

**SUSTAINABILITY
SUMMIT**



**SUSTAINABLE JERSEY
GRANTS PROGRAM**

Navigating the SJGP

Kaitlyn Vollmer
Grants Program Manager

6/24/22

Introductions



Kaitlyn Vollmer
Sustainable Jersey Grants
Program Manager

How many people are here representing a...

- School?
- Municipality?
- Green team?
- Sustainability vendor?
- SJ partner organization?
- Other?



Agenda

1. What is the SJGP?
2. 2022 – 2023 Funding
3. Getting Started
4. Agenda item
5. Agenda item
6. Agenda Item



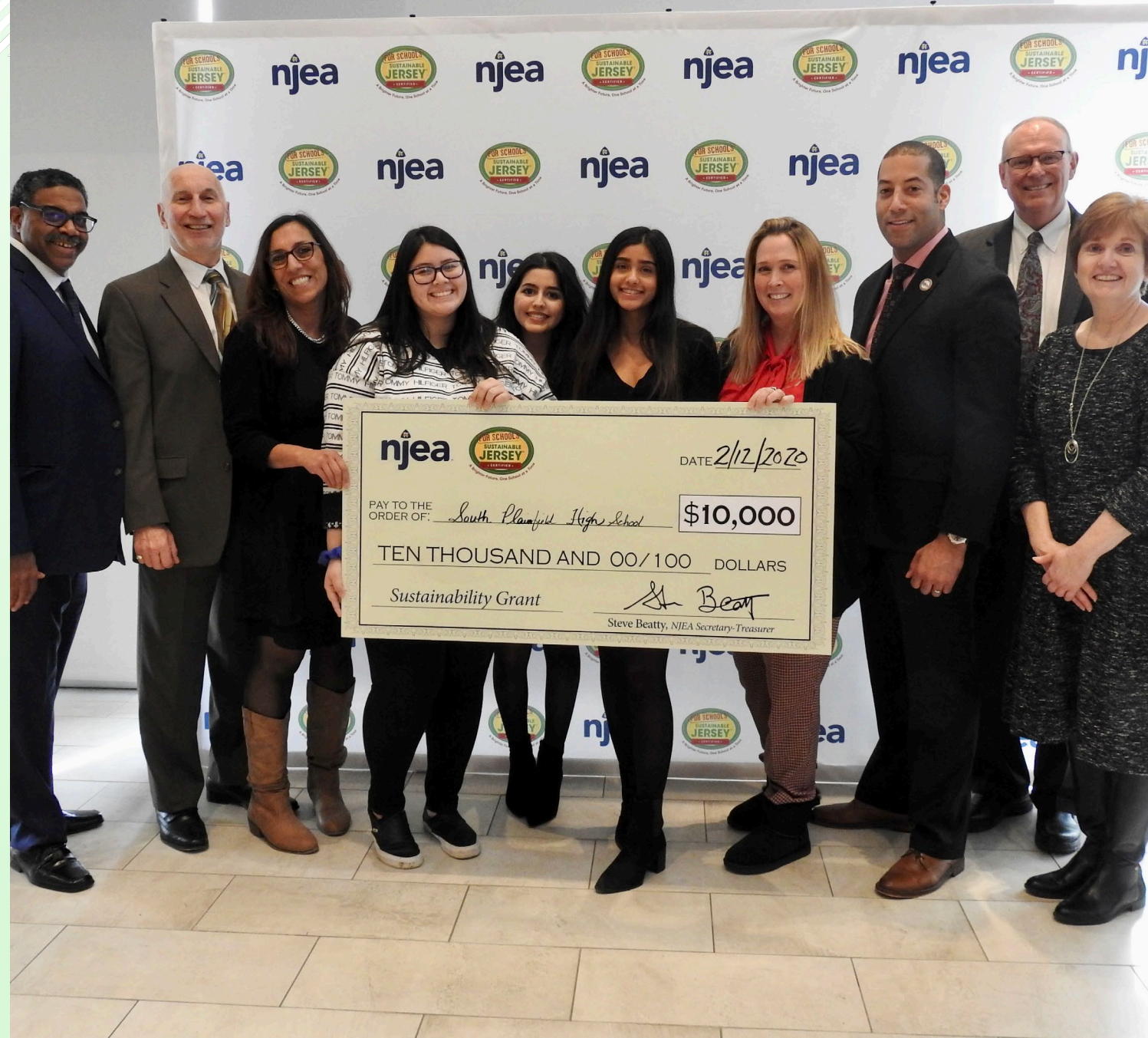
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What is the SJGP?



SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GRANTS PROGRAM



Sustainable Jersey

...is a free sustainability certification program for NJ municipalities and public schools

- **Our vision:** achieve a sustainable New Jersey, one community and school at a time
- **Our mission:** empower New Jersey communities to build a better world for future generations with the tools, training and financial incentives necessary to pursue critical sustainability initiatives.



The purpose of the SJGP...

...is to provide funding, technical assistance and resources to communities that are participating in the certification programs so that can complete program actions

- Grants for municipalities, public school districts, and individual public schools
- Typically offers grants ranging from \$2,000 up to \$35,000
- Can be used towards general green team support or towards a specific project that is eligible for certification points
- Since 2009, over \$6.8 million distributed to fund over 1,000 projects

MUNICIPAL GRANTS






SCHOOL GRANTS



Annual SJGP Cycles

!!! Contingent on receiving funding in a given year

CYCLE SPONSOR	PROJECT TYPE	SCHOOL OR MUNI	CYCLE ANNOUNCED	APPS DUE	FUNDING AWARDED
	Energy	Both	Late Aug	Late Oct	Mid-Jan
	General	School	Late Aug	Late Oct	Mid-Feb
	General	School Muni	Mid-Oct Mid-Nov	Mid-Mar Mid-Feb	Early Jun Early May

Other Opportunities

* Currently/Recently Offered



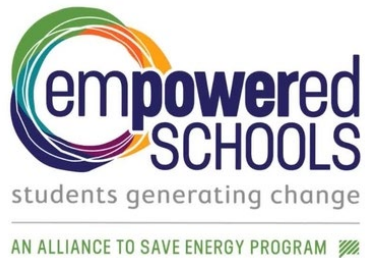
*
**Sustainable
Communities
Grant Program**



*
**School Food
Waste Pilot
Program**



*
**Climate Corps
Fellows Program**



*
**Energy Technical
Assistance
Program**



**Health and
Wellness Grants
Program**



**Healthy
Communities
Grant Program**



*
**Complete Streets Technical
Assistance Program**



**Roots for Rivers Reforestation
Grants and Technical
Assistance Program**



**Former SJGP
Funder**



**OPPORTUNITIES ANNOUNCED
AS FUNDING IS CONFIRMED**

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2022 – 2023 Opportunities



SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GRANTS PROGRAM



Energy Grants Cycle



Typically launched in late August, the details of the 2022 cycle are still being determined—once finalized, an announcement will be made

- May not occur this year
- If it does occur, will likely be a smaller cycle than in years past (will award < \$150,000)
- More prescribed energy projects (applicants will choose from a list)

Important Dates



Launch Date
TBD



Apps Due
TBD



Grants Awarded
TBD

Eligible Projects

- Energy Conservation, Efficiency, and Electrification
- New Construction/Gut Rehab Projects
- Renewable Energy
- Energy Reliability and Resiliency
- Transportation Efficiency and Electrification
- Studies, Plans, and Engineering



Applicants must apply for any applicable NJCEP or utility program funding to be eligible to apply for a Gardinier grant to cover remaining costs.



Learn more about the cycle including detailed information on eligible projects at:
bit.ly/EnergyGrantsCycleOverview

Ineligible Projects



While you cannot use SJGP funds for these projects, there is funding available through partner organizations

- Projects to upgrade lighting fixtures of any kind
 - Includes street, stadium, parking lot, interior, etc.
 - Can be bundled into a greater Direct Install project
- EV charging station installation projects and EV purchases (except for Class 4-8 medium and heavy-duty vehicles)
 - NJDEP's "It Pay\$ to Plug In" program
 - NJCEP's Clean Fleets EV Incentive Program
 - Utility programs



NJEA Grants Cycle



This cycle is open to NJ public school districts and individual schools affiliated with NJEA and will be announced at the NJEA Summer Leadership Conference

- Provides \$180,000 via \$2k and \$10k grants
 - 10 \$10k project grants
 - 40 \$2k green team support OR project grants
- The LEAST competitive cycle for schools
 - Best chances of receiving a grant
 - Can apply for a small AND large grant, but can only RECEIVE one

Important Dates



Launch Date
By Aug 6



Apps Due
No Earlier
Than Oct 31



Grants
Awarded
Spring 2023

Eligible Projects

Note that applicants must have the support of its local NJEA association president to apply for funding

