



SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT 10



Sustainable Jersey Boot Camp

May 9, 2025

Sustainable Jersey Operations Team:

JoAnna Contarino, Program Coordinator

Maureen Jones, Program Coordinator

Kaitlyn Vollmer, Grants Program Manager



Speakers



Kaitlyn Vollmer
Grants Program Manager
Sustainable Jersey



Maureen Jones
Program Coordinator
Sustainable Jersey



JoAnna Contarino
Program Coordinator
Sustainable Jersey
for Schools



Agenda

1. Audience Poll
2. Program Overview
3. Municipal Certification
4. Schools Certification
5. Grants Program
6. Q&A





Audience Poll: By a show of hands...

1. Are you affiliated with a municipality? A school? Or another organization?
2. Who is new to the program? Are any of you from a green team going through a revitalization?
3. How many of you have applied for a Sustainable Jersey grant in the past?
4. Is this anyone's first time attending the Sustainability Summit?



What is Sustainable Jersey?

A nonprofit organization that provides **tools, trainings and financial incentives** to support communities as they pursue sustainability programs.

\$8.4 million in grants to municipalities and schools through the Sustainable Jersey Grants Program for sustainability initiatives. Learn more:

sustainablejersey.com/grants and
sustainablejerseyschools.com/grants/

Actions

Tools,
resources,
guidance

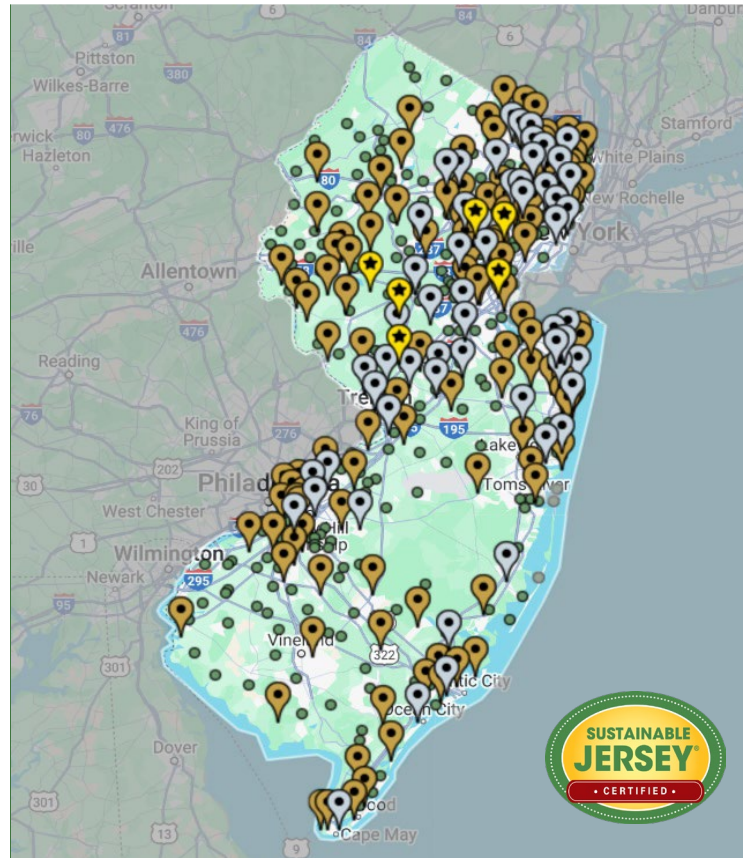
Funding



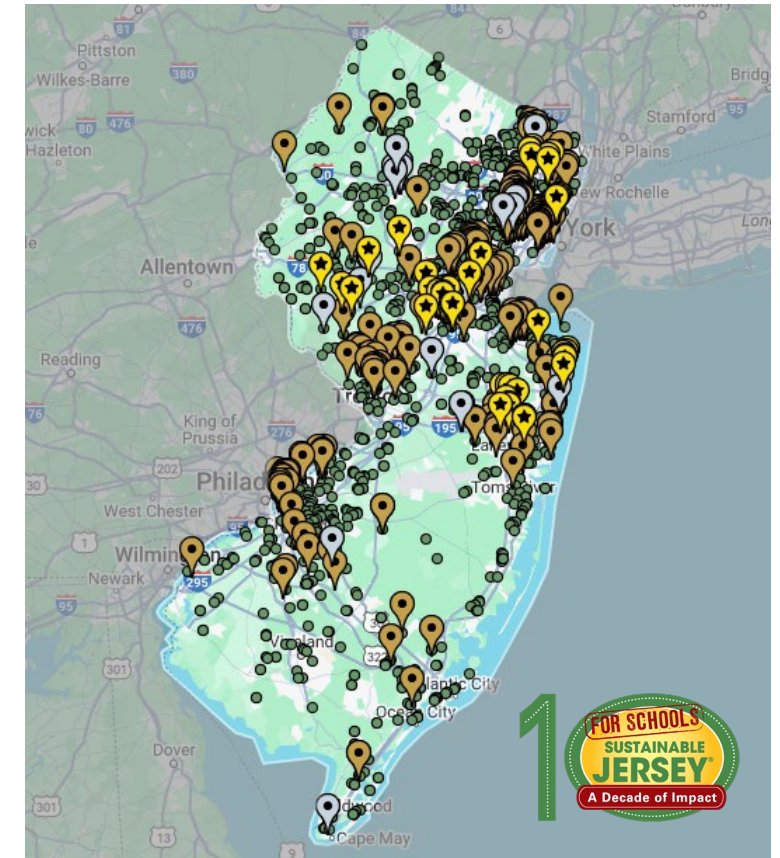
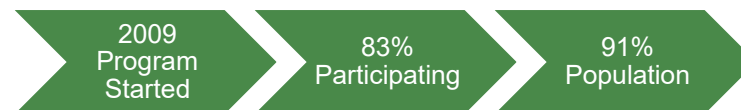
THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE

Statistics

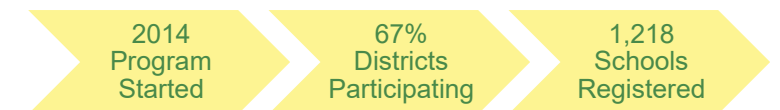
27,967
Actions
Implemented



Sustainable Jersey



Sustainable Jersey for Schools





Certification Benefits



Save money. Get money.



Gain access to tools, training and expert guidance.



Prepare the next generation with the tools they need to save the planet.



Get recognized. Promote your town or school.



Conserve valuable resources. Protect the environment.



Create healthier learning and working environments.



Certification Requirements



- Total of at least 150 points
- Mandatory Green Team
- Implement 2 priority actions
- Actions completed in 6 categories



- Total of at least 350 points
- Mandatory Green Team
- Implement 3 priority actions
- Actions completed in 8 categories

Gold Star Standard

All certified municipalities are eligible to earn Gold Star recognition for reaching high levels of achievement in key dimensions of sustainability.

All standards require the completion of base certification actions, AND the Gold Star action(s)

Learn more: sustainablejersey.com/actions/gold-star-standards/



Climate Readiness



Energy



Health



Water



**Learn more at the
1:45-2:45pm
Drop-In Session
in the Cube Rm**

IS YOUR COMMUNITY CLIMATE READY? INTRODUCING THE NEW GOLD STAR! SJ

Take climate adaptation to the next level with the Gold Star in Climate Readiness. This new gold star standard gives municipalities the freedom to choose impactful actions while embracing a holistic approach to tackling climate change head-on. The impacts of climate change necessitate a forward-looking, comprehensive approach across municipal efforts. The suite of certification actions contributing to the Gold Star in Climate Readiness span the Built, Natural, Social, Economic, and Governance Systems that support the municipality. This session will introduce the new gold star standard and provide examples of climate adaptation actions happening in communities around the state.

Digital Schools Star Recognition

- Recognizes schools that embrace effective digital learning and communication tools, resources, and practices
- Builds on legacy of Future Ready Schools
- Districts and schools complete requirements as part of the certification application
- Schools submit their own Digital Schools Star application (single action with checklist)

<https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/actions/digital-schools-program/digital-schools-star-recognition/>



2024 Digital Schools Star Recipients





2025 Certification Cycles

Municipal Certification

	First Round	Second Round	Third Round
Submission Deadline	February 23	May 16	July 31
Return Date	Early April	Mid June	Late September

School Certification

	First Round	Second Round	Third Round
Submission Deadline	January 13	March 24	June 12
Return Date	Late February	Early May	Late August



SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT 1



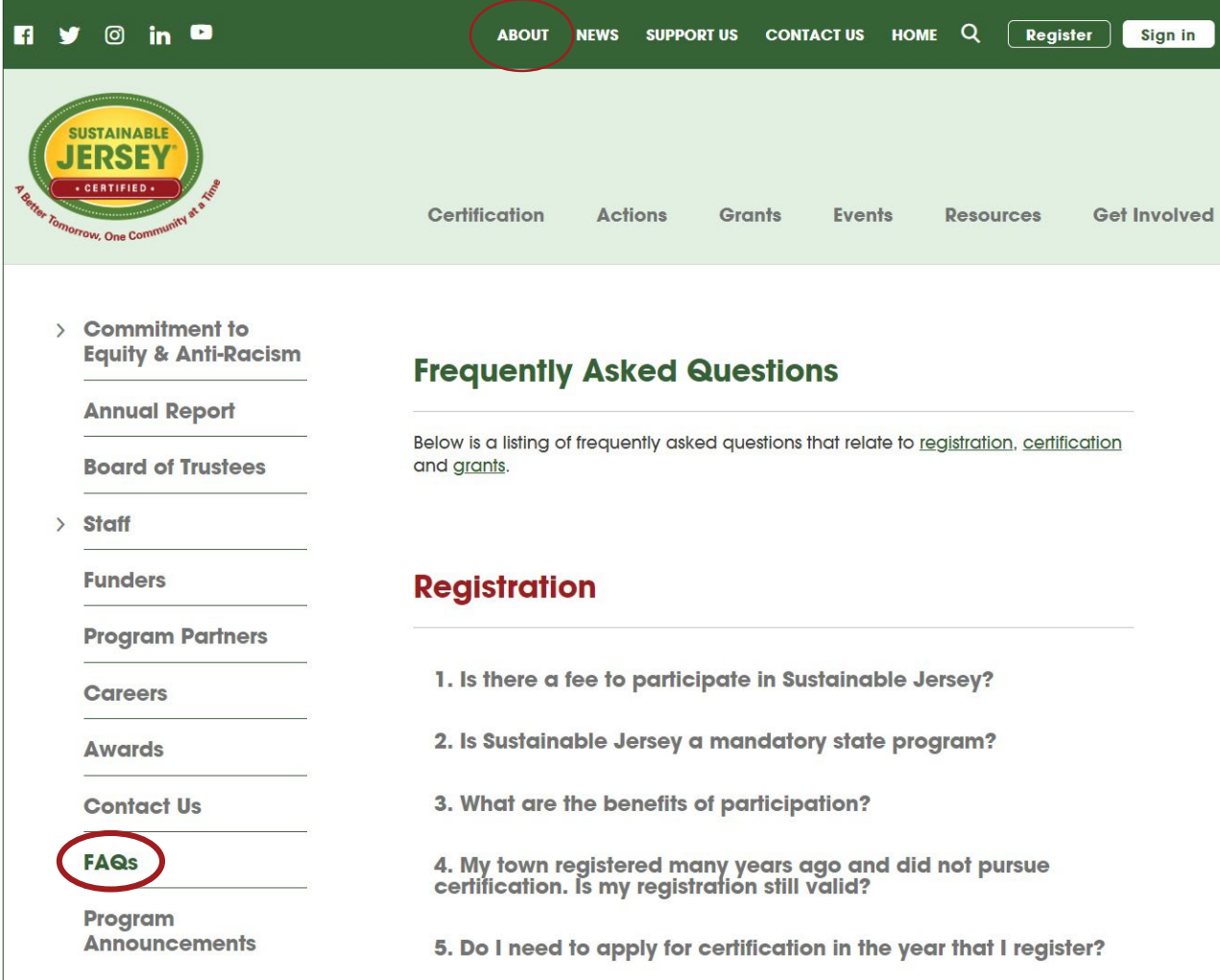
Getting Started with Municipal Certification



Getting Started - FAQs

FAQs page provides answers to many frequently asked questions about registration, certification, and the grants program.

sustainablejersey.com/about/faqs



The screenshot shows the Sustainable Jersey website. The top navigation bar is dark green with white text for 'ABOUT', 'NEWS', 'SUPPORT US', 'CONTACT US', 'HOME', and a search icon. 'ABOUT' is circled in red. To the right are 'Register' and 'Sign in' buttons. Below the navigation bar is a light green banner with the Sustainable Jersey logo on the left and a horizontal menu with 'Certification', 'Actions', 'Grants', 'Events', 'Resources', and 'Get Involved'. The main content area has a left sidebar with a list of links: 'Commitment to Equity & Anti-Racism', 'Annual Report', 'Board of Trustees', 'Staff', 'Funders', 'Program Partners', 'Careers', 'Awards', 'Contact Us', 'FAQs' (circled in red), and 'Program Announcements'. The main content area on the right is titled 'Frequently Asked Questions' and contains a paragraph: 'Below is a listing of frequently asked questions that relate to [registration](#), [certification](#) and [grants](#).' Below this is a section titled 'Registration' with a list of five questions.

Frequently Asked Questions

Below is a listing of frequently asked questions that relate to [registration](#), [certification](#) and [grants](#).

Registration

1. Is there a fee to participate in Sustainable Jersey?
2. Is Sustainable Jersey a mandatory state program?
3. What are the benefits of participation?
4. My town registered many years ago and did not pursue certification. Is my registration still valid?
5. Do I need to apply for certification in the year that I register?

Registration

1. To join Sustainable Jersey, the municipal governing body will need to pass a resolution to participate.
2. Designated representative signs up for an account & submits registration.
3. Once registration is approved, access given to Municipal Dashboard & certification application.
4. Registration never expires.

sustainablejersey.com/certification/registration-overview/

The screenshot displays the Sustainable Jersey website. At the top, a dark green navigation bar contains social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube) on the left and links for ABOUT, NEWS, SUPPORT US, CONTACT US, HOME, and a search icon. The 'Register' button is highlighted with a red circle. Below this is a light green banner featuring the Sustainable Jersey logo (a green circle with 'SUSTAINABLE JERSEY' and 'A Better Tomorrow, One Community at a Time') and a row of links: Certification, Actions, Grants, Events, Resources, and Get Involved.

