

SUSTAINABILITY SESSIONS: 10:00 – 11:10am

THE SINGLE-USE PLASTICS LAW: WHERE ARE WE NOW...AND WHERE WE ARE HEADED? SJ

It has been two years since the single-use plastics law went into effect in New Jersey – where are we now? This session will provide an update on the work of the NJ Plastics Advisory Council to monitor the effectiveness of the law in reducing single-use plastics and their broader charge to assess environmental and public health impacts of plastics, as well as ways to further reduce plastic waste and increase plastic recycling. You will learn about the progress made to date and the primary focus areas moving forward.

N.Dini Checko, Project Director, ANJEC; **Katie Greer**, Environmental Specialist 3, DEP, Division of Sustainable Waste Management; **Samantha McGraw**, Sr. Department Administrator, Sustainable Jersey; **Beth Ravit**, Co-Director, Rutgers Center for Urban Sustainability; **Gary Sondermeyer**, Vice President of Operations, Bayshore Recycling

[CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom; NJCCC 1.0; CMFO/CCFO, 1.0 Office Management and Ancillary Subjects; CPWM, 1.0 Government; RMC, 1.0 Professional Development; QPA, 1.0 Office Admin./General Duties]

LAND MANAGEMENT TRIAGE SJ, SJS

Municipalities own a range of land that if managed, could provide multiple ecological benefits and improved aesthetics for the community. Yet due to lack of funding and expertise, the lands often are undermanaged or maintained as unused lawn at great expense, resulting in invasive species and loss of native cover. Come learn about cost effective ways to harness local volunteers and new approaches for management and use of native plants to improve the stewardship of publicly-owned open spaces.

Laura Bagwell, Chair, Eatontown Environmental Commission; **Clay Emerson**, Senior Technical Director, Engineering, Princeton Hydro; **Michael Van Clef**, Program Director, New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team

[CEUs available: CMFO/CCFO, 1.0 Office Management and Ancillary Subjects; CPWM, 1.0 Management; RMC, 1.0 Professional Development; QPA, 1.0 Office Admin./General Duties]

PLANNING PAVES THE WAY: ENERGIZING MUNICIPALITIES THROUGH COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION SJ

Community energy planning is a process municipalities can use to have simple, straightforward guidance to implement emission reducing strategies aligned with the State Energy Master Plan's framework. To help guide municipalities through this process, two critical grant programs were created by the Board of Public Utilities: the Community Energy Plan Grant (CEPG) Program and the Community Energy Plan Implementation (CEPI) Grant Program. Attendees of this session will learn about the paths that are available to implement high-priority, high-impact clean energy projects at the municipal level. This includes the application details of the grant programs, introductions to the resources available to your community sourced from Sustainable Jersey, and valuable insights presented by current program participants.

Tori Bearden, Project and Research Specialist, Sustainable Jersey; **Vincent Palmieri**, Planning Analyst, Brick Township Planning Department; **Yasmine Pessar**, Principal Environmental Planner, Hoboken City Department of Climate Action and Innovation; **David Titus**, Project Specialist 1, NJ Board of Public Utilities, Division of Clean Energy

[CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom; CMFO/CCFO, 1.0 Budgeting; CPWM, 1.0 Management; RMC, 1.0 Professional Development; QPA, 1.0 Office Admin./General Duties]

UPDATES FROM STATE AGENCIES SJ, SJS

This session will provide a platform for New Jersey State Agency leaders to share their latest sustainability initiatives that impact municipalities and schools. This includes new requirements for municipalities as well as new programs and resources. Attendees will have an opportunity to hear from decision-makers on the new and emerging approaches that state agencies are taking to promote sustainability, reduce their carbon footprint, conserve natural resources, and promote social equity. The panelists will discuss the various programs, initiatives, and resources that they have developed and implemented. Ask questions and gain further insights into the programs and resources available to you.

