

# Working Across Generations to Advance Sustainability in your Community

June 24, 2022 3:00 - 4:00 PM

Green Teams need help to complete projects

"Win - Win"

Students are passionate and have educational requirements

# Audience Experiences

- Who has had positive experiences working with students on sustainability projects?
- Who has worked with students but things didn't go as anticipated?
- Who is hoping to engage students in the future?



# **Opportunities for Engaging Youth**

- College Graduation Requirements
  - Internships
  - Capstone Projects
  - Community Engaged Learning Curriculum
- High School Students
  - Volunteer Hours
  - Contests and Competitions
  - Project Based Learning Opportunities

# **Youth-Led Organizations**















# **Goals for Today**

- 1. Highlight Opportunities
- 2. Share Experiences
- 3. Help You Create Equitable Partnerships





### **Today's Speakers**

Amy Tuininga PhD, Director PSEG Institute for Sustainability Studies

> Peter Fried and Lisa Jordan Sustainable Madison

Ava Blando, Artistic Activism Coordinator NJ Student Sustainability Coalition





### Working Across Generations to Advance Sustainability in Your Community

Amy Tuininga, PhD, Director

# Montclair State University

**PSEG Institute for Sustainability Studies** 





# Montclair State University

### **PSEG Institute for Sustainability Studies**

### **Green Teams Program**



### **Program Objectives**

- Partners teams of students with corporations and organizations
- Addresses global challenges
- Works in local communities
- Trains students to be innovative and thoughtful leaders
- Builds empathy, understanding, and greater impact through diverse transdisciplinary teamwork

# 2016-2022 Green Teams





Groups of 5 undergraduates per organization

- 320 undergraduates
- 73 universities
- 100+ degree programs
- 64 teams
- 200+ projects completed
- 36 organizations





Montclair State University PSEG Institute for Sustainability Studies



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### **2016-2022 Participating Companies and Organizations**



### SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT





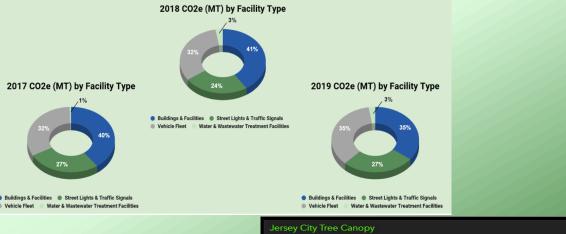


### Training

- LEED and Energy Efficiency
- Science Literacy
- Professional Communication and Networking
- Environmental Justice
- Green Accounting and Scope
  Emissions
- Intro to R, Statistics, GIS
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Data Collection and Databases
- Project Management
- Leadership and Communication
- Healthcare and Sustainability



#### Annual CO<sub>2</sub>e by Facility Type City of Newark Municipal Operations Emissions





### **Green Team Outcomes**

#### **City of Newark**

- 2017: Community Concept Map
- **2020**: Municipal GHG Inventory and recommended path to decarbonization.
- **2021**: Sustainability reporting and certifications, identified areas of high surface temperature and impervious surfaces, and recommended actions for improving the city's tree canopy

#### **City of Jersey City**

- **2020**: Mapped street trees and developed dashboard showing the city's street trees, calculated the trees' carbon sequestration potential, and recommended strategic plan to improve health of the city's tree canopy
- **2021**: Created heat maps and recommended actions for the city to address environmental inequity issues





### Sustainable Public Service Initiative



### **Program Objectives**

- Matches upper-level Montclair State University (MSU) undergraduate students with New Jersey municipalities to complete Sustainable Jersey certifications
- MSU faculty serve as project advisors
- Program pilot completed in Spring 2022







### Results

• 14 students were placed into 13 municipalities

#### **Fleet Inventories**

- Burlington Township
- Township of Raritan
- Elsinboro Township
- Township of Washington
- City of Vineland
- Hamilton (Atlantic County)

#### Water Story

- Holmdel
- Madison Borough

#### **Diversity on Boards**

- Eatontown Borough
- Township of West
  - Orange
- High Bridge Borough

#### Waste Management

• Hanover Township

#### **Private Well Outreach**

Hope Township







### **Program Feedback**

#### Challenges

- Some students are not able to visit municipalities due to limited transportation
- Students require mentorship and guidance from the municipal representatives

### **Benefits**

- Students gained professional experience completing real world projects
- Municipalities are closer to completing their specific Sustainable Jersey certifications



### Key Takeaways

- Municipal officials need to be available to provide data and interact with / mentor students.
- This needs to happened on an academic timeline if students are receiving credit.
- Municipalities that worked with students, provided the required data, and communicated on a regular basis achieved the best results.
- Green Teams applications will be open in August 2022 to host a team in summer 2023.
- The Second Sustainable Public Service Pilot will launch in Fall 2022.