The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is a sidebar with a white background and a green border, containing links to the Municipal Dashboard, Certification Overview, Why Get Certified?, 2023 Certification Cycle, Search Participating Municipalities & Approved Actions, Registration Overview (circled in red), Register a Municipality, Annual Awards, Resources, and FAQs. The right column has a white background and contains the 'Registration Overview' section. This section includes the heading 'Participation in Sustainable Jersey is FREE and voluntary', a paragraph stating that participation is not mandated by the state, and another paragraph explaining that municipalities must first be registered. It also includes a red heading 'Pass a Resolution to Participate' with a paragraph about the required resolution, a green button for 'Sample Registration Resolution', a red heading 'Sign-In or Sign Up for a Website Account' with a paragraph about account creation, a green button for 'Sign-In or Sign Up', a red heading 'Register a Municipality Online' with a paragraph about the online form, and a green button for 'Sample Registration Resolution' (circled in red).

Establish your Green Team

- Leads and coordinates the sustainability activities of the community
- Develops plans, implements programs, and assists with educational opportunities that support the creation of a sustainable community
- Diverse group of members encouraged



Green Team Cont'd.

- Aspire to create a team representing the demographics of the town
- Can be part of an existing group, like an Environmental Commission

Learn more about green teams:

sustainablejersey.com/resources/green-team-resources/what-is-a-green-team/



Certification Timeline



- Three rounds of submission & review.
- Recommended to submit in first and/or second rounds to gain feedback on application prior to final deadline.
- Certified municipalities recognized at Sustainable Jersey Annual Luncheon at NJLM Conference in November.

	FIRST ROUND	SECOND ROUND	THIRD ROUND
Submission Deadline	Feb. 23	May 16	July 31
Return Date	Early-April	Mid-June	Late-Sep.

<https://www.sustainablejersey.com/certification/2025-certification-cycle/>

Actions

1. Review menu of actions on website or in the Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet.
2. Check Program Updates page for new & updated actions.
3. Talk with green team members to identify interests and assign actions to work on.

sustainablejersey.com/actions



Certification

Actions

Grants &
Technical
Assistance

Events

Resources

Get Involved

Municipal
Dashboard

> Action Development

Priority &
Prerequisite Actions

2024 Certification
Cycle

> Gold Star Standards

Program Updates

Search Participating
Municipalities &
Approved Actions

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



Arts & Creative Culture



Brownfields



Community Partnership & Outreach



Diversity & Equity



Actions

4. Review action description for helpful guidance.

5. Meet with municipal representatives to determine what actions may already be complete.

sustainablejersey.com/actions

Community Education & Outreach

5 Points

10 Points

15 Points

20 Points

Print

Get PDF

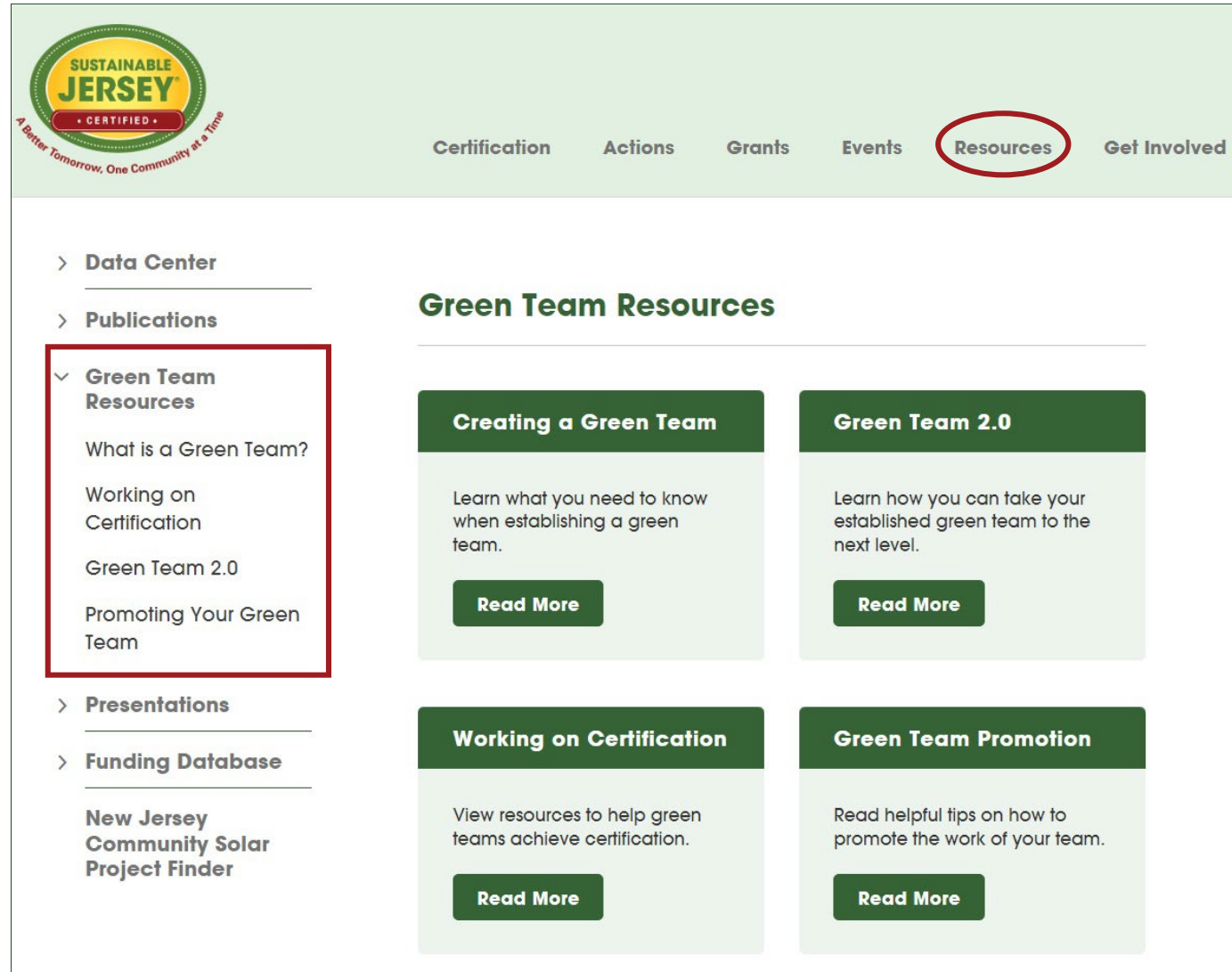
<u>Why is it important?</u>	<div>Updated January 2020</div> <p>Community education and outreach is an essential element of any effort to make change. It provides community members with an understanding of sustainability as it relates to their everyday lives by giving them an understanding of how the choices they make can lead to a more sustainable future for themselves and their communities. This action promotes sustainability literacy and builds awareness, understanding, and action by educating municipal staff, residents, business and non-profit sectors of the community about the need for sustainable choices and behaviors. In addition to promoting action outside of local government, it can build support within the community for local government through various community education and outreach programs. Partners offer opportunities for stakeholders to learn and to implement sustainable practices.</p> <p>The action can earn up to 20 points for participation to its community that incorporates workshops, lectures, newsletters, social media campaigns, and other strategies outlined in the "What to do" section of this action. Initiatives that focus on current municipal services or programs related to topics covered under other Sustainable Jersey actions will not count for this action. See the "What to do" section for more details.</p> <h3>Why is it important?</h3> <p>Achieving sustainability requires contributions from local, state, national, and international entities as well as individuals. The collective impact of individual action will significantly change the world around us, and communities are key leaders for engaging those individual actors. Community education and outreach is the logical first step in creating a shared understanding of the importance of sustainability and how each member of the community can help achieve it.</p>
<u>Who should lead and be involved with this action?</u>	
<u>Timeframe</u>	
<u>Project costs and resource needs</u>	
<u>What to do, and how to do it ("How to")</u>	
<u>What to submit to earn points for this action</u>	
<u>Resubmission Requirements</u>	
<u>Approved Action Expiration Date</u>	
<u>Spotlight: What NJ municipalities are doing</u>	
<u>Resources</u>	

Important: Review action sections before starting work

Green Team Resources

1. What is a Green Team?
 - a. Information about forming your green team & sample docs.
2. Working on Certification
 - a. Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet
 - b. Application User Guide
 - c. Certification-specific webinar recordings & presentations
 - d. **Crossing the Finish Line Webinar** – identifies low-hanging fruit actions to consider including in your application.

sustainablejersey.com/resources/green-team-resources/working-on-certification/



The screenshot displays the Sustainable Jersey website. The header features the Sustainable Jersey logo (a green circle with 'SUSTAINABLE JERSEY' and 'A Better Tomorrow, One Community at a Time') and navigation links: Certification, Actions, Grants, Events, Resources (circled in red), and Get Involved. The left sidebar contains a menu with 'Data Center', 'Publications', 'Green Team Resources' (checked and highlighted with a red box), 'Presentations', and 'Funding Database'. The 'Green Team Resources' section lists: 'What is a Green Team?', 'Working on Certification', 'Green Team 2.0', and 'Promoting Your Green Team'. The main content area is titled 'Green Team Resources' and contains four cards: 'Creating a Green Team', 'Green Team 2.0', 'Working on Certification', and 'Green Team Promotion'. Each card includes a brief description and a 'Read More' button.

Sustainable Jersey
A Better Tomorrow, One Community at a Time

Certification Actions Grants Events **Resources** Get Involved

> Data Center

> Publications

✓ **Green Team Resources**

- What is a Green Team?
- Working on Certification
- Green Team 2.0
- Promoting Your Green Team

> Presentations

> Funding Database

New Jersey Community Solar Project Finder

Green Team Resources

Creating a Green Team

Learn what you need to know when establishing a green team.

[Read More](#)

Green Team 2.0

Learn how you can take your established green team to the next level.

[Read More](#)

Working on Certification

View resources to help green teams achieve certification.

[Read More](#)

Green Team Promotion

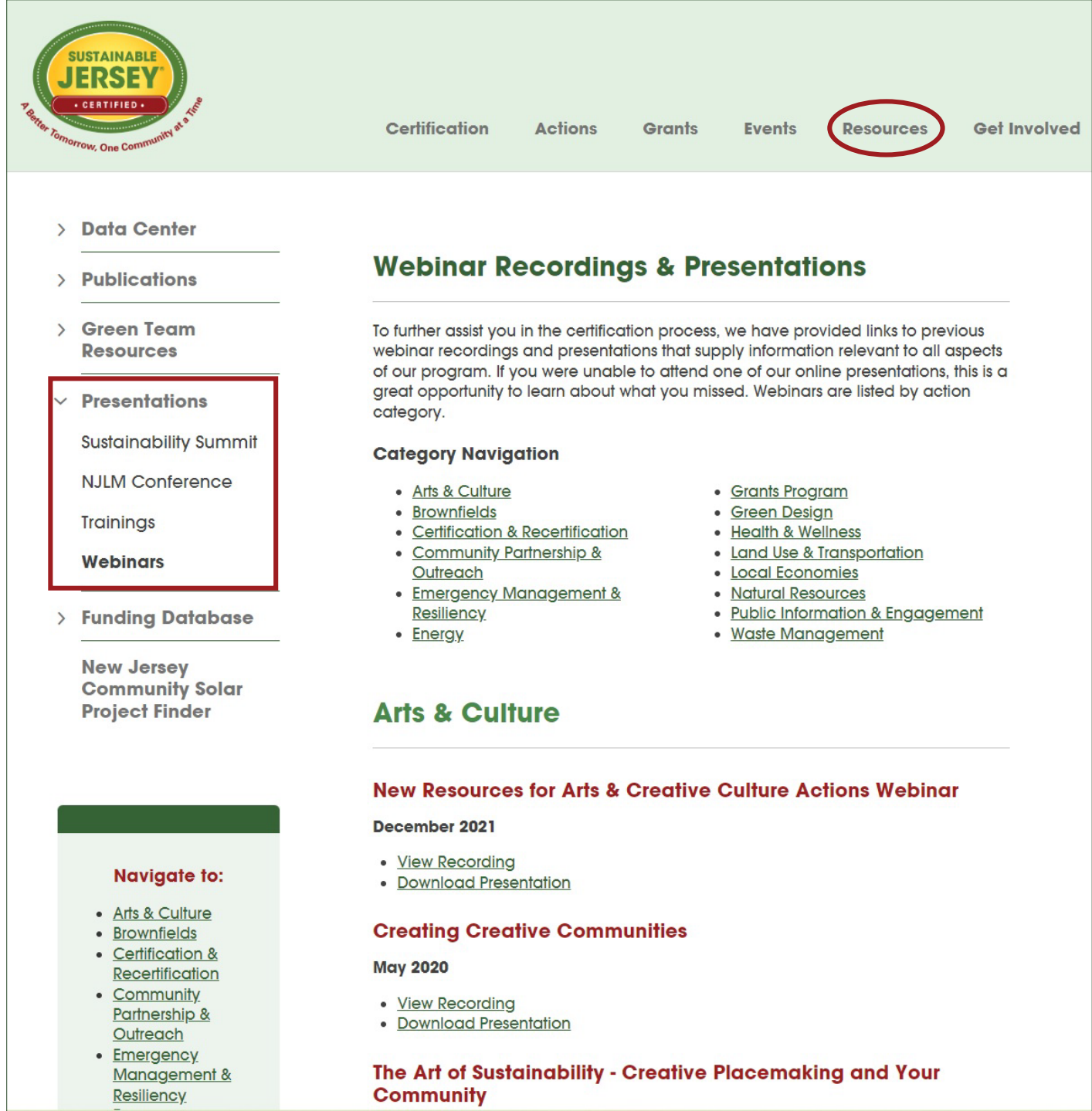
Read helpful tips on how to promote the work of your team.

[Read More](#)

Webinar Recordings

- Webinars on different action topics available to view at your convenience.
- Presentations from other conferences available as well under the general Presentations page.

sustainablejersey.com/resources/presentations/webinars/



The screenshot shows the Sustainable Jersey website. The top navigation bar includes links for Certification, Actions, Grants, Events, Resources (highlighted with a red circle), and Get Involved. The left sidebar menu lists Data Center, Publications, Green Team Resources, Presentations (highlighted with a red box), and Funding Database. Under Presentations, there are links for Sustainability Summit, NJLM Conference, Trainings, and Webinars. The main content area is titled 'Webinar Recordings & Presentations' and contains a paragraph explaining the purpose of the recordings. Below this is a 'Category Navigation' section with two columns of links. The 'Arts & Culture' category is expanded, showing 'New Resources for Arts & Creative Culture Actions Webinar' for December 2021 and 'Creating Creative Communities' for May 2020. A 'Navigate to:' section at the bottom left lists various categories.