- \$10k - must be used to fund a project that will earn points for an action in the SJS Program
 - Innovation Project actions are acceptable
 - Should leverage partnerships with parents / community resources
 - Must include an outreach component focused on promoting community awareness of the project
- \$2k - can be used for general green team support

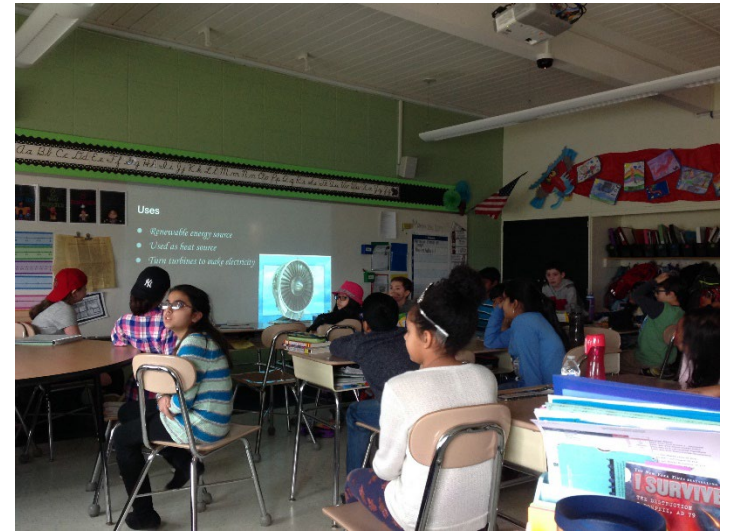


**Learn more about the cycle
including detailed information on
eligible projects at:**
bit.ly/NJEAGrantsCycleOverview

Ineligible Projects

Energy-related projects ARE NOT eligible for funding in the NJEA cycle (should be submitted in Gardinier-funded energy cycle) EXCEPT for \$2,000 proposals for:

- Energy education
- Energy conservation
- Behavioral change projects
- Note that if the energy grants cycle does not occur, we will accept energy projects in this cycle
 - Details on the energy grants cycle will be determined by the NJEA cycle launch



General Grants Cycle



PSEG
Foundation

This cycle is open to NJ public school districts / individual schools and municipalities and will be announced at the 2022 Sustainable Jersey Annual Awards ceremonies

- Provides \$200,000 to municipalities via \$2k, \$10k and \$20k grants
 - 4 \$20,000 and 8 \$10k project grants
 - 20 \$2k green team support OR project grants
- Provides \$100,000 to schools via \$2k and \$10k grants
 - 4 \$10k project grants
 - 30 \$2k green team support OR project grants

Important Dates



Launch Date
Oct and Nov



Apps Due
March and Feb

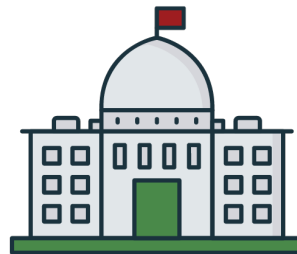


Grants Awarded
Summer 2023

Eligible Projects

Note that applicants DO NOT need to be located within PSE&G service territory to apply

- \$10k - must be used to fund a project that will earn points for an action in the SJ or SJS Program
 - Innovation Project actions are acceptable
- \$2k - can be used for general green team support



PSEG
Foundation



Learn more about the cycle including detailed information on eligible projects at: bit.ly/PSEGMuniGrantsCycleOverview

Learn more about the cycle including detailed information on eligible projects at: bit.ly/PSEGSchoolsGrantsCycleOverview

Ineligible Projects

Note that applicants DO NOT need to be located within PSE&G service territory to apply

- Same energy-related projects rules that the Gardinier-funded cycle follows
 - No lighting projects
 - No EV charging stations
 - No EV purchases (except for class 4-8 medium and heavy-duty vehicles)
- Also cannot be used for any energy efficiency that can receive funding through NJCEP or a utility incentive program



PSEG
Foundation



Sustainable Communities

Open to municipalities located within Atlantic City Electric service territory

- \$75,000 in \$2k, \$5k and \$10k grants
- Not considered an official SJ grant, so will not affect eligibility to apply in annual cycles
 - And vice-versa; open SJ grants do NOT affect eligibility to apply for these grants
- Must be registered, but no green team requirement
- 2 different types—environmental stewardship and resiliency

Important Dates



Launch Date
Open!