### **Student Recruitment**

Strategies for recruiting student include:

- College job portals and career centers
- Program alumni referrals
- Work directly with college and university contacts
- Connect on social media (LinkedIn)
- Post on internship websites (Handshake)
- Reach out to PSEG ISS

### SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT





### Project Design

#### **Project Overview**

- Who are the students going to work with?
- What is the goal of the project?
- What is the timeline?
- Where will the project take place?
- Why is the project of value?
- How many students will be hired?

#### **Student Selection**

- Who is your ideal candidate for the project?
- What college majors are you looking for?
- What are your expectations?
- What hard and soft skills do you want them to have?





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https://soundcloud. com/wmsc/sets/Th e-Re-Fresh



https://open.spotify.com/show/4F 4X0guAip7sBkUQKdOOPt?si=G MUOAgrITIeOLAfJk\_OFTw





# Engaging Youth to Achieve Community Goals

**Sustainable Madison** 

Peter Fried Lisa Jordan

June 24, 2022

# Outline

Sustainable Madison has engaged youth in a variety of ways to achieve Sustainable Jersey actions and goals. This presentation describes:

- Forms of Youth Engagement
- Challenges We Faced
- Pathways to Successful Involvement

# Forms of Youth Engagement

Examples of Sustainable Jersey Actions completed by youth include:

### • Fleet Inventory: High school volunteer

"Through this internship, I calculated the Madison Public Schools' carbon emission for its vehicles," said Finn. "Carbon emissions effect global warming, making it harder for heat to radiate away causing problems for habitats and makes ocean-levels rise. Through our calculations, we hoped to inform schools of their carbon impact and discover how we could decrease this impact."



- Community and Municipal Carbon Footprints: University interns
- Impervious Surface Report: University intern
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Audit: High school volunteer

LETTER: Young interns boost Madison 'green' initiatives

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EDITOR: The chairpersons of Madison's "green" committees and our Borough Council liaison, Maureen Byrne, would like to thank the amazing interns who lent us their talents this summer.



# **Our Team of Youth Volunteers**

Examples of youth volunteers who helped contribute to our actions:

- Julianne Finn, Madison High School, fleet inventory
- Yuki Takada, Xiping Wui, Max Drucker, Drew University, carbon footprint
- Christian Wong, University of Michigan, carbon footprint
- Dylan MacDonald, Vassar College, Green infrastructure
- Leah O'Gorman, Temple University, tree inventory
- Community-based learning courses: Geographic Information Systems, at Drew University (Fall 2021 - present)







Bridget Kenny

I was able to present my research and findings to members of the Drew community as well as members of the Madison Environmental Committee. Having this knowledge has already created many opportunities for me in terms of having connections for job opportunities as well as helped me develop skills that I can add to my resume. It has been a huge privilege to be able to contribute to the making of the updated Madison Environmental Resource Inventory, and I have enjoyed every minute of it.

# What students have to say ...



Working on the Madison ERI this semester helped me learn about and be confident with using software that is relevant to my career of interest.

#### LeeAnn Nguyen

Throughout the course we've been able to contribute positively as a team to our local community by working on the Madison Environmental Inventory (ERI), educating ourselves on different disciplines that are extremely relevant today. Air pollution, environmental justice, and climate (which my team focused on primarily) are to name a few. Combining the knowledge from these subject areas and the skills I can take away from the course, I find the class advantageous to my post grad employment plans and overall, the experience extremely worthwhile in being a well rounded student.

### **SUSTAIN**ABILITY **SUMMIT**



# Communicating Our Work to Others

red hawk

#### Madison students present environmental projects, solutions at 'Green Vision Forum'

Madison Eagle

By CLAUDIA CEVA which allows participants to snap photos and identify the STAFF WRITER location of the items on the MADISON - From elemen- list

madisoneagle.com

tary school to the college lev- The plan is to open the el, local students impressed scavenger hunt to the public with their grasp of environ- in April.

mental concerns and solu-In a prerecorded video, tions at Madison's fourth an- students explained the scavnual Green Vision Forum. enger hunt will offer three