Sustainable Jersey
A Better Tomorrow, One Community at a Time

Certification Actions Grants Events **Resources** Get Involved

> Data Center

> Publications

> Green Team Resources

✓ **Presentations**

- Sustainability Summit
- NJLM Conference
- Trainings
- Webinars**

> Funding Database

New Jersey Community Solar Project Finder

Webinar Recordings & Presentations

To further assist you in the certification process, we have provided links to previous webinar recordings and presentations that supply information relevant to all aspects of our program. If you were unable to attend one of our online presentations, this is a great opportunity to learn about what you missed. Webinars are listed by action category.

Category Navigation

- [Arts & Culture](#)
- [Brownfields](#)
- [Certification & Recertification](#)
- [Community Partnership & Outreach](#)
- [Emergency Management & Resiliency](#)
- [Energy](#)
- [Grants Program](#)
- [Green Design](#)
- [Health & Wellness](#)
- [Land Use & Transportation](#)
- [Local Economies](#)
- [Natural Resources](#)
- [Public Information & Engagement](#)
- [Waste Management](#)

Arts & Culture

New Resources for Arts & Creative Culture Actions Webinar

December 2021

- [View Recording](#)
- [Download Presentation](#)

Creating Creative Communities

May 2020

- [View Recording](#)
- [Download Presentation](#)

The Art of Sustainability - Creative Placemaking and Your Community

Navigate to:

- [Arts & Culture](#)
- [Brownfields](#)
- [Certification & Recertification](#)
- [Community Partnership & Outreach](#)
- [Emergency Management & Resiliency](#)

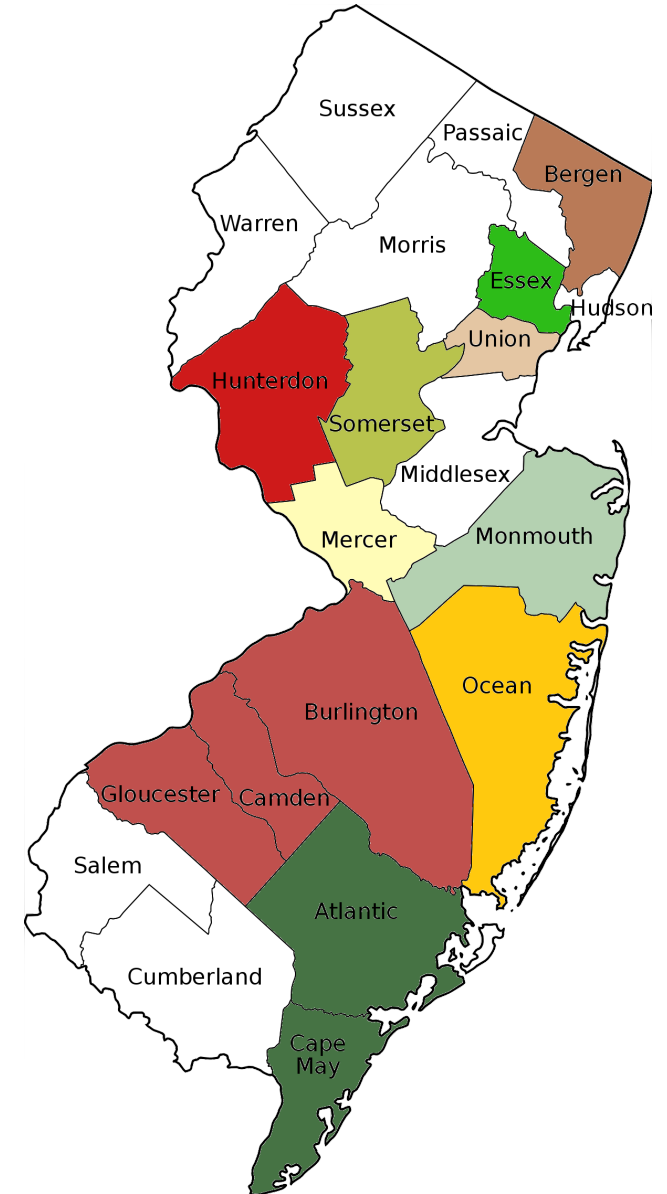
Regional Hubs

Ten hubs around the state to help green teams build capacity through training, best practices resources and networking.

Learn more sustainablejersey.com/get-involved/

Benefits

- Peer mentoring
- Project collaboration
- Online communication platform
- Network of Leaders
- Quarterly Events
- Help Peers Get Certified
- Technical assistance & administrative support from SJ





Participants Map Search

Use the [Participating Municipalities & Approved Actions](https://sustainablejersey.com/certification/search-participating-municipalities-approved-actions) (sustainablejersey.com/certification/search-participating-municipalities-approved-actions) page to find examples of documentation from certified towns and connect with municipal green teams

Search by action

By Certified Action

Arts & Creative Culture

☒ Establish a Creative Team

☐ Creative Assets Inventory

☐ Creative Placemaking Plan

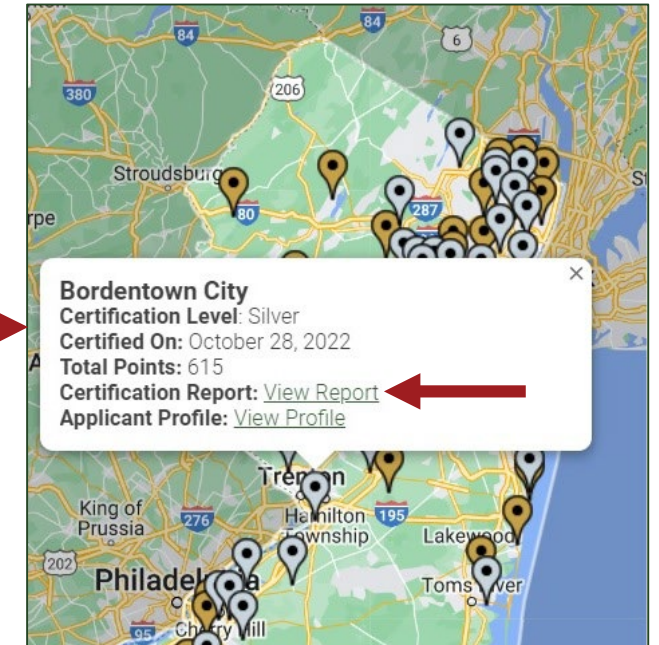
☐ Municipal Commitments to Support Arts and Creative Culture

☐ Utilizing Your Creative Assets

View certified towns approved for that action

MUNICIPALITY	COUNTY	CERTIFICATION
Asbury Park City	Monmouth	SILVER
Atlantic Highlands Boro	Monmouth	BRONZE
Belleville Twp	Essex	BRONZE
Bogota Boro	Bergen	BRONZE
Bordentown City	Burlington	SILVER
Bradley Beach Boro	Monmouth	BRONZE
Brigantine City	Atlantic	BRONZE
Cape May City	Cape May	SILVER
Chatham Boro	Morris	SILVER

View certification report for example documentation





SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT 1



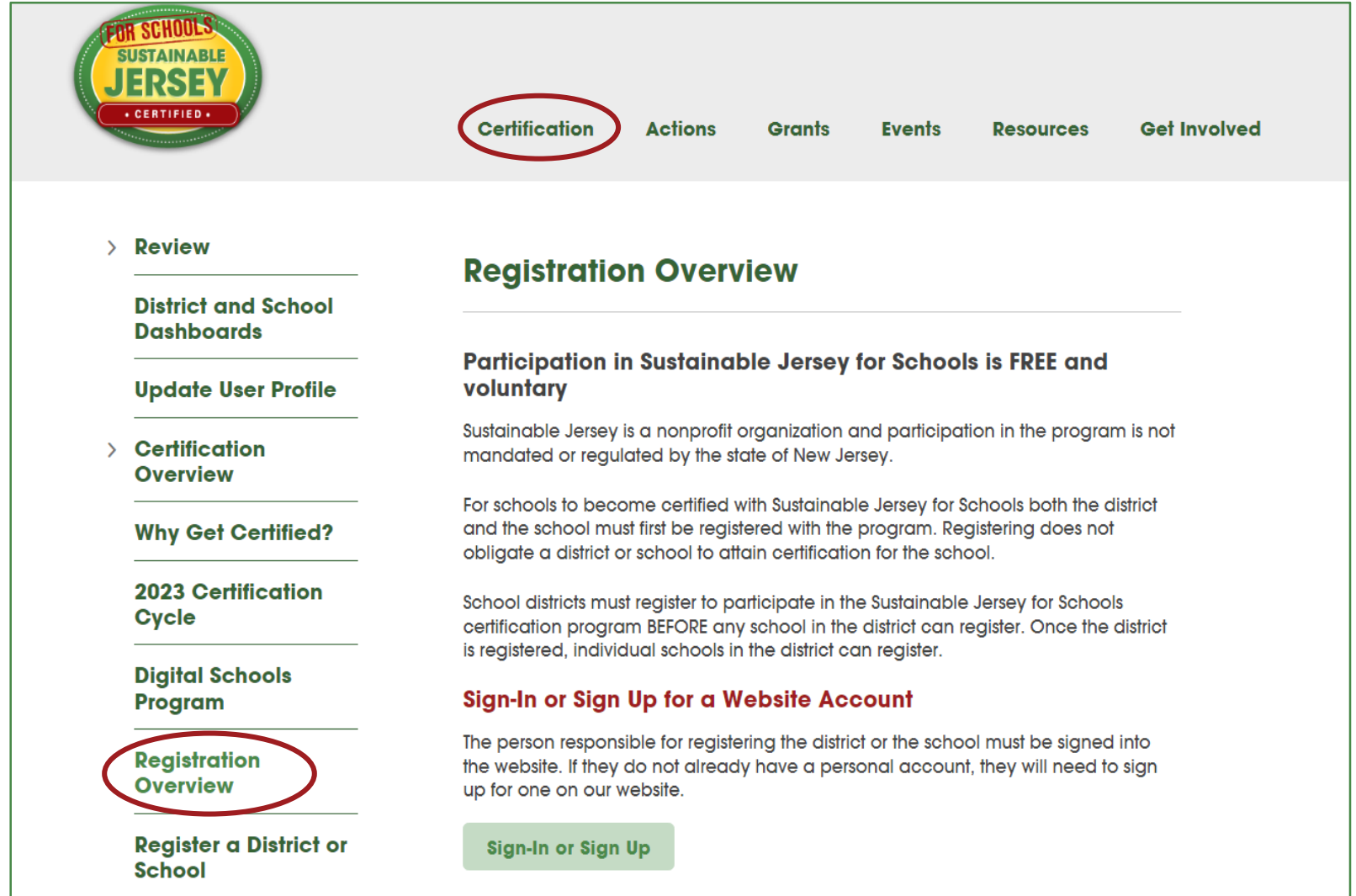
Getting Started with School Certification



Getting Started

Registration

- Districts
 - Board Resolution
- Schools
 - Participation letter



The screenshot shows the Sustainable Jersey for Schools website. At the top left is a circular logo with 'FOR SCHOOLS' in a red banner, 'SUSTAINABLE JERSEY' in green, and '• CERTIFIED •' in a red banner. To the right is a navigation bar with links: 'Certification' (circled in red), 'Actions', 'Grants', 'Events', 'Resources', and 'Get Involved'. On the left side of the page is a sidebar menu with the following items: '> Review' (with sub-links 'District and School Dashboards' and 'Update User Profile'), '> Certification Overview' (with sub-links 'Why Get Certified?', '2023 Certification Cycle', 'Digital Schools Program', 'Registration Overview' (circled in red), and 'Register a District or School'). The main content area is titled 'Registration Overview' and contains the following text:

Participation in Sustainable Jersey for Schools is FREE and voluntary

Sustainable Jersey is a nonprofit organization and participation in the program is not mandated or regulated by the state of New Jersey.

For schools to become certified with Sustainable Jersey for Schools both the district and the school must first be registered with the program. Registering does not obligate a district or school to attain certification for the school.

School districts must register to participate in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification program BEFORE any school in the district can register. Once the district is registered, individual schools in the district can register.