Dan Fatton, Director, Clean Energy Partnerships, New Jersey Economic Development Authority; **Peg Hanna**, Director, DEP Climate Change Mitigation and Monitoring; **Véronique Oomen**, Director of Division of Clean Energy, Board of Public Utilities; **Megan Fackler**, Director of Statewide Planning, New Jersey Department of Transportation; **Randall Solomon**, Executive Director, Sustainable Jersey

[CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom; CMFO/CCFO, 1.0 Office Management and Ancillary Subjects; CPWM, 1.0 Government; RMC, 1.0 Professional Development; QPA, 1.0 Office Admin./General Duties; 1.0 CEFM]

SUSTAINABILITY SESSIONS: 11:30 – 12:30pm

EMBRACING NATURE: STRATEGIES FOR OUTDOOR LEARNING SJS

How can we get people outdoors to learn about and connect with nature? This session makes the case for outdoor learning and presents best practices and challenges faced in schools. Educators share strategies that include using outdoor classrooms and accessing neighborhood spaces as learning resources - from sidewalks and trails to local parks and beaches. Join us in this exploration of approaches that empower learners to engage with and appreciate the natural world.

Coleen Conroy, Administrative Assistant, High Bridge Middle School; **Roberta Hunter**, Education Program Manager, New Jersey Audubon; **Michele Morey**, Teacher, Long Branch Public Schools; **Elizabeth Nunez**, Supervisor of Science K-5, New Brunswick Public Schools; **Kelli Shaughnessy**, Teacher, Long Branch Public Schools

GEARING UP FOR THE GOLD STAR IN RESILIENCE SJ

Sustainable Jersey is developing a new Gold Star to help municipalities be climate-ready. This session will get green team members and municipal staff started on organizing data, information, and stakeholder engagement for the development of a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment (CCRHVA). This key analysis will help the community understand its vulnerabilities and risks from the impacts of increasingly intense and unpredictable climate hazards and move toward solutions. Learn how a climate vulnerability assessment will be the foundation of the Gold Star in Resilience.

Anne Heasley, Program Manager for Policy and Planning; Sustainable Jersey; **Tanya Rohrbach**, Community Planning Manager, New Jersey Future
[CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom; CMFO/CCFO, 1.0 Office Management and Ancillary Subjects; CPWM, 1.0 Management; RMC, 1.0 Professional Development; QPA, 1.0 Office Admin./General Duties]

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE CLASSROOMS SJS

From support for climate education and technology in schools to equity and sustainable literacy, join this panel to learn about State funding and resources available to schools and school districts.

Nicole Broadwater, Farm to School Coordinator, New Jersey Department of Agriculture; **Sarah Sterling-Laldee**, Senior Climate Change Education Advisor, New Jersey Department of Education; **Jennifer Schrum**, Research & Evaluation Strategy Manager, NJ Office of the Food Security Advocate
[CEUs available: NJCCC 1.0]

RIDING THE EV WAVE TOWARDS CLEAN, HEALTHY, AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SJ, SJS

Electric vehicles (EVs) can range from police cars to garbage trucks, school buses, shuttle and delivery vans, and first responder vehicles -- all of which can help improve local air quality and reduce noise pollution! EVs can be deployed for shuttle vans such as GOTrenton!, garbage trucks such as in Hoboken and Woodbridge, as well as police fleets in Atlantic City and Maplewood. In addition, municipalities can commit to providing EV charging for their employees as well as encourage local businesses to do likewise. Join us to learn about how the transition to EVs can improve local air quality and reduce transportation and O&M costs for fleets and residents alike, while contributing to state greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

Melissa Evanego, Manager, DEP Bureau of Mobile Sources; **Krishna Murthy**, President and CEO, EZ Ride; **Nancy Quirk**, Senior Energy Program Manager, Sustainable Jersey

[CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom; CMFO/CCFO, 1.0 Office Management and Ancillary Subjects; CPWM, 1.0 Management; RMC, 1.0 Professional Development; QPA, 1.0 Green Purchasing]

SUSTAINABILITY SESSIONS: 1:45 – 2:45pm

FROM AMBITION TO ACTION: EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY ENERGY OUTREACH SJ, SJS

Municipalities and schools are powerful leaders in their communities. To reach our climate goals we will need every individual and business to make energy efficiency improvements. Learn about how Sustainable Jersey's updated Energy Efficiency (EE) Outreach actions, The Alliance to Save Energy's EmPowered Schools EmPowered at Home campaign, and other resources can turn your energy outreach goals into effective EE outreach campaigns that lower community energy use. This session will feature successful strategies from outreach campaigns and incentive programs.