Apps Due
June 30,
2022



Grants
Awarded
Sept 2022

Eligible Projects



Environmental Stewardship

Intended to help municipalities improve public spaces such as local parks, natural areas, and recreation resources.

- Install trails, boardwalks, gardens, info kiosks, observation platforms, etc.
- Develop/support open space programs and plans
- Acquire land for open space preservation or conservation easements



Resiliency Grants

Intended to enhance a municipality's capacity to prevent and respond to catastrophic events and emergencies

- Implement strategies to mitigate effects of climate change
- Purchase emergency operations training, supplies, and equipment
- Purchase energy storage and solar powered generators

Ineligible Projects

Note that applicants DO need to be located within ACE service territory to apply

- Projects must occur on municipally-owned property (no privately-owned land, including land owned by non-profits)
- Funding cannot be used for expenses associated with staff time or municipal operating expenses
- Projects must fit within the guidelines provided in the application materials—can only apply for specific projects

**ELIGIBLE
COUNTIES
INCLUDE:**

**ATLANTIC
BURLINGTON
CAMDEN
CAPE MAY
CUMBERLAND
OCEAN
SALEM**

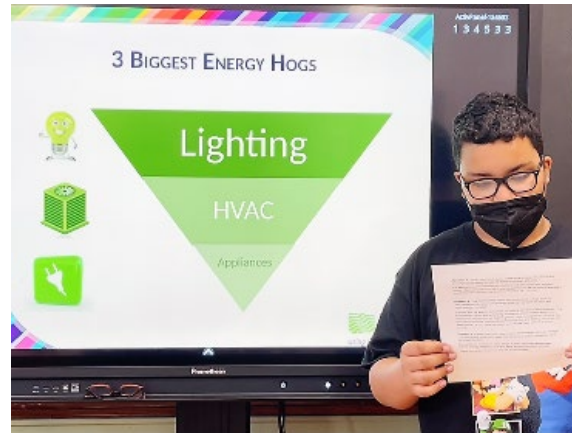
**CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR
TOWN IS ELIGIBLE**



EmPowered Schools

The EmPowered Schools program provides free support and resources to engage PK-12 students in hands-on learning to take the lead in saving energy and money in their schools and homes.

LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP FOR 2022-23 VIA THE QR CODE
OR BY GOING TO: bit.ly/SJSEmpoweredSchools



Important Dates



Launch Date
Open!



Apps Due
Rolling
(Until Filled)

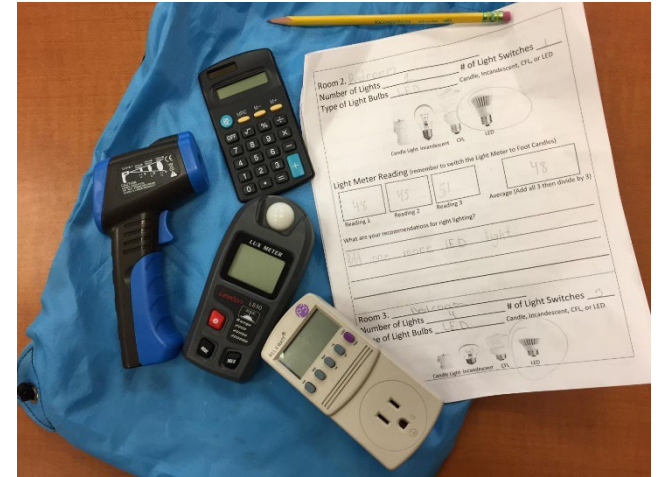


Grants
Awarded
Ongoing

Eligible Projects

Note that schools must be in the NJNG, SJG or ETG service area, or receive both electricity and gas from PSE&G, to be eligible

- Engages students for the duration of the school year
- Integrates Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) principles to promote energy literacy through lesson plans, hands-on activities, and competitions
- Uses both the school building and student homes as learning labs to solve real-world problems and generate cultural change by making energy efficiency visible, important, and doable



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How Do I Get Started?