Sign-In or Sign Up for a Website Account

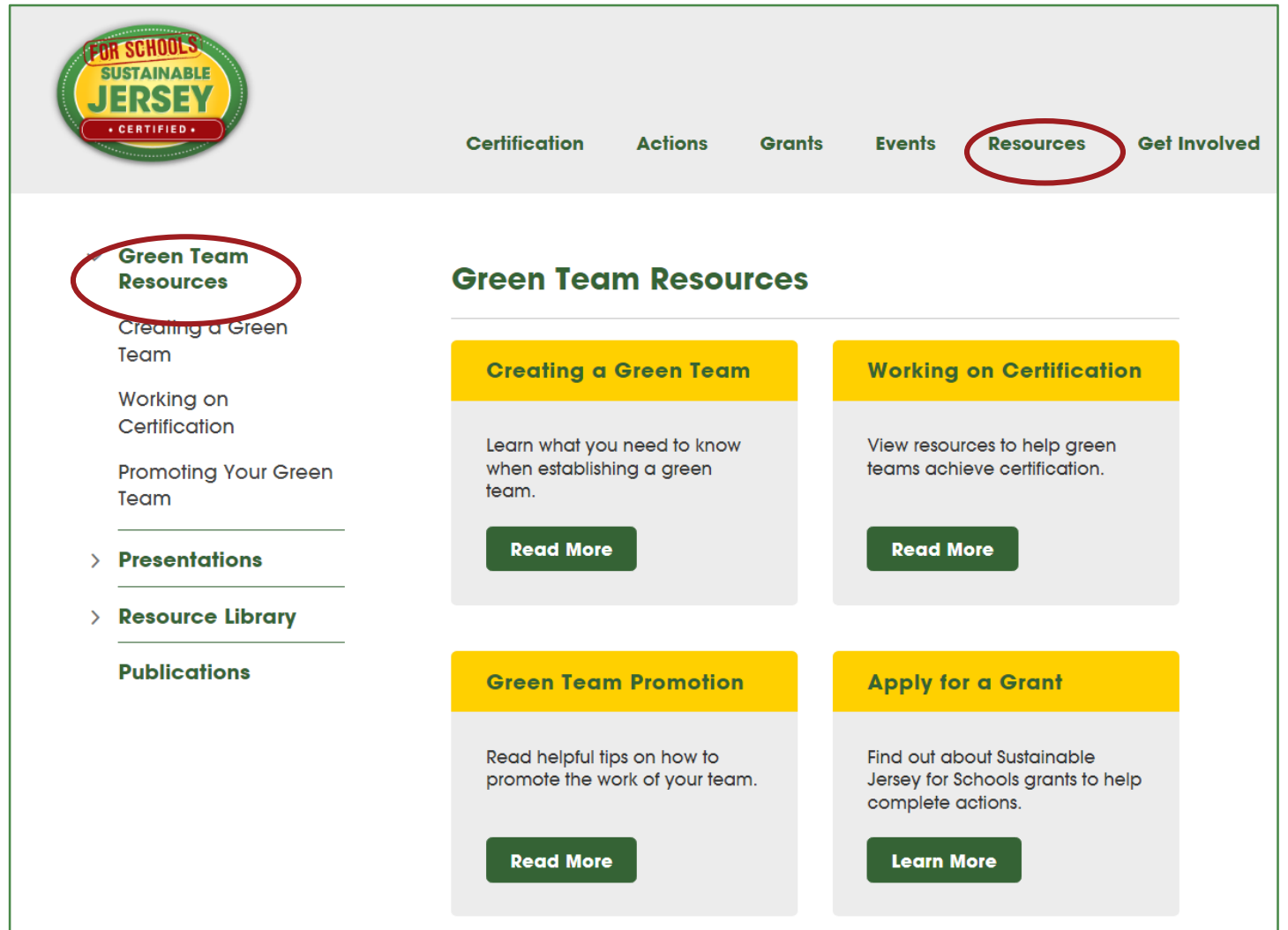
The person responsible for registering the district or the school must be signed into the website. If they do not already have a personal account, they will need to sign up for one on our website.

At the bottom right of the main content area is a green button labeled 'Sign-In or Sign Up'.

Getting Started

Forming a Green Team

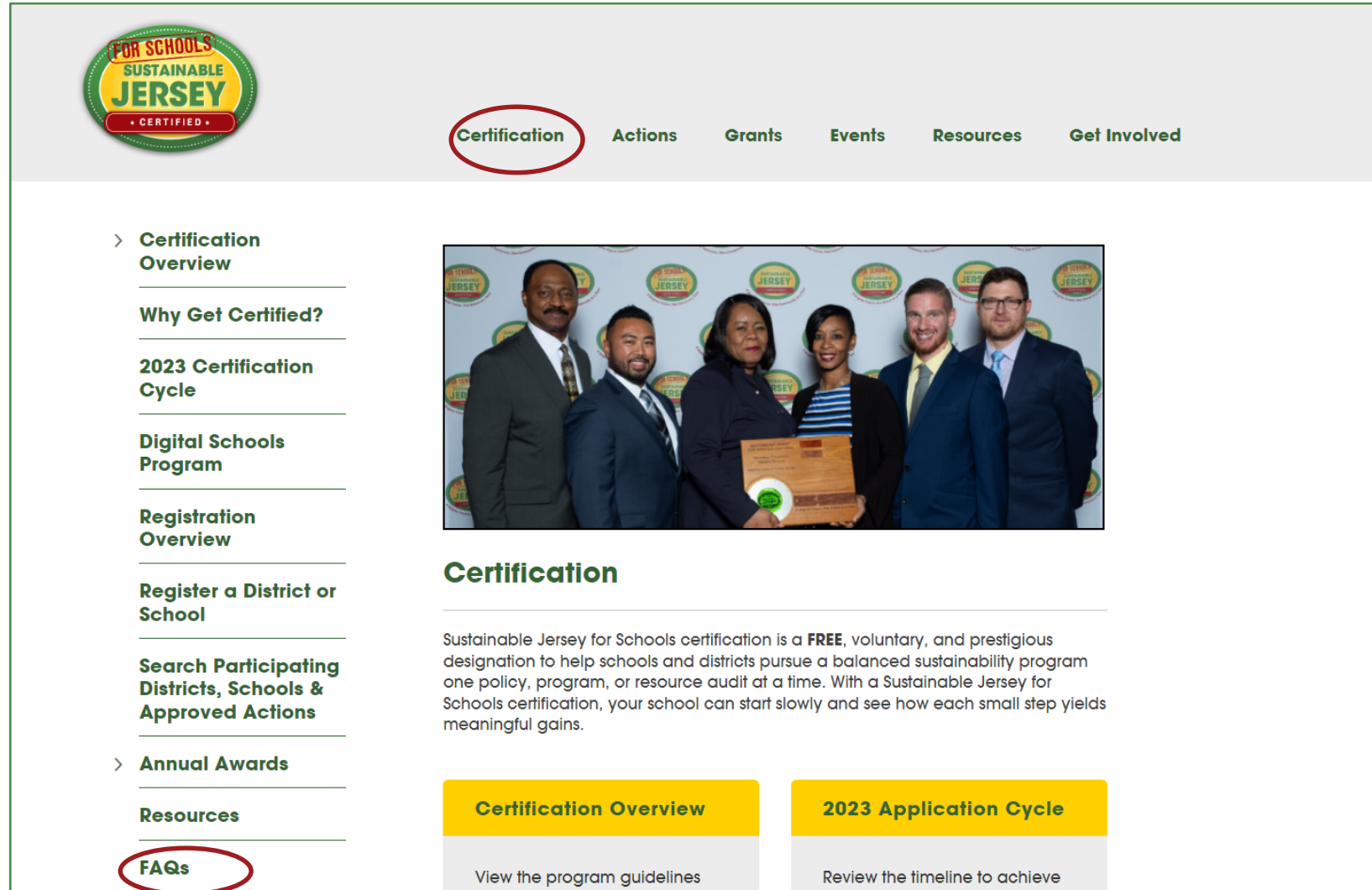
- District vs School
- Diverse green team members from different parts of the school
- Can be an existing school committee such as a wellness committee



Resources

FAQs

- Navigate to the FAQ page from the certification menu.



The screenshot displays the Sustainable Jersey for Schools website. At the top left is the logo, which is a green circle with a yellow center containing the text "FOR SCHOOLS SUSTAINABLE JERSEY" and "• CERTIFIED •" below it. To the right of the logo is a navigation bar with the following links: "Certification", "Actions", "Grants", "Events", "Resources", and "Get Involved". The "Certification" link is circled in red. Below the navigation bar is a sidebar with a list of links: "Certification Overview", "Why Get Certified?", "2023 Certification Cycle", "Digital Schools Program", "Registration Overview", "Register a District or School", "Search Participating Districts, Schools & Approved Actions", "Annual Awards", "Resources", and "FAQs". The "FAQs" link is circled in red. The main content area features a photograph of six people (three men and three women) standing in front of a backdrop with the Sustainable Jersey for Schools logo. Below the photo is the heading "Certification". The text below the heading states: "Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification is a **FREE**, voluntary, and prestigious designation to help schools and districts pursue a balanced sustainability program one policy, program, or resource audit at a time. With a Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification, your school can start slowly and see how each small step yields meaningful gains." At the bottom of the main content area are two yellow buttons: "Certification Overview" and "2023 Application Cycle". Below the "Certification Overview" button is the text "View the program guidelines". Below the "2023 Application Cycle" button is the text "Review the timeline to achieve".

FOR SCHOOLS SUSTAINABLE JERSEY
• CERTIFIED •

Certification Actions Grants Events Resources Get Involved

> Certification Overview

Why Get Certified?

2023 Certification Cycle

Digital Schools Program

Registration Overview

Register a District or School

Search Participating Districts, Schools & Approved Actions

> Annual Awards

Resources

FAQs

Certification

Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification is a **FREE**, voluntary, and prestigious designation to help schools and districts pursue a balanced sustainability program one policy, program, or resource audit at a time. With a Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification, your school can start slowly and see how each small step yields meaningful gains.

Certification Overview

View the program guidelines

2023 Application Cycle

Review the timeline to achieve

Resources

Certification Timeline

- Two review deadlines, followed by a final deadline.
- Follows a similar timeline each year.

2025 Certification Application Cycle

Sustainable Jersey for Schools operates on a once a year application cycle, with three submission dates. See the chart below for details on the structure and timing of the application cycle. To maximize the potential for feedback and ultimately achieve certification, it is highly recommended to submit an application with documentation for at least two rounds of review. Applicants who wait until the final deadline to submit an initial application will have to wait until the next year's certification cycle to address any issues identified during the review process.

Request a help session with our staff to make progress on your certification application. Someone from our staff will reach out to finalize a time for a Zoom meeting or phone call.

[Request a Help Session](#)

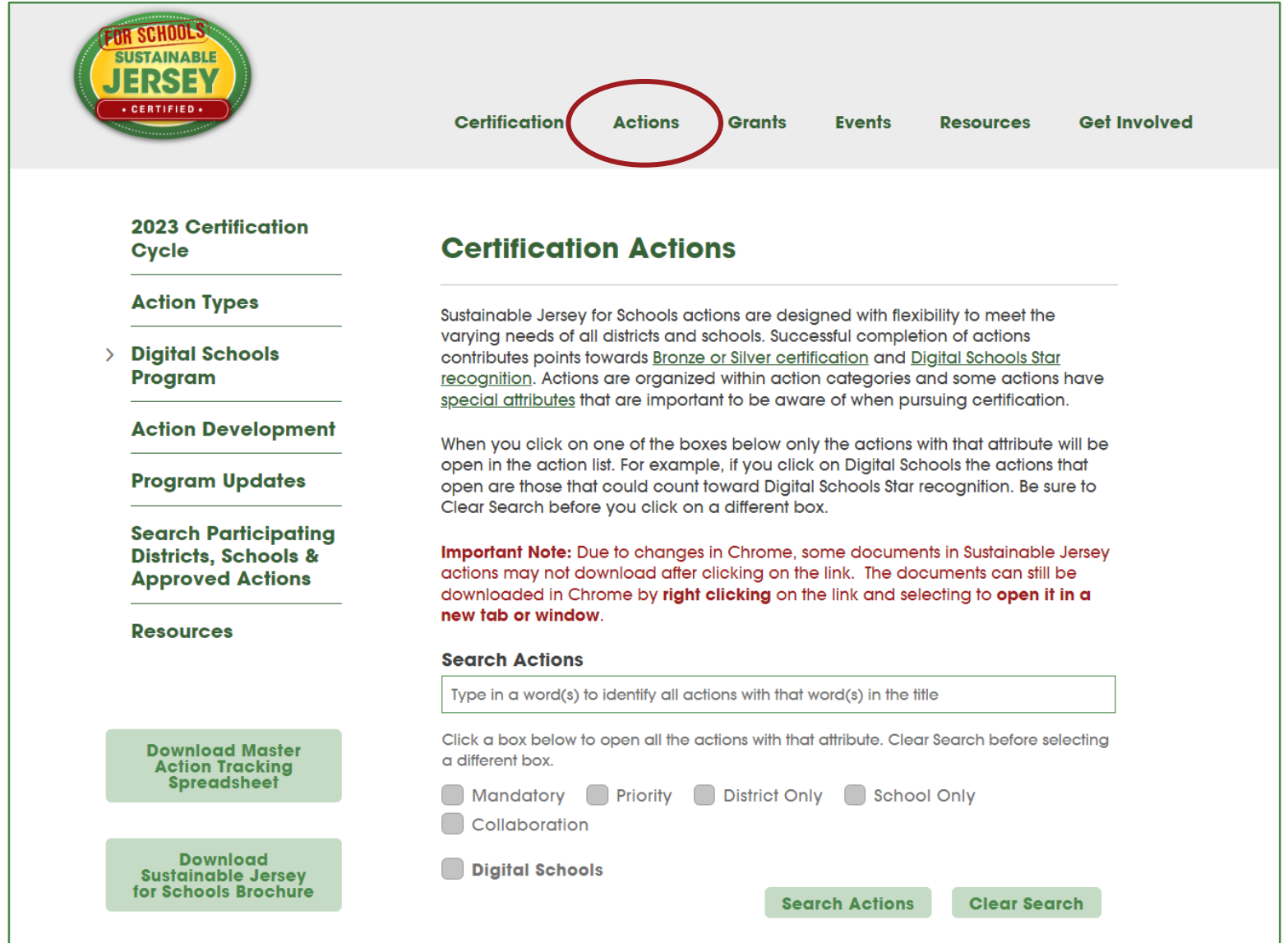
Timeline

	FIRST ROUND	SECOND ROUND	THIRD ROUND
Submission Deadline	January 13	March 24	June 12
Return Date	Late February	Early May	Late August

Actions

Actions

- The only mandatory action is the Green Team.
- District Only vs School Only.
- Digital schools actions.



The screenshot shows the Sustainable Jersey for Schools website. The top navigation bar includes links for Certification, Actions (highlighted with a red circle), Grants, Events, Resources, and Get Involved. The left sidebar contains links for 2023 Certification Cycle, Action Types, Digital Schools Program, Action Development, Program Updates, Search Participating Districts, Schools & Approved Actions, and Resources. The main content area is titled 'Certification Actions' and includes a paragraph explaining the flexibility of actions, a search bar, and a list of checkboxes for filtering actions by Mandatory, Priority, District Only, School Only, Collaboration, and Digital Schools. There are also buttons for 'Search Actions' and 'Clear Search'.

FOR SCHOOLS SUSTAINABLE JERSEY CERTIFIED

Certification **Actions** Grants Events Resources Get Involved

2023 Certification Cycle

Action Types

- > Digital Schools Program

Action Development

Program Updates

Search Participating Districts, Schools & Approved Actions

Resources

[Download Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet](#)

[Download Sustainable Jersey for Schools Brochure](#)

Certification Actions

Sustainable Jersey for Schools actions are designed with flexibility to meet the varying needs of all districts and schools. Successful completion of actions contributes points towards [Bronze or Silver certification](#) and [Digital Schools Star recognition](#). Actions are organized within action categories and some actions have [special attributes](#) that are important to be aware of when pursuing certification.

