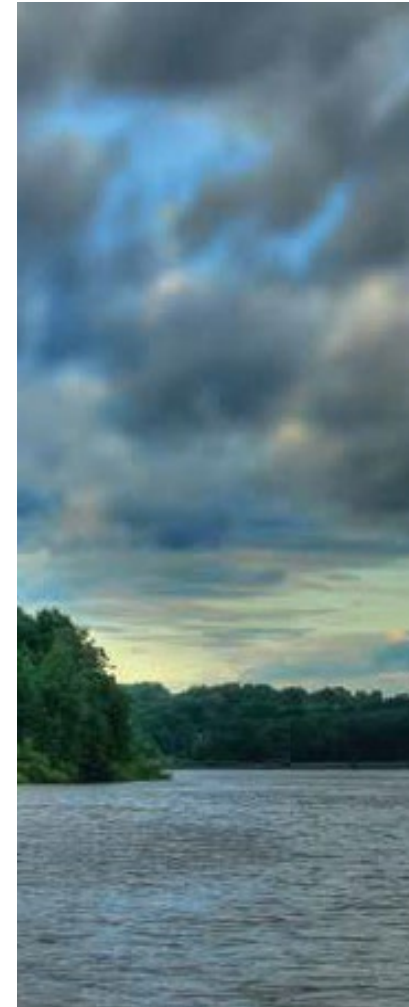
# Gold Star Standard in Water



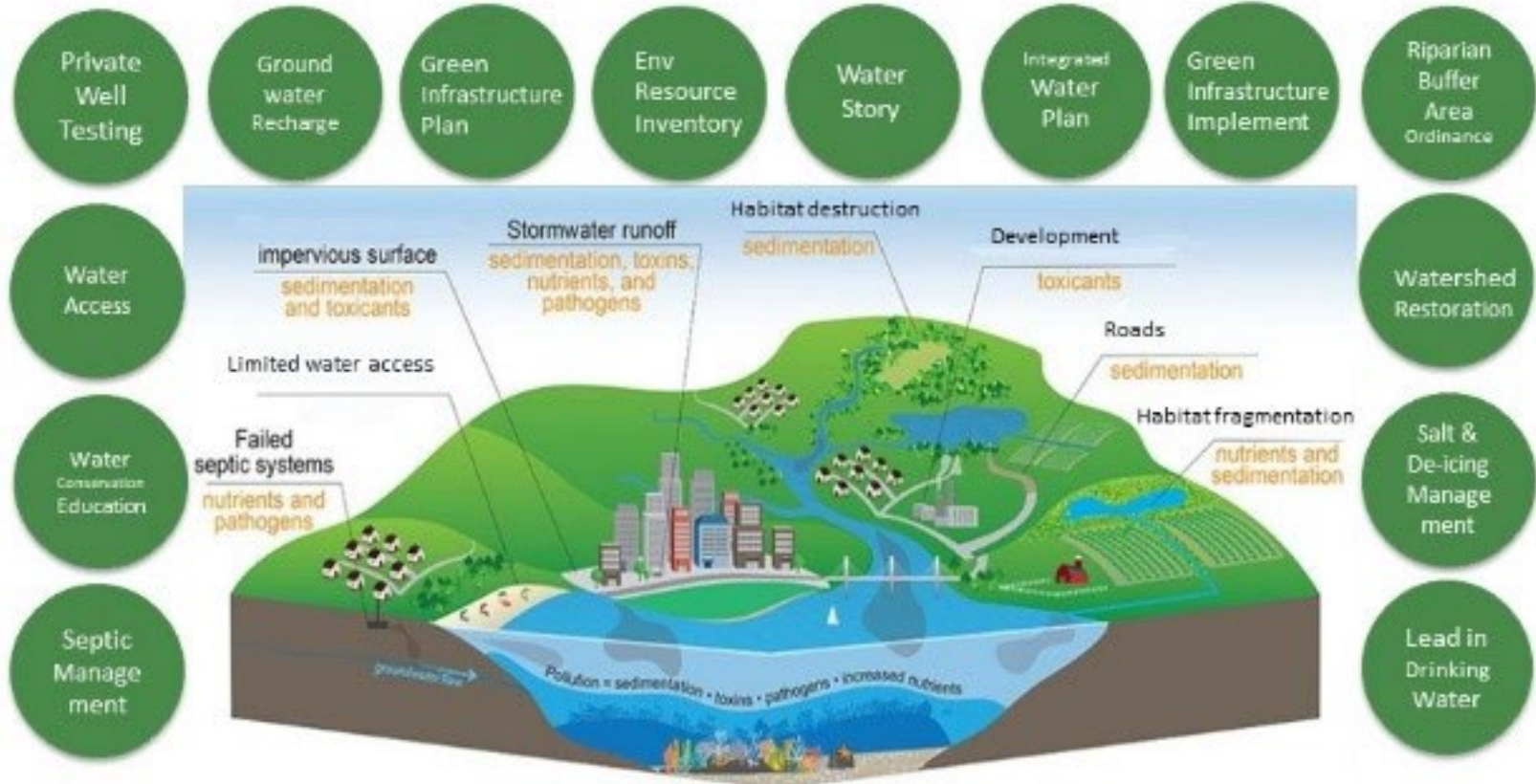
# Water Gold Task Force



- 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**



# New & Existing Actions



**Enhance Community Water Resources Through Water Gold  
May 18 1:00pm - 1:45pm**



# Gold Star Standard in Health

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- Understanding the municipal role impacting the determinants of health
- Municipalities have key authority:
  - Planning and zoning, regulating housing, clean water, transportation networks, economic development, access to healthy food, wellness programs, policing and safety, etc.
- The high-impact strategies overlap with sustainability
- Starts with an assessment of local issues



# Digital Schools Program

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- Launched in 2020 - Partnership with NJSBA and NJDOE; backed by major education organizations
- A new tier of recognition: Digital Schools Star
- 12 New Digital Schools Actions
  - Student mastery of technology
  - Teacher mastery of technological tools
  - School capacity to address digital and remote learning and infrastructure
- Digital Schools Star Recognition





# Climate Education for Schools

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- Statewide launch of the New Jersey Student Climate Challenge
- NJSBA/SJS Thought Leader Committee on Climate Change Education to develop statewide agenda (report) to identify needs and opportunities
- Identify best practices and next steps based on the needs assessment
- Climate Change Education professional development

# PROGRAM UNDERWRITERS



*The Geraldine R.*  
**DODGE**

.....  
  
.....  
*FOUNDATION*

IMAGINE A BETTER NEW JERSEY



# SUMMIT SPONSORS





# More Sustainability Summit events to come!

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- List of Summit events with registration - [bit.ly/NJVirtualSustSummit](https://bit.ly/NJVirtualSustSummit)
- Recordings of Summit events – *will be posted by 5/28.* [www.sustainablejersey.com](http://www.sustainablejersey.com) > **Resources** > **Presentations** > **Sustainability Summit**



# Questions?