**SUSTAINABLE JERSEY
GRANTS PROGRAM**





How to Apply for a SJ Grant

- **STEP ONE:** Make sure you [school/district](#) or [municipality](#) is registered in its respective Sustainable Jersey program
- **STEP TWO:** Create a [school/district](#) or [municipal](#) green team, or designate an existing group that meets the requirements listed in the action as it
- **STEP THREE:** Review the eligibility requirements for the cycle you would like to apply in to ensure that you are eligible
- **STEP FOUR:** Review the application information packet to get an understanding of the program details like what funding can be used for and if there are additional application requirements besides the standard ones



How to Apply for a SJ Grant

- **STEP FIVE:** Meet with your green team and other stakeholders to decide what project you want to apply for funding for and what grant amount best fits that project
- **STEP SIX:** Have the person responsible for submitting the grant application create an online grant account if they have not already
 - **(NOTE:** Using a new grant portal circa 2021, so if you have not applied since then (or ever), you will need to sign-up for a new account)
- **STEP SEVEN:** Attend or watch the recording of the informational webinar we hold for each cycle every year for an overview of the program
- **STEP EIGHT:** Complete each section by the deadline and receive a confirmation email—congratulations, you have successfully applied!

Check eligibility

In order to apply for grants:

- Your community only needs to be registered in the program
 - However, 50% of funding is reserved for certified municipalities and schools
 - Green team documentation requirement waived for certified communities

NOTE: Districts with at least one certified school are considered “certified”

 Beverly City School District (Burlington)	Burlington	
 Beverly Elementary School (Burlington)	Burlington	
 Black Horse Pike Regional School District (Camden)	Camden	
 Highland High School (Camden)	Camden	 BRONZE
 Timber Creek High School (Camden)	Camden	 BRONZE
 Triton High School (Camden)	Camden	 BRONZE

Previous Grants

Affect on Eligibility for Municipalities and School Districts

- Can only have **two open grants at one time**—one LARGE grant (10k or more) and one SMALL grant (2k or more)
- **Exception:** ACE grants do not affect eligibility
- Cannot receive more than one grant of the same level (large or small) in the same program year (i.e. cannot get 2 large grants from two 2021 cycles)
- They can however get a grant at the other grant level (i.e. can receive a large grant in one 2020 cycle and a small grant in a different 2020 cycle)
- Follow the chart on the next slide to see if an open grant will affect your grant application
- Grants that are from “Past Years” are considered outstanding since they have not completed their reporting requirements by the deadline
- Large grants have a performance period of 18 months and small grants have one of 12 months
- A grant is considered closed upon the submittal and approval of the final report
- As long as the project is complete, you will likely be able to get it closed in time for a new application to be considered



Standard Application Structure

- Each cycle follows a standard application structure
 - **Section One:** Grant Proposal
 - **Section Two:** SJ Program Status
 - **Section Three:** Grant Authorization Document
- Some cycles have additional sections that are specific to that opportunity
 - NJEA cycle will ask for information regarding your NJEA rep along with the standard asks
 - Gardinier cycle will ask for information regarding the available state/utility energy incentives, if applicable to your project

Note: Section Three will always have a later deadline than the rest of the application sections, as it requires municipalities to pass a resolution (which can take some time). Schools can either pass a resolution or get a letter signed by the BA, principal, or superintendent

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Take a SJGP Flyer to Start Planning Your Proposals!



Sustainable Jersey Grants Program

Consider Participating in Our Grants Program

The Grants Program is an important resource for municipalities and schools participating in the Sustainable Jersey certification programs. It provides funding for projects that, upon completion, can be used to gain points towards certification. Projects must relate to one of the 100+ municipal and school actions available in the certification program. Project examples include waste audits, professional development for sustainability, programs that advance equity, creative assets inventories, health and wellness programs, and more. [Register today to become eligible--it is free and easy!](#)

Available Funding

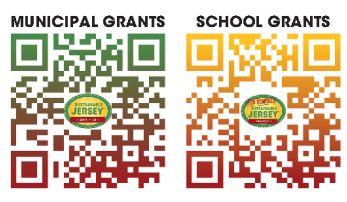
All funding cycles are contingent upon receiving funding for a given year and are announced once funding is confirmed. General grant cycles offer **small grants of \$2,000** that can be used for green team capacity building and general support. These cycles also offer **larger grants of \$10,000** (and \$20,000 for municipalities) that must be used towards a specific project. The energy grant cycle funding amounts vary, but will always equal to \$10,000 or more.