When you click on one of the boxes below only the actions with that attribute will be open in the action list. For example, if you click on Digital Schools the actions that open are those that could count toward Digital Schools Star recognition. Be sure to Clear Search before you click on a different box.

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

Click a box below to open all the actions with that attribute. Clear Search before selecting a different box.

☐ Mandatory ☐ Priority ☐ District Only ☐ School Only

☐ Collaboration

☐ Digital Schools



[Search Actions](#) [Clear Search](#)



Actions

Actions

- What to look for:
 - Look-back period
 - What to do and how to do it
 - What to submit to earn points for this action
 - Resources

District Sustainability Policy

10 Points  Priority  District



 Print  Get PDF

Why is it important?	An important role of every school board is to set policy that governs the actions of the district. Policies, some of which are mandated by law, cover a broad range of topics. Policies developed by the district that are not state-mandated generally reflect district interests and standards. Adopting a policy on sustainability would convey a commitment on the part of the school district and the community towards sustainability.
Who should lead and be involved with this action?	
Timeframe	
Project costs and resource needs	Sustainability is defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It considers the interrelationship of economic, social, and environmental factors that protect and enhance present and future quality of life.
What to do, and how to do it ("How to")	The sustainability policy should include a definition of sustainability, indicate the district's desire to conduct its operations, and make decisions and conduct operations with identified sustainability priorities that include at a minimum: protecting students, staff and community from environmental harm; preparing student for the future by educating for sustainability (knowledge of concepts and practices of environmental, social, and economic responsibility and sustainability); and include an intent to preserve current and future
What to submit to earn points for this action	
Spotlight: What New Jersey	


Application

School Application

- District Only actions and actions claimed by the District will show up grey in school applications.

- District Only 
- School Only 

School District Foundation	
10 Points	STATUS: APPROVED
• EXPIRES ON 08/31/24 • LAST UPDATED 04/25/23 • THIS SUBMISSION IS CURRENTLY LOCKED	

Climate Mitigation & Renewable Energy	
School Carbon Footprint	
10 Points	STATUS: UNPLANNED
 Priority	

Resources

User Guide & Tracking Spreadsheet

- Navigate to the Resources menu, Green Team Resources, and then Working on Certification

Quick Start Resources

Application User Guide

This document provides step-by-step guidance on all aspects of the District Dashboard, School Dashboard and online certification application including using the online application, updating the District or School profile, and adding users to the account.

[Download Application User Guide](#)

Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet

This spreadsheet provides an inventory of program actions, abbreviated submission requirements, look back and approval periods, resubmission requirements, and point values. It is a great tool to help a green team identify which actions should be completed by the district or the school. The spreadsheet can also be used to assess which actions the school or district may already be doing and plan for new actions it hopes to pursue. It can also be used to track progress in completing actions and compiling the required documentation.

[Download the MATS](#)

Resources

Climate Change Education Resources

- Interdisciplinary units available for elementary & secondary

CertificationActionsGrants & Technical AssistanceEvents**Resources**Get Involved

Climate Change Education Resources

- > Presentations
- Publications
- Purchasing Center
- > Green Team Resources
- Data Resources

Climate Change Education Resources

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, impacting ecosystems, economies, and communities. As the science of climate change evolves, it is essential that students gain the knowledge to understand its causes, effects, and the role they can play in addressing it. New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Climate Change Education encourage critical thinking and action, focusing on climate science, sustainability, and environmental justice. These standards help students grasp the impacts of climate change and prepare them to engage in future solutions.

Funded by a grant from the New Jersey Department of Education Sustainable Jersey worked with partners to develop new, interdisciplinary units that address subject area standards and integrate climate change education for elementary and secondary classrooms.

Secondary Interdisciplinary Units

The Benefit of Trees: A 15-20 Hour Project-Based Learning Unit

This free, interdisciplinary unit examines the environmental, social, and ecological benefits of trees. Designed for middle or high school sustainability or environmental science electives, it can also be used as a summer program. The training includes ready-to-use lesson plans, presentations, and student materials. Through active, inquiry-based learning, students will engage in data collection, analysis, and discussions to understand how trees address climate change. Topics include urban heat islands, carbon sequestration, equitable access to green spaces, and the positive impact of increasing tree canopy coverage on communities.

[Access the full curriculum resource here.](#)

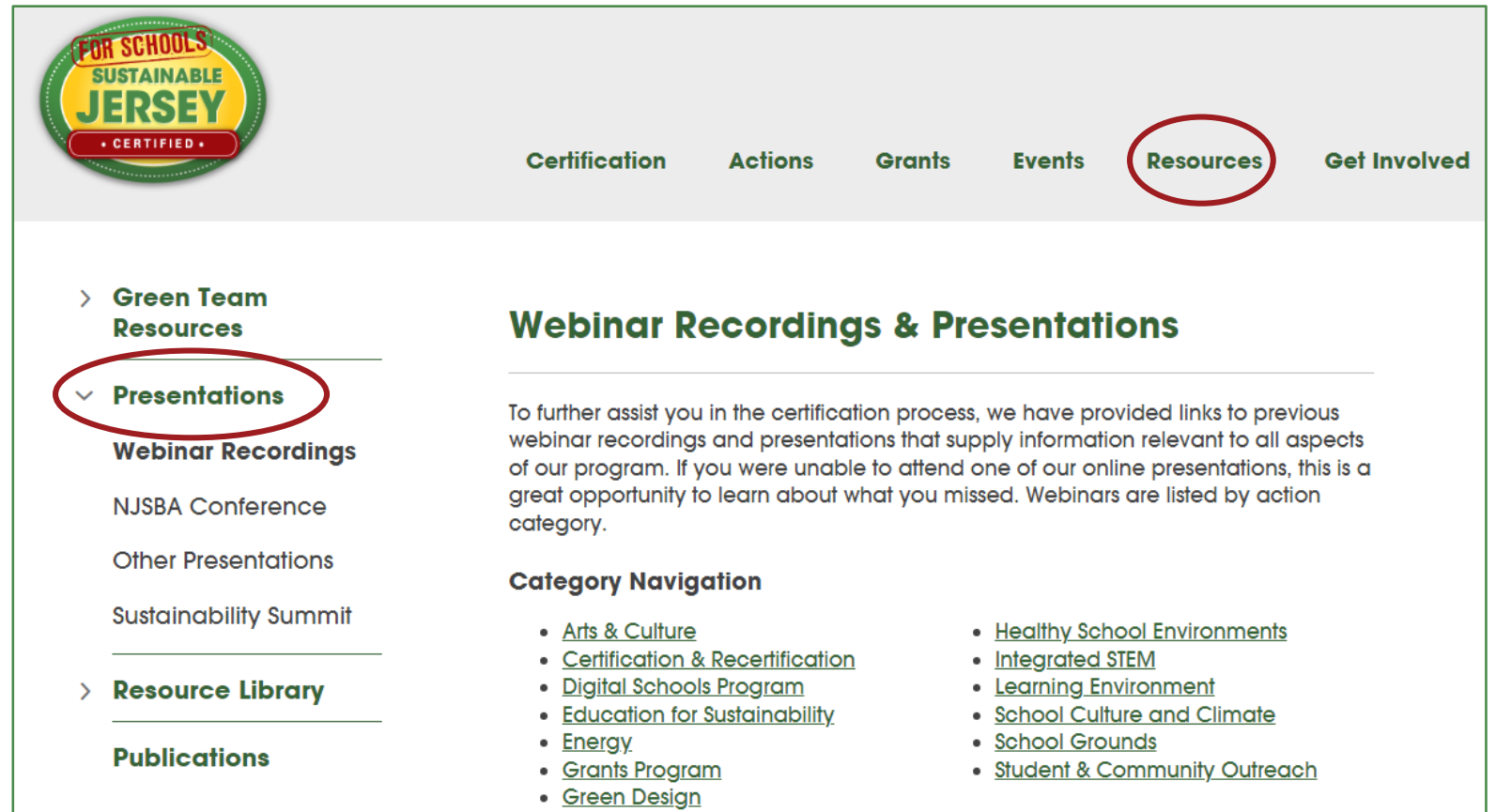
Integrating Climate Change into Curriculum using New Jersey Resources and Datasets

Developed by Sustainable Jersey and the Rutgers Center for Mathematics, Science, and Computer Education, this resource provides guidance on incorporating state-specific climate-related resources into OpenSciEd's 7th-grade Unit 7.6, Earth's Resources and Human Impact. These place-based learning opportunities connect climate change concepts to the real-world impacts on students' communities and

Resources

Webinar Recordings

- Navigate to the Resources menu, Presentations, Webinar Recordings



The screenshot shows the 'Resources' page of the Sustainable Jersey website. The top navigation bar includes 'Certification', 'Actions', 'Grants', 'Events', 'Resources' (circled in red), and 'Get Involved'. The left sidebar has a logo for 'FOR SCHOOLS SUSTAINABLE JERSEY • CERTIFIED •' and a menu with 'Green Team Resources', 'Presentations' (circled in red), 'Webinar Recordings', 'NJSBA Conference', 'Other Presentations', 'Sustainability Summit', 'Resource Library', and 'Publications'. The main content area is titled 'Webinar Recordings & Presentations' and contains a paragraph about the certification process, a 'Category Navigation' section with two columns of links, and a list of webinar recordings.

FOR SCHOOLS SUSTAINABLE JERSEY • CERTIFIED •

[Certification](#) [Actions](#) [Grants](#) [Events](#) **[Resources](#)** [Get Involved](#)

› **Green Team Resources**

▼ **Presentations**

Webinar Recordings

NJSBA Conference

Other Presentations

Sustainability Summit

› **Resource Library**

Publications

Webinar Recordings & Presentations

To further assist you in the certification process, we have provided links to previous webinar recordings and presentations that supply information relevant to all aspects of our program. If you were unable to attend one of our online presentations, this is a great opportunity to learn about what you missed. Webinars are listed by action category.

Category Navigation

- [Arts & Culture](#)
- [Certification & Recertification](#)
- [Digital Schools Program](#)
- [Education for Sustainability](#)
- [Energy](#)
- [Grants Program](#)
- [Green Design](#)
- [Healthy School Environments](#)
- [Integrated STEM](#)
- [Learning Environment](#)
- [School Culture and Climate](#)
- [School Grounds](#)
- [Student & Community Outreach](#)



Participants Map Search

Use the [Participating Districts & Schools](https://sustainablejerseyschools.com/certification/search-participating-districts-schools-approved-actions/) (*sustainablejerseyschools.com/certification/search-participating-districts-schools-approved-actions/*) page to find examples of documentation from certified schools and connect with school green teams

Search by action

By Certified Action

Board Leadership & Planning

☐ District Sustainability Policy

☒ Professional Development for Sustainability

☐ Green Enhancement of District Strategic Plans

☐ Strategic Plan Implementation of Green Initiatives

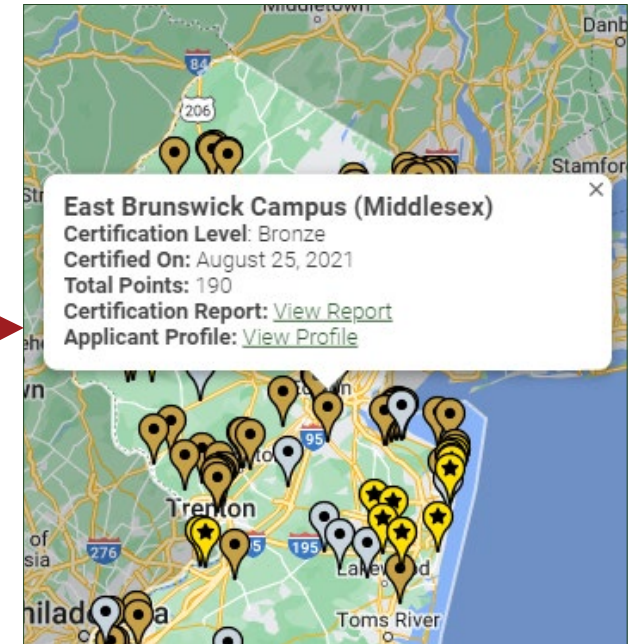
☐ School Community Asset Mapping

☐ School District Foundation

View certified schools approved for that action

APPLICANT	COUNTY	CERTIFICATION
Alexandria Middle School (Hunterdon)	Hunterdon	BRONZE
Lester D. Wilson Elementary School (Hunterdon)	Hunterdon	BRONZE
Florence M. Burd Elementary School (Sussex)	Sussex	BRONZE
Long Pond School (Sussex)	Sussex	BRONZE
Atlantic Highlands Elementary School (Monmouth)	Monmouth	BRONZE
Bedminster Township Elementary School (Somerset)	Somerset	BRONZE
Roy W. Brown Middle School (Bergen)	Bergen	BRONZE
Berkeley Elementary School (Essex)	Essex	BRONZE

View certification report for example documentation



Collaboration

Actions Municipalities & Schools Can Work on Together

- Anti-Idling Programs
- Community Education & Outreach
- Civic Stewardship Activities
- Community Asset Mapping
- Green Challenges
- Green Fairs
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety & Promotion Initiatives
- Safe Routes to School
- School Travel Plan for Biking & Walking
- Recycling Non-Mandated Materials
- Waste Audit

Resources & Support

Help Sessions

An opportunity to get support at any step in the program.