The event is hosted each levels of difficulty to choose year by the Madison Envi- from, and should encourage ronmental Commission in families to explore the outpartnership with Madison doors locally learning more Public Schools. The commis- about what the natural world sion invites students to share of the borough has to offer. their respective visions for Kings Road School's secprotecting and connecting ond grade class, meanwhile, with the natural world. focused on the state's inva-This year's seminar, held sive plant species and endanover Zoom on Thursday, gered animals to create an ac-

March 31, covered a range of tivity packet. topics, from identifying en-Camille Berger, the dangered animal and inva-school's STEAM teacher, said Sabrina Kay, a student at Drew University, presents her group's research project, tosive plant species, to a scav- the packets will be available date, on vulnerable bird and mammal species in the area during the Madison Green of the two endangered speenger hunt of native birds, to for the Madison community Vision Forum on Thursday, March 31. various projects spearhead- to download soon.

### **Madison strengthens** tree ordinance as report details widespread loss

#### By ALEX PARKER-MAGYAR

MANAGING EDITOR will face steeper penalties in place before 2020, offifor chopping down healthy cials say, but tree loss con- tering water, controlling trees on their properties, tinues to outpace plantings. but also incentives to replace those trees with na- Madison Environmental tive species.

In a unanimous vote bering statistic at the coun-Wednesday, April 27, the cil meeting, courtesy of ther discourage homeown- sor of environmental studremoving healthy trees on dents.

private property. specimens removed. A res- acres, Daley said.

'Incalculable' Loss

She and Daley noted The relatively new systhe significant role trees tem is an improvement play in combating climate MADISON - Residents over the lack of restrictions change and pollution, replenishing the aquifer, filflooding, managing erosion Bridget Daley of the and more.

Referencing the bor-Commission shared a soough's goals to reduce emissions and shift to renewable energy sources. Schorr not-Borough Council adopted a recent Drew University ed a few well-placed shade a revised tree protection or- study conducted by Lisa trees near a home can cut dinance that seeks to fur- Jordan, assistant profes- cooling costs by up to 50 percent in the summer and ers and developers from ies and biology, and her stu- up to 30 percent in the winter

Citing the study, Daley "Those things are avail-The new ordinance, said Madison's tree canopy able and, I'm sorry, we're strengthening the original declined by some 10 percent letting people cut them bill passed in 2020, man-between 2001 to 2016. Tree down. Even with permits dates tree replacement on cover dropped from 48 per- we can track it, but the a sliding scale relative to cent of the town to 38 per- loss is incalculably great, the size of the specimen or cent, or a loss of some 269 and it's making all this other work even harder," she

Boland said it was "ar honor" to oversee the project and collecting the bottles was an "eye-opening" experience.

#### **Birds And Mammals**

In Danger In addition to the public schools, Sabrina Kay, a student at Drew University, presented her team's research findings for their geograph ic information systems class on local threatened and endangered species.

"In Madison, there are 21 bird species, native or observable, that are considered at risk," she said. "We have 17 classified as 'special concern' and two are endangered. The two that are threatened are the osprey and the bobolink." The red-tailed hawk is one cies locally, she said, in large part due to the development



#### Madison Borough - Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI)

A Toolkit for Building Community Web Maps and Story Ma Introduction Learning Objectives Toolkit Instructions purpose of this activity is t At the end of this toolkit exercise tructions for designing web maps an mare online mans for the Madis Modify web maps by adding and edit many parts of New Jersey, local Environmental Commission volunteers work together to compile Environmental urce Inventories (ERIs) for their towns Share original StoryMaps wi and communities. Often these docu ructions for building maps with public I services. The toolkit assists in are developed or co-developed with experts in GIS mapping. New technologies and the datasets to support them are energing so that agesgraphic information on natural and human systems is actively updated with much richer information than can easily be shown on static paper maps. Furthermore, web maps and StoryMaps are within reach for deficated volunteers to build and shne. This activity decribes the process of how volunteers are using ArCGS com web maps and StoryMaps to compile an interactive re developed or co-developed with exper w to use ArcGIS com and StoryMans t living ERI This exercise is suitable for high schoo students and adults. Access to a compute and the internet is necessary to build we





AREA VEST





Thursday, April 7, 2022 PAGE 7

# Challenges

When working with youth in your community, especially people in school, it is helpful to keep in mind the following:

- Matching SJ submission schedules to student schedules (exams, semesters) can be a challenge.
- Finding a task within student interest is important for a meaningful collaboration.
- Choosing tasks appropriate for volunteer abilities is helpful, but often requires trial and error.
- Youth projects should be educational, not just grunt work.