Annual Grant Cycles

CYCLE SPONSOR	PROJECT TYPE	SCHOOL OR MUNI	CYCLE ANNOUNCED	APPS DUE	FUNDING AWARDED
GARDINIER ENVIRONMENTAL FUND	Energy	Both	Late Aug	Late Oct	Mid-Jan
njea	General	School	Late Aug	Late Oct	Mid-Feb
PSEG Foundation	General	School Muni	Mid-Oct Mid-Nov	Mid-Mar Mid-Feb	Early Jun Early May

Learn More

View the [Grants page](#) on each of our websites. Once announced, more detailed information on each annual cycle, along with other grant and technical assistance opportunities currently being offered, will be available there.





bit.ly/SJSgrants

Certification

Actions

Grants

Events

Resources

Join The Sustainable Jersey Mailing List

Join

> NJEA Cycle

> Gardinier Energy Cycle

> PSEG Cycle

School Food Waste Pilot Program

Sustain
Techni

Sustainable with financial progress towards competitive underwriters



bit.ly/SJgrants

Certification

Actions

Grants

Events

Resources

Get Involved

> Gardinier Energy Cycle

> Thinking about Applying for Grants?

> Grant Recipient Information

Previous Recipients & Projects

Sustainable Jersey Grants & Technical Assistance Programs

Sustainable Jersey strives to connect participating communities with financial and technical resources to successfully complete actions and make progress towards a sustainable future. To that end, we directly offer multiple competitive grant and technical assistance opportunities funded by program underwriters and partner organizations each year. In addition, we maintain a [funding database](#) that includes other opportunities offered by a wide range of government agencies, foundations, corporations, and non-profit organizations.

Join Sustainable Jersey For Schools Mailing List

Join



Navigating the Grants Tab on the Website

- Each cycle will have its own page under the grants tab along with the standard sub pages (4 total including the main page)
 - Main Page
 - Eligible Applicants, Projects, & Expenses
 - Application Sections
 - Proposal Evaluation
- General information is available under the “Thinking about Applying for Grants” page
 - Online Application Portal Instructions page will show you how to create an SJ grant account

✓ **PSEG Cycle**

Eligible Applicants,
Projects & Expenses

Application Sections

Proposal Evaluation

✓ **Thinking about Applying for Grants?**

Eligibility

Use of Funding

Application Tips

Required
Documentation

Online Application
Portal Instructions



Standard Grant Proposal Structure

- The standard Grant Proposal form is broken into the following sub-sections for each cycle
 - Project Title and Brief Project Description
 - Action Plan and Timeline
 - Budget Narrative and Detailed Project Budget
 - Optional Information
- Larger grants (\$10,000+) also provide the following information
 - Project Team
 - Community Engagement
 - Project Impact and Evaluation



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Project Ideas



**SUSTAINABLE JERSEY
GRANTS PROGRAM**



Starter Grant Projects

Level 1 bullet may be removed for introductory sentences. Use the Bullets button on the Home tab to toggle bullets on/off.

- School and/or Community Garden
- Rain Garden
- Environmental Resource Inventory
- Composting
- General Green Team

Intermediate Grant Projects

Level 1 bullet may be removed for introductory sentences. Use the Bullets button on the Home tab to toggle bullets on/off.

- School and/or Community Garden
- Rain Garden
- Environmental Resource Inventory
- Composting
- General Green Team

Advanced Grant Projects

Level 1 bullet may be removed for introductory sentences. Use the Bullets button on the Home tab to toggle bullets on/off.

- School and/or Community Garden
- Rain Garden
- Environmental Resource Inventory
- Composting
- General Green Team

Projects for Points

Level 1 bullet may be removed for introductory sentences. Use the Bullets button on the Home tab to toggle bullets on/off.

- School and/or Community Garden
- Rain Garden
- Environmental Resource Inventory
- Composting
- General Green Team

Evaluation/Proposal Sections

General

Project
Description

20 Points

Project Team
Members

10 Points

Action Plan &
Timeline

20 Points

Community
Engagement

10 Points

Project Impact

20 Points

Budget

20 Points

**TOTAL = 100
Points**

Use of Funding

General Guidelines – Some Cycles Have Additional Limitations*

Eligible Expenses

Consultant/contractor service fees
Staff stipends
Equipment
Project supplies
Training and educational materials
Promotional items including meeting supplies, incentives or awards (subject to certain limits)

Ineligible Expenses

Facilities/administrative (overhead) costs
Submitting for reimbursement of a project that has already been completed**

Large Grant Applications (10k and up)

In general, funds must be used to support all or part of a project that will earn points toward [an SJ](#) or [an SJS](#) action. Innovative Projects are also acceptable.