Registration
process

Organizing
your team

Using the
application

Discussing
strategy

Application
feedback

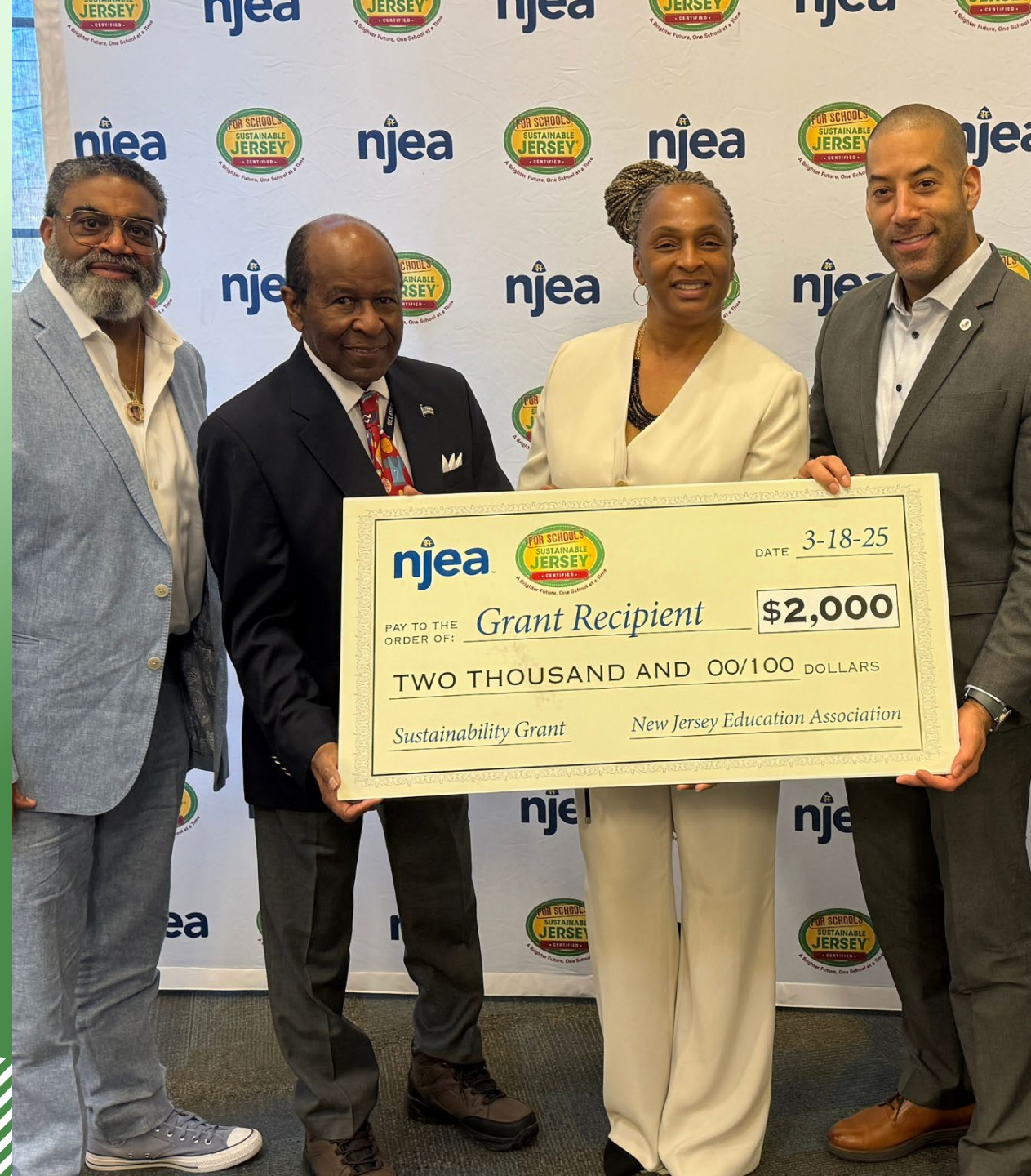




SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT 1



Jumpstart Your Certification with a Grant





SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GRANTS PROGRAM

Free program for participating schools and municipalities

- Offers \$2,000-\$20,000 grants to help complete program actions
- Since 2009, over **\$8.4 million** awarded to fund over **1,450** sustainability projects
- **233 / 417 (56%)** registered districts have received at least one school and/or district grant
- **296 / 466 (64%)** registered municipalities have received at least one grant
- **50%** of all funding is reserved for certified communities

MUNICIPAL GRANTS



SCHOOL GRANTS



Grants Page

- More information can be found at the [Sustainable Jersey](#) and [Sustainable Jersey for Schools](#) websites under the Grants page
 - Current opportunities
 - Grant application information
 - Previous recipients and projects

All applications submitted via the funder-specific grants portal, **NOT** the Sustainable Jersey websites



Sustainable Jersey Grants Program Account

This grant account can be used from year to year to submit applications to be considered for funding by the Sustainable Jersey Grants Program. A municipality should use one account to submit its grant applications with. Below is more information on how to utilize your grant account.

Sign In

Email

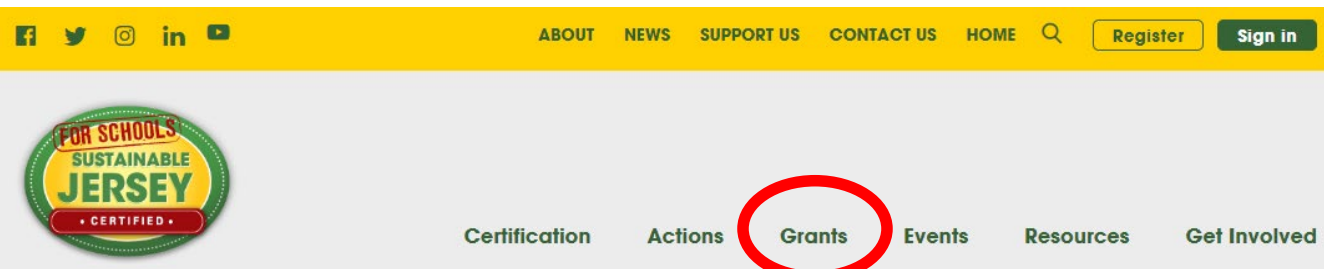
Password

Log In

[Forgot your password?](#)




Need an Account?

[Sign Up](#)



Annual Cycles

***Contingent on receiving funding**

CYCLE SPONSOR	PROJECT TYPE	ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS	GRANT AMOUNTS	CYCLE LAUNCHED	FUNDING AVAILABLE
 njea NEW JERSEY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION®	General Sustainability	NJEA-Affiliated Schools	\$2k & \$10k	Early August	\$180,000
 PSEG FOUNDATION	General Sustainability	Public Schools Munis	\$2k & \$10k \$2k, \$10k & \$20k	Mid-Oct Mid-Nov	\$100,000 \$200,000
 atlantic city electric AN EXELON COMPANY	Env. Stew. and Resiliency	Munis in ACE Territory	\$5k	Late April	\$35,000



The Sustainable Communities grant cycle funded by Atlantic City Electric is administered by Sustainable Jersey but is NOT considered an official Grants Program cycle, and thus applicants are not subjected to the same eligibility rules.

✓ Thinking about Applying for Grants?

Eligibility

Eligibility overview

Use of Funding

Includes examples

Application Tips

Lists all application sections

Required
Documentation

Download templates

Online Application
Portal Instructions

*Grant application portal and
account creation walkthrough*



Eligibility

- **New Jersey municipality or school/school district that is **registered** in Sustainable Jersey**
 - Registration is free and easy
 - Follow the guidance [here](#) for schools/school districts and [here](#) for municipalities
- **With an established **green team****
 - Follow the guidance via the [school](#) and [municipal](#) green team action
 - Can designate an existing group or use your project team as a starting point



Use of Funding

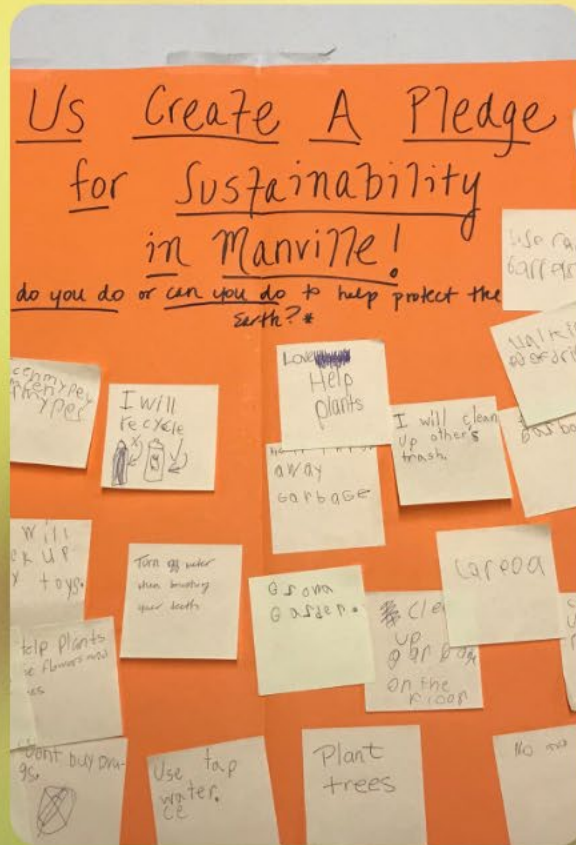
- Must be used for projects that could earn the municipality or school points in the Sustainable Jersey program
- \$2,000 grants that can also be used to support the green team's certification efforts by funding annual initiatives and promotional materials
- Eligible expenses include everything except
 - Facilities/administrative (overhead) costs
 - Reimbursement of a project that has already been completed
- If you are not sure if your project is eligible, do not hesitate to contact us to find out