*Following this session, drop by room BO1 (across the hall) for further discussion about your municipality or school enrolling in the Sustainable Jersey-PSE&G Partnership Program (until 3:30pm).

Brittany Sweigart Beyer, Chair, Barrington Borough Green Team; **Michael Mandzik**, Senior Energy Efficiency Program Liaison, NJ Natural Gas SAVEGREEN; **Leanne McGowan**, Program Manager, Sustainable Jersey

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MAYORS' PERSPECTIVES: ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL SJ

Mayors from across the state will share how they are advancing sustainability in their communities, why it is important, and how to garner support from less passionate elected officials and municipal staff.

Mayor Daniele Fede, Borough of Bogota; **Mayor David Fleisher**, Township of Cherry Hill; **Mayor William Porter**, Borough of Red Bank; **Mayor Andre Sayegh**, City of Paterson; **Randall Solomon**, Executive Director, Sustainable Jersey

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THE NOISE ON GAS LEAF BLOWER REGULATION: MUNICIPALITIES TRANSFORMING LANDSCAPING PRACTICES SJ, SJS

Two-stroke lawn maintenance equipment can create quality of life, health, environmental and social injustice issues. Learn how municipalities are moving to more sustainable lawn maintenance practices, working in partnership with the New Jersey landscaping industry.

Mayor Nancy Adams, Township of Maplewood; **Lori Jossen**, Executive Director, New Jersey Nursery and Landscape Association; **Lois Kraus**, Co-Founder, Advocates Transforming Landscaping in NJ; **Richard A. McCoy**, American Green Zone Alliance NJ; **Hal Strelnick, M.D.**, Montefiore Medical Center Albert Einstein College of Medicine

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SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVE: ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES IN SCHOOLS SJS

School representatives from across the state will share how they are advancing sustainability within their schools and districts, why it is important, and how to get students excited and mobilize about these critical topics.

Joseph Annibale, Assistant Superintendent, Hazlet Township Public Schools; **Shaina Brenner**, Teacher, Jackson Elementary School; **Daniella Gonzalez**, Student, Princeton High School, **Edward Potosnak**, former Board Member, Franklin Public Schools; **Kira Sikorski**, District Coordinator of School-Based Green Teams, Franklin Park School

[CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom]

DON'T LET POINTS SLIP DOWN THE DRAIN! DROP-IN COACHING SESSION SJ

Is your town updating its Stormwater Management Control Ordinance to meet the July 16, 2024 deadline? Or wondering how it relates to the new requirements for the MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System)? Drop in and ask your stormwater questions and learn how to earn points for your ordinance from experts who work every day to make New Jersey's water cleaner.

Anne Heasley, Program Manger for Policy and Planning, Sustainable Jersey; **Michael Pisauro**, Esq. Policy Director, The Watershed Institute; **Lindsey Sigmund**, PP, AICP, Program Manager, Mainstreaming Green Infrastructure Program, New Jersey Future

[CEUs available: NJCCC 1.0; CMFO/CCFO, 1.0 Office Management and Ancillary Subjects; CPWM, 1.0 Technical; RMC, 1.0 Professional Development; QPA, 1.0 Office Admin./General Duties]

SUSTAINABILITY SESSIONS: 3:00 – 4:00pm

NEW MUNICIPAL ROLES IN SUPPORTING SOLAR DEVELOPMENT SJ

After a successful pilot phase, New Jersey's community solar program is transitioning to a permanent program. This session will include an overview of the program changes and cover the role of the municipality in bringing community solar to residents including the new opt-out model. This session will also cover new solar resources and tools.