Small Grants (2k)

Funds can be used for green team general operating support and direct expenses or to complete a project related to [an SJ](#) or [an SJS](#) action.

*ACE cycle has its own use of funding guidelines and Gardinier is the same as this, except it only applies to energy actions/projects.

**Projects that have already been started are not eligible for funding, however, if Phase One of a project is complete and they want to complete Phase Two with grant funds, that would be acceptable.



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Certification

Actions

Grants

Events

Resources

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▼ Sustainable Communities Cycle

Eligibility Requirements

Proposal Evaluation

Online Application Portal Instructions

Municipal Water Story Technical Assistance

PSEG Cycle

2021 EDF Climate Corps Program

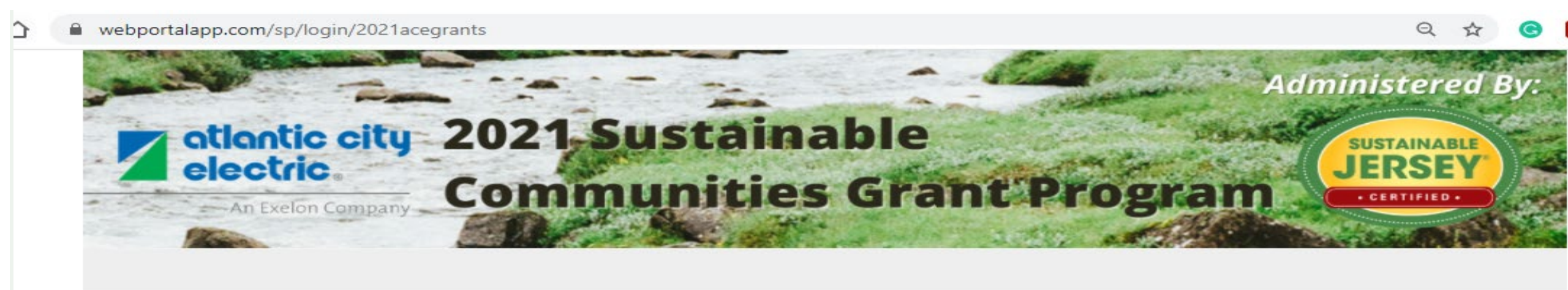


Eligible Applicants

To be eligible for a grant in this cycle, the following requirements must be met:

- New Jersey municipality located in [ACE service territory](#).
- New Jersey municipality [registered](#) or [certified](#) in the Sustainable Jersey Program. Check your municipality's Sustainable Jersey program status [here](#).

Only cycle currently open is ACE—check it out [here](#)



Grant Account Information

A municipality should use one account to submit its grant applications with.

A grant account should not be set up by a consultant or a partner organization. A municipal employee or elected/appointed official, such as a green team member or councilperson, (whoever plans on being the primary contact for the grant) should create the account—that account can then be used by a consultant or a partner organization to work on and submit a grant application.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS GRANT CYCLE IS ONLY OPEN TO MUNICIPALITIES IN ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC TERRITORY. You can check to see if your municipality is eligible [here](#).

Sign In

Email

Password

Log In

[Forgot your password?](#)

Need an Account?

Sign Up

Online Grant Application Portal (used for ALL SJ grants)

Feel free to start a draft application [here](#). It is for ACE, but even if you are not looking to apply you can get a feel for the system or use it to show the towns how to use the system if you'd like.

How are my chances?

Good chances

- Grant stats
- Good compared to state and federal funding
- Debrief calls



SUSTAINABLE JERSEY **GRANTS PROGRAM**



The purpose of the SJGP is to help municipalities and public schools participating in the SJ and SJS certification programs fund sustainability projects related to the 100+ program actions.

- Provides both funding and technical assistance opportunities
- Offers 2k green team support grants and project grants of 2k, 10k, and 20
- Since 2009, over \$6.8 million distributed across the state to fund over 1,000 projects
 - Of the 464 municipalities participating, 276 (or 59.5%) have received at least one grant

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PSEG



**New Jersey
Natural Gas**



**SOUTH JERSEY
GAS**



**ELIZABETHTOWN
GAS**

Gold



solarlandscape

Silver

NJM Insurance
Group



**Atlantic
Health System**

FirstEnergy
Foundation



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**New Jersey
Natural Gas**



**SOUTH JERSEY
GAS**



**ELIZABETHTOWN
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Thank You

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

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