NOTE: Some cycles have more specific requirements for funding usage

Green Team Support



Annual Activities



Community Engagement



Promotion Materials



Green Fair

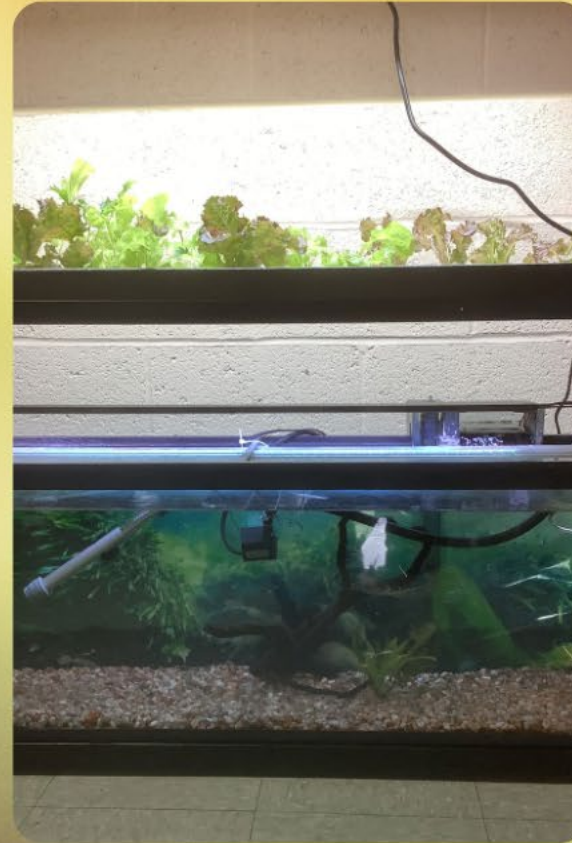
Community and School Gardens



Greenhouse



Traditional



Aquaponics



Indoor Tower

Green Infrastructure and Stormwater Management



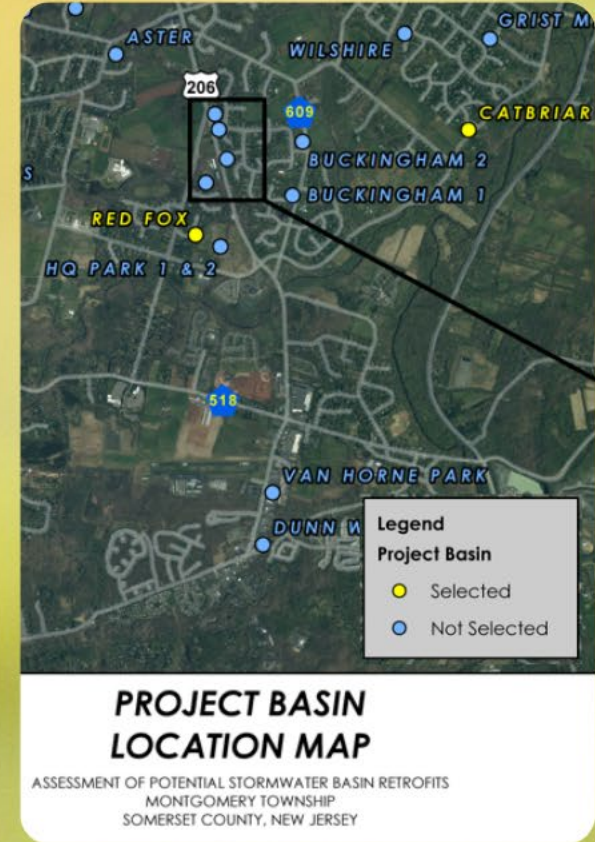
Bio-Swale



Rain Garden

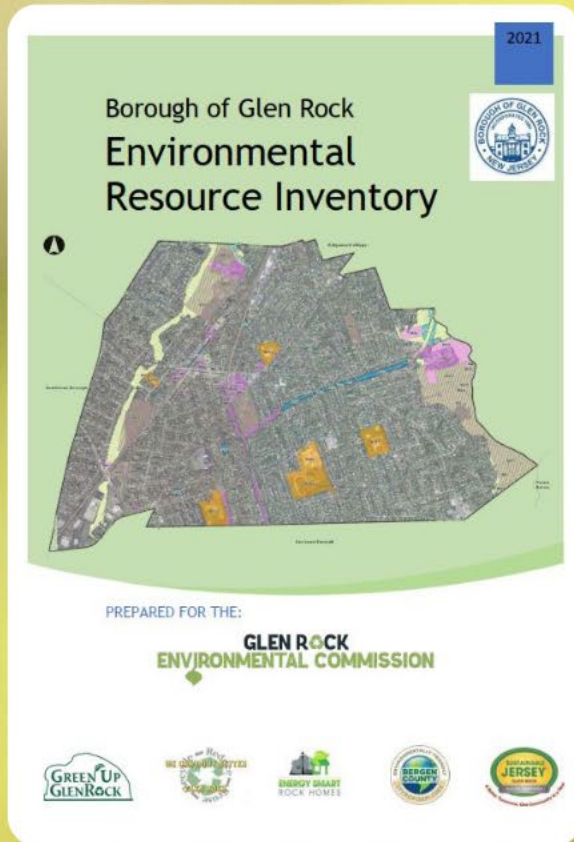


Adopt-A-Drain

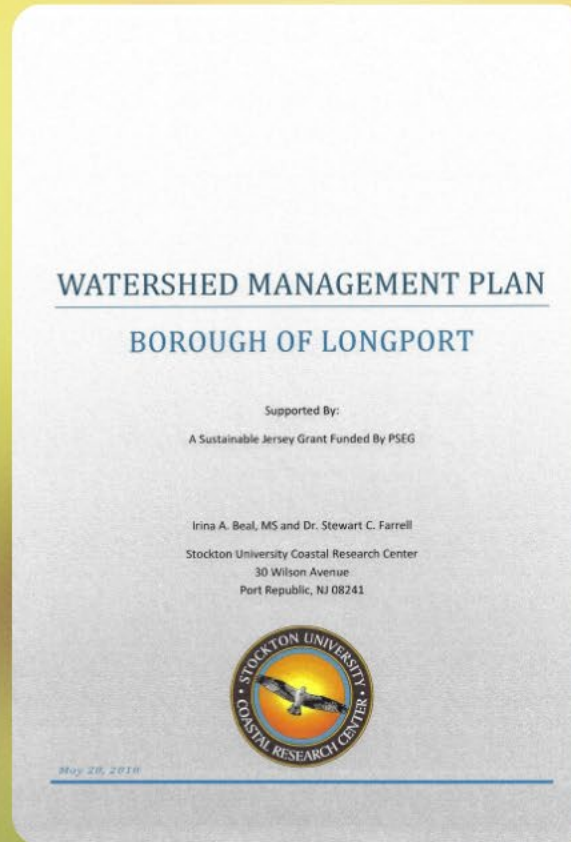


Planning

Planning, Studies and Inventories



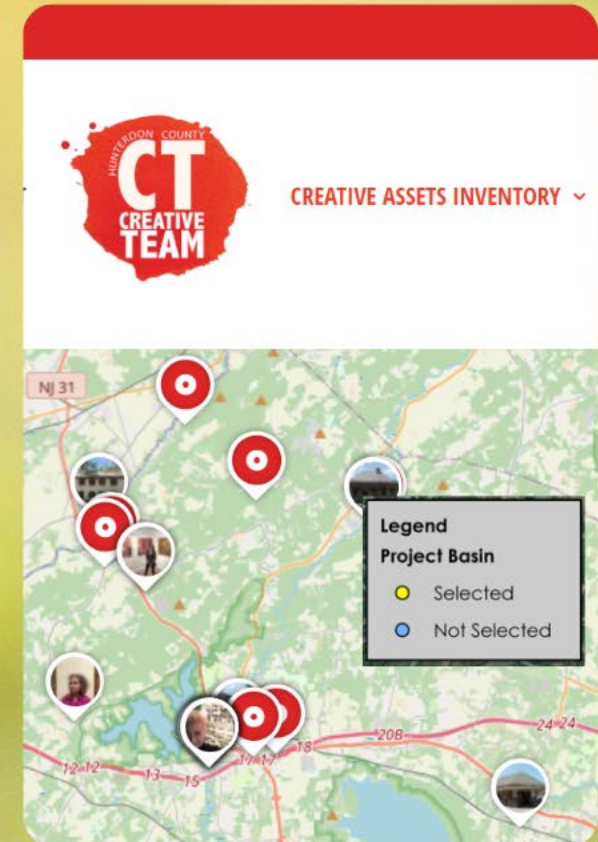
ERI Watershed Management



Community Visioning



Creative Assets Inventory



Sustainable Landscaping and Pollinators



Gardens



Certifications



Education



Beekeeping

Recycling and Waste Management



Waste Audits



Improved Recycling



TerraCycle



Non-Mandated Collection

Reduce, Reuse, Recover Food Waste



Greener Cafeteria



Reusable Food Containers



Share Tables



Composting

Health and Wellness



Promoting Physical Activity



Nutrition Education



Health Fairs



Anti-Idling Campaigns

STEAM / Sustainability Education



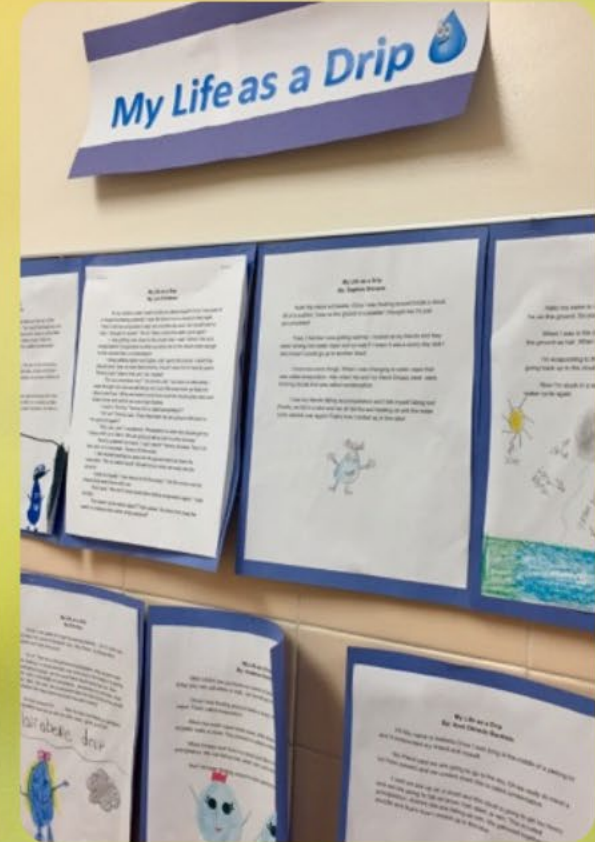
Outdoor Classrooms



Partnerships



Campaigns



Curriculum Development

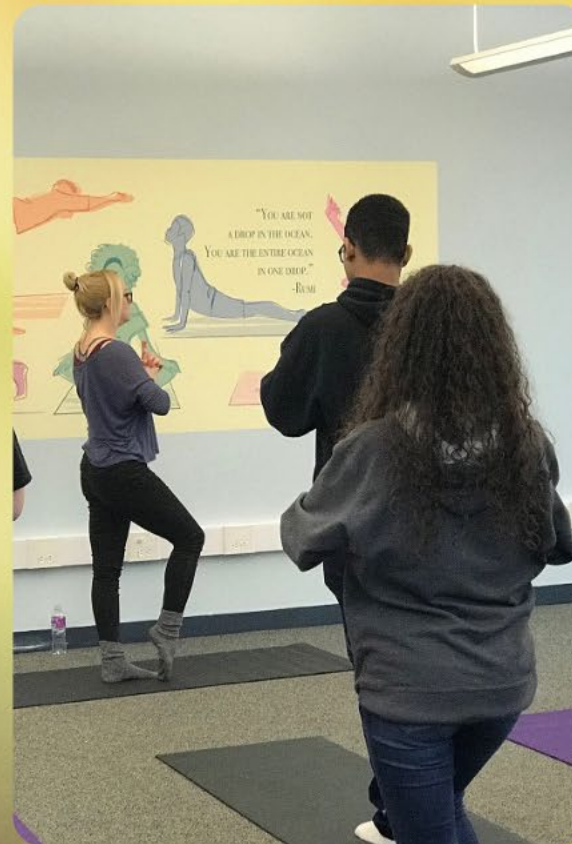
Social and Emotional Learning



Culture and Climate Assessments



Flexible Seating



Mindfulness



Equity and Diversity

Energy Projects



Energy Education, Conservation, or Behavioral Change Projects

- Includes green challenges that encourage residents to conserve energy and provides guidance on how to do so.
- Includes any kind of community education about renewable energy or what the municipality is doing to be more energy efficient.



EmPowered Schools

Free program for PK-12 students

- Provides support and resources to educate students in saving energy and money in their schools and homes
 - Integrates STEAM principles through lesson plans, hands-on activities, and competitions
 - Builds student leadership, critical thinking skills and data analysis skills needed for green careers
 - Teacher stipend, tool kit, and branded apparel
 - On average, schools can achieve electricity savings between 5 and 15 percent.



students generating change

AN ALLIANCE TO SAVE ENERGY PROGRAM 

Energy Projects

Click [here](#) to check out DEP's presentation of funding sources that includes funding for energy projects.



Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

- Must be paired with It NJDEP's It Pay\$ to Plug In Program **or** NJBPU's Clean Fleet EV Program **AND** utility funding.



Class 4-8 Medium and Heavy-Duty Vehicles

Vehicle types include:

- Must be paired with incentives, such as the ones mentioned above along with Direct Pay, and can include pursuit-class police vehicles and medium and heavy-duty EV's.

- Utility trucks and vans
- School, shuttle, and transit buses
- Garbage trucks
- Delivery/freight trucks

Purchasing Resource Center


[Bit.ly/PurchasingCenter](https://www.sustainablejersey.com/fileadmin/media/Actions_and_Certification/Actions/Energy/EV_Resource_page.pdf)

In the pilot year, this tool is focused on purchasing key green technologies:

1. Electric vehicles (EVs)/Alternative Fuel Vehicles
2. Electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE)

Additional purchasing resources will be added to the tool over time.

The Purchasing Center will include products from vendors/companies in these spaces so you can *drive sustainability forward with ease.*



Sustainable Jersey Purchasing Resource Center

Helping you drive sustainability forward with ease!

Introducing the Sustainable Jersey Purchasing Resource Center! We are thrilled to unveil this dynamic online hub designed specifically for school districts and municipalities to access sustainable equipment and services.

Key features of the Purchasing Resource Center:

- Cooperative Purchasing and Purchasing Contract listings are made easy to find
- Quote documents for budgeting and purchasing are included for items not on purchasing cooperatives

In the pilot phase, we are focusing on alternative fuel vehicles and charging infrastructure. This initiative simplifies your procurement process, slashes costs, and empowers you to make a profound environmental impact.

Disclaimer: All products seen in this resource are coming directly from the vendors. We strongly encourage you to connect with the vendors to ensure the validity of the products and to involve your purchasing staff in this essential process.


What are you shopping for?

TRANSPORTATION

- [Alternative Fuel Vehicles](#)
- [EV Charging Equipment](#) (Coming Soon)
- [Fueling/Charging Equipment](#)
- [Idle Reduction Technology](#)
- [Telematics](#)
- [Fleet Inventory Tools](#)

GROUPS MAINTENANCE (Coming Soon)

- [Landscaping Equipment](#)



Electric Vehicle and Fleet Resources

Sustainable Jersey is a certification program for municipal governments in New Jersey. Points towards certification are earned by completing Sustainable Jersey actions. Each action focuses on a sustainability goal and provides **best practices, resources, and case studies** from municipalities that are succeeding with the action. Transportation actions in the program provide guidance for municipal and school fleets as well as guidance for promoting adoption of electric vehicles in the community.

Recent Sustainable Jersey EV and Fleet Webinars

Funding for Transitioning Fleets to EVs (2022)

- [View Recording](#)
- [Download Presentation](#)

Join the EVolution (2021)

- [View Recording](#)
- [Download Presentation](#)

Sustainable Jersey Electric Vehicle Resources

Alternative Fuel Vehicle Procurement Guide

Provides information about procurement methods and funding resources for fleet electrification. Click [here](#).

Fleet Actions

Fleet Inventory – This action assists municipalities in completing an inventory of the vehicles currently in the fleet. Fleet analysis shows which vehicles can be retired or replaced to achieve a cost-effective result. The action includes a spreadsheet that automatically calculates the carbon emissions of the municipal fleet.

Purchase Alternative Fuel Vehicles – This action awards points for the purchase of electric and other alternative fuel vehicles for the municipal fleet.

Sustainable Fleets (Sustainable Jersey for Schools) – This action awards points for adding alternative fuel vehicles to the school fleet, such as electric buses.

Actions for supporting adoption of EVs in the community:

Electric Vehicle Community Outreach – This action awards points for outreach to residents, businesses, and other entities to encourage adoption of EVs and electric vehicle charging infrastructure (EVSE).

Public EV Charging Infrastructure – This action awards points for installation of municipally-supported public EV charging stations.

Make Your Town EV Friendly – This action awards points for supportive EV policies and practices, including passing the New Jersey Model Municipal Electric Vehicle Ordinance, and first responder training.

Need help? Email info@sustainablejersey.com for help getting started with Sustainable Jersey's Transportation Actions.

https://www.sustainablejersey.com/fileadmin/media/Actions_and_Certification/Actions/Energy/EV_Resource_page.pdf

IRS Direct Pay Tax Credits for Non-Profits

Direct Pay (Elective Pay), part of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), allows tax-exempt entities, including municipalities and school districts, to receive tax credits for clean energy projects.

About Direct Pay

- All eligible projects receive tax credits (not competitive)
- Currently authorized for 10 years
- Entities file for tax credit when the project is completed

Eligible Projects Include

- Renewables – solar, geothermal, wind, etc.
- Electric vehicles
- Electric vehicle charging infrastructure (*limited*)
- Microgrids
- Battery Storage

Full list of Direct Pay eligible tax credits at irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5817g.pdf

Direct Pay can be used in combination with other funding sources, like NJBPU incentives.

Example

Lightweight EV	\$24,000
NJBPU Clean Fleet Grant	-\$4,000
Direct Pay Tax Credit	-\$7,500
<hr/>	
Total cost to entity	\$12,500

Note: Total incentive can not exceed total project cost.

For more information, visit Sustainable Jersey's [Direct Pay Tax Credits page](#) or [view for the Sustainable Jersey April 2nd webinar on Direct Pay.](#)

Energy Projects



Energy Efficiency Upgrades

- Energy audits and energy efficiency projects (i.e. lightning, furnaces, etc.) are **NOT** eligible
- Funding available through programs offered by NJCEP and utility companies

[HOME](#)[INDUSTRIES](#)[SOLUTIONS](#)[GETTING STARTED](#)

Don't Squeak Through Another Winter

Upgrade to energy-efficient heating equipment now, and secure gas savings next winter.

Get ahead of next winter by replacing your old heating equipment now. PSE&G helps you save big on heating costs with incentives and streamlined installation on a wide variety of energy-efficient heating systems.

[FIND INCENTIVES](#)[Home](#)[Home > Commercial & Industrial > Programs](#)

Local Government Energy Audit

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

All across New Jersey, residents and business owners are looking for ways to save energy and the environment. In order to understand how they can save, the Local Government Energy Audit (LGEA) Program allows local government agencies, state contracting agencies, public agencies, state colleges and state universities, and select non-profit agencies, to examine their facilities and see how they can improve their energy use. The program can help you identify cost-justified energy-efficiency measures, as well as subsidize the full cost of the audit. The entire audit process including customer assistance, application processing and auditing will be performed by TRC, the Program Manager for New Jersey's Clean Energy Program (NJCEP). More details are available about the LGEA program in this [Video Overview](#), [Program Guide](#) and [FAQs](#).