Sawyer Morgan, Research Scientist, Division of Clean Energy, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities; **Stephen Pope**, SolarAPP+ Outreach Manager, Solar Energy Industries Association

[CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom; CMFO/CCFO, 1.0 Office Management and Ancillary Subjects; CPWM, 1.0 Management; RMC, 1.0 Professional Development; QPA, 1.0 Office Admin./General Duties]

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY BOOT CAMP SJ, SJS

Are you new to the Sustainable Jersey program? Is your community applying for a Sustainable Jersey grant for the first time? Is your green team revitalizing after a few years off? If the answer is yes to any of those questions, please join Sustainable Jersey and Sustainable Jersey for Schools staff for this session to learn about strategies, tips, and resources to help you make the most of what the program has to offer. There will be ample time to answer questions and opportunities for participants to share their experiences. Together, we will help you get your green team in shape for future certification and grant applications!

JoAnna Contarino, Program Coordinator; Sustainable Jersey; **Maureen Jones**, Program Coordinator, Sustainable Jersey; **Kaitlyn Vollmer**, Grants Program Manager, Sustainable Jersey; **Samantha McGraw**, Sr. Department Administrator, Sustainable Jersey;

[CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom; CMFO/CCFO, 1.0 Office Management and Ancillary Subjects; CPWM, 1.0 Management; RMC, 1.0 Professional Development; QPA, 1.0 Office Admin./General Duties; 1.0 CEFM]

TRANSFORMING FOOD WASTE: INSIGHTS FROM NEW JERSEY MUNICIPALITIES AND SCHOOLS SJ, SJS

Dive into methods and strategies employed by New Jersey municipalities and schools to separate and recycle food waste. Explore different models, glean insights, and discover actionable approaches towards sustainable waste management practices.

Catherine Hirschman Choudhry, Westfield Green Team; **Debbie Danielson**, Administrative Assistant, Town of Newton Public Works; **Sean McArthur**, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, Westfield Public Schools; **Amanda Nesheiwat**, Deputy Director of Sustainability & Community Outreach, Hudson County Improvement Authority

[CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom; CPWM, 1.0 Technical]

TREES PLEASE! TREE STEWARDSHIP FOR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND WELL BEING SJ

Trees are critical community infrastructure that provide generous benefits, from improving quality of life to increasing resilience, to rising temperatures, heavy rainfall events, and other climate impacts. Yet, tree-cover is declining due to many stressors and has

long been deficient in urbanized neighborhoods, where heat islands consequently predominate. This session covers information useful for all municipalities: new state guidelines for Community Forestry Management Plans, new inventory requirements, sources of funding and technical assistance, and local best practices in tree-planting, stewardship, and community involvement.

Brian McDonald, Forester, NJ Forest Service; **Liz Stewart**, Arborist, River Edge Shade Tree Advisory Committee; **Pam Zipse**, Executive Director, New Jersey Tree Foundation

[CEUs available: CMFO/CCFO, 1.0 Office Management and Ancillary Subjects; CPWM, 1.0 Management; RMC, 1.0 Professional Development; 1.0 NJUCF]

COMMUNITY DESIGN FOR ALL AGES! DROP-IN COACHING SESSION SJ

By 2030, all of the baby boom generation will be older than 65 years old, and many communities are not designed to accommodate all ages and abilities. Drop in and ask questions about how to better understand the demographics of your municipality, assess the land uses and built environment to promote age-friendly living and identify local policy changes – all while earning points. Learn about what New Jersey communities have done to improve housing choices, walkability and creating places for social engagement.

Evan Garcia, AICP, Community Planner, New Jersey Future; **Anne Heasley**, Program Manager for Policy and Planning; Sustainable Jersey; **Tanya Rohrbach**, Community Planning Manager, New Jersey Future

[CEUs available: CMFO/CCFO, 1.0 Office Management and Ancillary Subjects; CPWM, 1.0 Management; RMC, 1.0 Professional Development]

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