# **Additional Challenges**

When working with youth in your community, especially people in school, it is helpful to keep in mind the following:

- Flexibility is needed to allow for volunteer innovation, but sometimes this conflicts with the constraints of the actions.
- Teachers involved prioritize basic course requirements first, which can sometimes limit engagement.

# Keys to Success!

We found that the following worked for us:

- Engage in early, up-front, and detailed planning with volunteers.
- Plan for frequent check-in meetings (zoom is a good option here)
- Share responsibility with the volunteer, enabling them to articulate the "big picture," when presented publicly.
- Collaboration has big benefits: working together helps us identify gaps and solve problems with creativity.
- Consider drafting an invitation for interns or volunteers with clear timeframes and goals for participants.
- Gratitude: Thank volunteers for their helpful contributions!



### Intergenerational Partnerships, from the Perspective of a Young Activist

By Ava Blando, RHS Senior

Artistic Activism Coordinator of NJSSC





# My Background

- Environmental interests since age 4
- Incoming Senior at RHS
- Singer/Songwriter
- NJSSC since freshman year
  - Policy Coordinator (2019 20)
  - Artistic Activism Coordinator (2020-Present)













# **My Generation**

"The young do not know enough to be prudent, and therefore they attempt the impossible, and achieve it, generation after generation."

– Pearl S. Buck.

## **Benefits of Intergenerational Organizing**

Young folks (Gen Z & Millennials): have best access to the most people

- Exist in vibrant social institutions (colleges, clubs, student organizations)
- Leverage technology to expand audience faster/more easily
- Intense motivation (it's our future after all)
- Modern thinking (progressive on issues, full of new ideas)

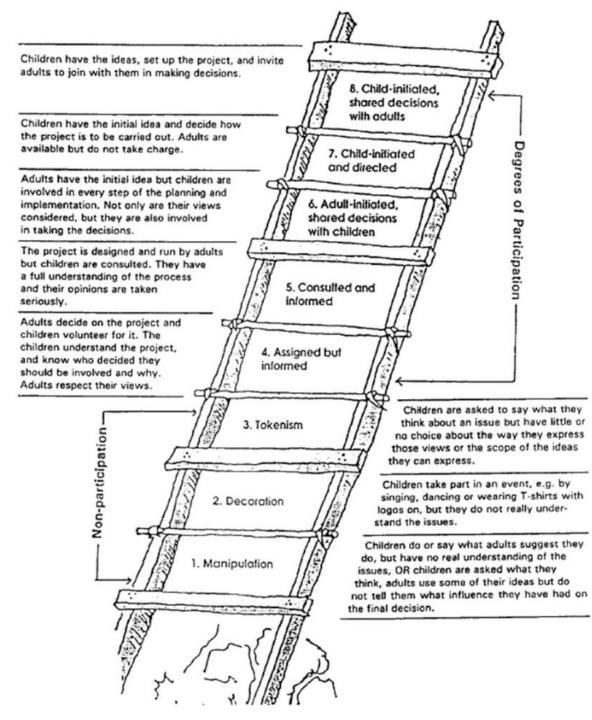
Older folks (Gen X & Baby Boomers): have best access to the key people

- More time to build relationships w/ leadership & to become the leadership
- Hold positions of power & have institutional access
- Higher education
- More experience
- Voting

# Intergenerational Organizing Ladder

### What can older activists do to embolden and aid young activists?

Give us authentic opportunities, a seat at the table, a voice for our strengths, and the chance to learn from your experience.



# **The Challenges**

### Logistics

Young people have odd schedules. We're only free outside of school hours and extracurriculars. This can present a challenge when planning meetings and events. Differing Values & Experiences

Each generation has its own way of viewing the world. It can be difficult to bridge this gap.

Feeling othered is common when intergenerational meetings are unsuccessful.

### My experience with successful intergenerational activism

NJSSC & GAFTG

- Young Folx
  - Participate equally in weekly evening meetings
  - Bring our generational & technological expertise
  - Focus on expanding GAFTG into younger audiences
- Older Folx
  - Lend opportunities and share resources
  - Share decades of knowledge and experience
  - Gain participation from youth
  - Train the next generation





# **Important Tips**

- 1. Empathy
- 2. Collaboration
- 3. Equal Partnership
- 4. Opportunities + Mentorships
- 5. Inclusion







# Harts Ladder Information





# **Questions?**

# What ideas do you have for engaging students in your efforts?

#### **Program Underwriters**









Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

#### **Grant Program Underwriters**



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# Thank You

Session slides will be available on at sustainablejersey.com by 6/30.