Eligibility

The LGEA Program targets buildings owned by many local government-related entities. New Jersey Colleges and Universities, and 501(c)(3) non-profit agencies. Such facilities may include, but are not limited to: offices, courtrooms, town halls, police and fire stations, sanitation buildings, transportation structures, schools and community centers.

Your Expense is Covered

NJCEP will subsidize 100% of the cost of the audit, up to an incentive cap, so there are no out of pocket expenses associated with services provided under this program.

Audit Scope

The audit includes an inventory of all energy-consuming equipment, comprehensive utility bill analysis, facility benchmarking, and a screening for solar, combined heat & power, and electric vehicle charging stations. Add-on / targeted audit options as outlined in the [Program Guide](#) may also be available. When your audit is complete, you'll have a list of recommended, cost-justified measures and facility upgrades that will help reduce operating expenses and, in many cases, improve the health and productivity of the buildings' occupants.

[View Completed Reports](#)

Application

The LGEA Application and Workbook walks applicants through the application requirements and process. If you need help applying for the LGEA Program, assistance on how to assistance on how to read and understand your utility bills is available.

[LGEA Application](#)[LGEA Workbook](#)

- [Find a Program](#)
- [Clean Energy Learning Center](#)
- [Benchmarking FAQs & Assistance](#)

Program Literature

[Program Literature](#)
Applications and Brochures
Download the latest program materials.

Find a Trade Ally

[Find a Trade Ally](#)
Select a contractor for an energy efficient upgrade today!

Become a Trade Ally

[Become a Trade Ally](#)

Join Our Listserv

[Subscribe to Our Mailing List](#)
Receive the latest news about the program.

Sustainable Jersey Energy Technical Assistance

Free Energy TA for Municipalities and Schools

- Assistance in understanding energy use in facilities and establishing an energy tracking and management process to track energy use and savings over time
- Guidance to take advantage of utility and New Jersey's Clean Energy Program (NJCEP) incentives for facility energy efficiency upgrades



EARN
CERTIFICATION
POINTS
WITH ENERGY
ACTIONS!

Tracey Woods

Senior Program Manager, Energy
woodst@tcnj.edu, 609-771-2056



bit.ly/SJEnergyTARequestForm

Sustainable Jersey Energy Technical Assistance

PSE&G Partnership Program

- Municipalities who have PSE&G as both their gas and electric utility—special program with funding available
- Residential and commercial energy efficiency outreach programs



Leanne McGowan

Program Manager, Energy
mcgowale@tcnj.edu, 609-771-2063



**Application
Period
Opening
August
2025**

**Learn more at
the 3-4pm
Drop-In
Session in the
Electron Rm**

HELP YOUR RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY: DROP-IN COACHING SESSION SJ, SJS

Drop in to learn about the amazing resources and staff support available in the SJ-PSE&G Energy Efficiency Partnership Program. Hear how communities across the state are making use of this valuable program. *Eligible municipalities are served by PSE&G for electricity and gas.

Jane Schneider, Energy Program Consultant, Sustainable Jersey; Leanne McGowan, Energy Program Manager, Sustainable Jersey

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

Also Interested in Residential – Commercial Energy Efficiency?

NJCEP New Incentives for All Communities

<https://www.njcleanenergy.com/>



New Jersey Community Solar Project Finder



Enter your zip code to see a list of community solar projects that are available to residents in your zip code.

Find Community Solar Projects Near You

Community Solar FAQ and Glossary

What is Community Solar?

Community solar is for anyone who wants to benefit from solar energy generation without installing panels directly on their roofs. This is an ideal opportunity for renters, homeowners with shaded roofs, or anyone else that is unable to install their own solar array on their property to participate and benefit from the generation of renewable energy.

A community solar project is a solar array whose energy generation is financially divided among multiple participating subscribers. As a subscriber, you will receive a financial credit on your utility bill for the portion of power generated by the array on your behalf. Separately, you will be responsible for paying a subscription fee to the community solar project. Community solar projects are designed so that your utility bill credit is larger than the subscription fee, meaning that you save money!



Learn more at
the 1:45-
2:45pm Drop-In
Session in the
Thesis Rm

BEYOND CITY HALL: ENERGY ACTIONS TO TRANSFORM YOUR COMMUNITY SJ

Join us for actionable insights and fresh ideas to help your town lead the way in energy transformation. This session will feature new incentives from New Jersey's utilities to help municipalities support energy-reducing measures in the residential and business communities. Overviews of new programs including NJBPU's Community Solar Auto-Enrollment Program, and NJEDA's Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program will be featured.

Jessica Hood, Program Support Manager, Energy Efficiency Growth & Strategy, PSEG; Max Frank, Senior Project Officer of Clean Energy, New Jersey Economic Development Authority; Pat Miller, Co-Founder, NJ Electrification Coaching Network; Sawyer Morgan, Research Scientist, Division of Clean Energy, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

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

Standard Grant Application

Grant Proposal Sections

- **All** Grant Applications Include:
 - **Project Title and Brief Description**
 - **Action Plan and Timeline**
 - **Budget Narrative**
 - **Detailed Project Budget**
- **Only** 10k/20k Grant Applications Include:
 - **Project Team**
 - **Community Engagement**
 - **Project Impact and Evaluation**

There are templates available to help you quickly and easily complete each section of the application, such as the action plan & timeline and budget sections.

Green Team Documentation

- Currently certified municipalities/schools **DO NOT** need to provide this information
- Otherwise, we need the following green team documentation:
 - List of green team members
 - Summary of green team activities
- If a green team was recently formed, you can submit your future plans in lieu of a summary of activities

Note: this documentation is not needed for the Sustainable Communities grant application



Grant Authorization Doc

- **Upload a **Grant Authorization Document** in support of the grant project and application**
 - Municipalities must pass a resolution and schools have the additional option of submitting a letter from the principal, BA or superintendent
 - Must specify the specific grants cycle you are applying in
 - Must be signed and dated
 - Can use the same documentation for grant applications within the same program year

This resolution is DIFFERENT than the resolution required to register in the Sustainable Jersey certification program OR to establish a green team.

Application Tips



- **Apply for both a small and a large grant**
 - Can copy and paste information; just need to change the budget and action plan and timeline
- When deciding what project to apply for funding for, **think outside the box!**
 - Choose projects that address a need in your community
 - Find ways to make your project innovative, even if it is a more common project such as a garden—there are ways to make your project stand out
- **Connect your project to your Sustainable Jersey certification efforts**
 - Explain how the grant will get you the last points needed to get certified
- **Get started early**—do not wait until the last minute to work on the app

Application Tips



- Pay attention to the **evaluation criteria** that aligns directly with the app sections
 - While the criteria is always the same, the point totals often differ
- **Include the community and stakeholders** in as many of the steps to complete the project as possible, including the planning phase
 - Invite residents, local businesses, and organizations
 - Collaborate with your school/municipality and/or local non-profit and apply strategically
- **Identify sources of in-kind** donations of time, labor, and funding to show that your community has skin in the game
 - Not required but always helps make your app more competitive



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM

ADMINISTERED BY:



Applications Due Thursday, June 30

Cycle for Municipalities Located in Atlantic City Electric Service Territory

Environmental Stewardship Grants

- Five (5) \$5,000

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

Resiliency Grants

- Two (2) \$5,000 grants

Awarded for projects that enhance a municipality's capacity to prevent and respond to catastrophic events and emergencies

Join us for an informational webinar on May 19, 2025

Trees for Schools



Free program for NJ public school districts, colleges and universities

- Provides \$4.5 million in funding to support planting and maintaining trees on school grounds
 - Grants range from a minimum \$10,000 to maximum \$250,000—no match required
 - Applications due on May 13



Melanie McDermott

Senior Researcher
mcdermom@tcnj.edu, 609-771-2836



**Learn more at the
1:45-2:45pm
Drop-In Session
in the Electron
Rm**

TREE TALK! PLANTING, MAINTAINING AND FUNDING: DROP-IN COACHING SESSION SJ, SJS

Is your school district or municipality looking for resources to support enhancing and maintaining your community tree canopy? Perhaps your district or school is applying for a Trees for Schools planting grant and/or the new Tree-Planting action? Or your municipality might be in the throes of updating its Community Forestry Management Plan or Tree Protection Ordinance. Drop-in to talk trees and get your questions answered!

Melanie McDermott, Ph.D., Senior Researcher, Sustainable Jersey

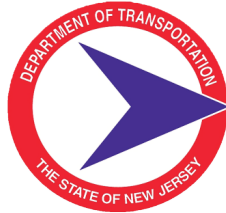
[CEUs available: CMFO/CCFO, 1.0 Office Management and Ancillary Subjects; CTC, 1.0 General/Secondary; CPWM, 1.0 Government; RMC, 1.0 Professional Development; QPA, 1.0 Office Admin./General Duties]

Complete Streets Technical Assistance

- Provides free technical assistance municipalities served by NJTPA to advance complete streets.
 - Bicycle Network Plan
 - Complete Streets Community Workshop Walk Audit
 - Complete and Green Streets Policy
- May include conceptual renderings and temporary demonstrations
- Free training and Demonstration Materials Lending Library



South Jersey
Transportation
Planning Organization



Anne Heasley

Senior Program Manager, Policy & Planning
heasleya@tcnj.edu, 609-771-2865

<https://bit.ly/SJCompleteStreetsTA>



✓ Complete Streets Technical Assistance

SJTPO Complete Streets
Technical Assistance

NJTPA Complete Streets
Technical Assistance

NJTPA Completed Projects



Complete Streets help improve health and safety for people walking and biking. They create better places to live, work, play, learn, and do business. Complete Streets balance the needs of drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, emergency responders, and goods movement based on local conditions and context.

NJTPA Completed Municipal Technical Assistance Projects

Since 2018, twenty-four municipalities in the NJTPA region have benefited from the program.



In 2022-2023, seven municipalities were selected to receive technical assistance for projects ranging from walkability workshops to Complete Streets policies. Download the final reports below:

- **2023:** [Complete & Green Streets Policy, Borough of Oakland, Bergen County](#)
- **2023:** [Pedestrian Safety Demonstration Project, Belleville Township, Essex County](#)
- **2023:** [Complete & Green Streets Policy, Borough of Dunellen, Middlesex County](#)
- **2023:** [Central Avenue Walkable Community Workshop, Seaside Heights Borough, Ocean County](#)
- **2023:** [State Street & Hamilton Avenue Complete Streets Conceptualization, City of Passaic, Passaic County](#)
- **2023:** [Vosseller & West Maple Avenue Walkable Community Workshop, Borough of Bound Brook, Somerset County](#)
- **2023:** [Bicycle Corridor or Network Plan, Plainfield City, Union County](#)

Learn more at the
3:00-4:00pm
Drop-In Session
in the Cube Rm

MAKE COMPLETE AND GREEN STREETS WORK FOR YOU SJ, SJS

We know Complete and Green Streets as a policy framework and approach sets the stage for safer, healthier and more equitable walking, biking and rolling in New Jersey. Hear about the resources New Jersey communities are using to advance Complete and Green Streets and earn Sustainable Jersey points. Learn how Safe Systems, Vision Zero, Safe Routes and other emerging trends fit with and complement Complete and Green Streets.

Anne Heasley, Senior Program Manager, Policy & Planning, Sustainable Jersey; Gregory Woltman, Research Project Coordinator, Rutgers Voorhees Transportation Center; Nancy Facey-Blackwood, Council, Borough of Red Bank; Peter Bilton, Sustainable Transportation Planning Manager, New Jersey Transportation Planning Authority; Sean Meehan, Research Project Manager, Rutgers Voorhees Transportation Center

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

GRANTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

☐ SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM WEBINAR

Monday, May 19, 2025, 1:00pm-2:00pm

Register: bit.ly/2025SCGPWebinar

Application Deadline: Monday, June 30, 2025

☐ HOW TO START A MUNICIPAL COMMUNITY SOLAR AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT PROGRAM WEBINAR

Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 1:00pm-2:30pm

Register: bit.ly/4jgkUau

☐ NORTH JERSEY'S TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY'S PROGRAMS FOR MUNICIPALITIES WEBINAR

Wednesday, May 28, 2025, 11:00am-12:00pm

Register: bit.ly/4m7QjOh

☐ TRI-COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 28, 2025, 7:00pm-8:00pm

Register: bit.ly/Tri-CountySustainability

☐ BERGEN COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY HUB MEETING

Wednesday, May 28, 2025, 7:00pm-8:00pm

Allendale Community Center, 210 W Crescent Ave, Allendale, NJ

☐ TREES FOR SCHOOLS: TREE-PLANTING GRANTS

Learn More & Apply: bit.ly/TreesforSchools

Application Deadline: Tuesday, May 13, 2025



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER FOR AN UPCOMING EVENT VISIT:

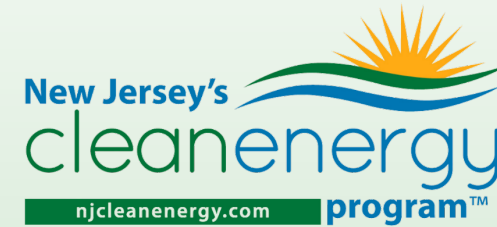


Municipalities:
bit.ly/SJMunicipalEvents

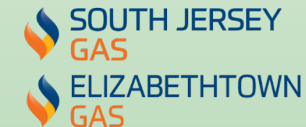


Schools:
bit.ly/SJSchoolsEvents

Program Underwriters



Corporate Sponsors





SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT 10



Thank You

Session slides will be available on sustainablejersey.com by 5/16.

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Join Sustainable Jersey and/or
Sustainable Jersey for Schools
mailing list



2025 NEW JERSEY SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT



SUSTAINABLE JERSEY

COLLECTIVE IMPACT

1



91%

OF NJ POPULATION
LIVES IN A
**REGISTERED
OR CERTIFIED
COMMUNITY**



83%

OF MUNICIPALITIES
PARTICIPATING

67%

of NJ public school districts
registered with Sustainable
Jersey for Schools



186

**MUNICIPALITIES
CERTIFIED**

63 SILVER
CERTIFIED

123 BRONZE
CERTIFIED



374

**SCHOOLS
CERTIFIED**

67 SILVER
CERTIFIED

307 BRONZE
CERTIFIED

27,967



SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS

COMPLETED by both municipalities and schools

\$8.4 MILLION



IN GRANTS FOR MUNICIPALITIES,
SCHOOLS & SCHOOL DISTRICTS