

2026 NEW JERSEY SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

SUSTAINABILITY SESSIONS: 10:00 – 11:10am

FULL SPEED AHEAD: WHAT'S NEW IN SUSTAINABLE JERSEY'S TRANSPORTATION SUITE SJ, SJS

Whether you're building EV infrastructure, expanding active transportation options, or simply looking for a smoother route to certification, this session will take attendees on a ride through the newest and freshly upgraded transportation actions in the Sustainable Jersey program. We'll pop the hood on updated requirements, explore brand new resources, and highlight practical tools that can help your municipality reduce emissions, improve mobility, and drive meaningful change. We will also learn from municipalities & school districts about their own transportation experiences.

[CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom;]

NAVIGATING NEW JERSEY'S MS4 RULES: WHAT GREEN TEAMS NEED TO KNOW SJ

New Jersey's 2023 municipal MS4 stormwater permit marks a major shift toward measurable water quality improvements. This session will provide Green Teams with an overview of MS4 requirements and available resources to support compliance, including how Sustainable Jersey is updating actions to align with the new rules. Case studies featuring grant-funded compliance efforts, opportunities for technical assistance, and strategies for cross-municipal watershed collaboration will be shared. The session will also examine how stormwater utilities can help municipalities plan for and fund long-term watershed improvements.

[CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom; NJCCC, 1.0;]

SUSTAINABILITY HEROES: SUCCESSES WORTH SHARING SJ, SJS

This lightning-round session will feature a panel of Sustainable Jersey's Sustainability Heroes—individuals driving meaningful change in communities across New Jersey. Representing municipalities and schools, the heroes will share the projects and actions that made a real difference, what worked, the challenges they encountered, and the strategies behind their success. Designed for peer-to-peer learning, this session will leave attendees inspired and equipped with practical ideas they can adapt and put into action in their own communities. [CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom; CEFM, 1.0;]

UPDATES FROM STATE AGENCIES SJ, SJS

New Jersey State Agency leaders will share their latest sustainability initiatives that impact municipalities and schools. Attendees will hear directly from decision-makers about emerging and ongoing approaches that state agencies are taking to promote sustainability, reduce our carbon footprint, conserve natural resources, and advance social equity. Panelists will discuss key programs, initiatives, and resources they have developed and implemented. Ask questions and gain valuable insights into the programs and resources available to support your sustainability efforts. [CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom; NJCCC, 1.0, CEFM, 1.0]

SUSTAINABILITY SESSIONS: 11:30 – 12:30pm

ASK THE COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANNING (CEP) EXPERTS (DROP-IN COACHING SESSION) SJ

This drop-in coaching session pairs Sustainable Jersey's Energy Technical Assistance Team with CEPG Program Year 3 towns to help navigate planning requirements, complete workplan templates, and strategize on stakeholder engagement. Those involved in their town's Community Energy Planning Grant may drop in during this open session to ask questions and receive real time assistance as they move their plans forward. [CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom;]

BRAVE NEW WORLD: NAVIGATING THE AGE OF AI, MISINFORMATION & MEDIA OVERLOAD SJ, SJS

This session will examine how artificial intelligence is reshaping the information landscape and influencing how individuals learn, engage, and make decisions. The discussion will explore informational literacy, algorithmic bias, misinformation, and the mental health implications of navigating an AI driven society, with consideration of the evolving role of education within this context. Panelists will discuss how schools, libraries, community organizations, and public leaders can work together to strengthen critical thinking, promote equity, and support digital wellbeing in an increasingly complex and automated world. [CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom; NJCCC, 1.0]

ENERGY IN ACTION: PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL FACILITIES SJ, SJS

This session highlights the full suite of Sustainable Jersey energy resources for advancing energy efficiency, renewable energy implementation, and fleet electrification. The presentation will showcase practical tools and materials local governments can use immediately, including the Sustainable Jersey Purchasing Center, the New Jersey Community Solar Project Finder, and Sustainable Jersey's energy guidebooks. This session will also provide an overview of Sustainable Jersey's most important energy resource -- the energy technical assistance team. Learn how technical assistance can help fill capacity limits and provide expertise to keep energy projects moving forward. [CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom; CEFM, 1.0]

FOOD WASTE REDUCTION STRATEGIES IN NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS SJS

Learn from schools that are reducing food waste through practical approaches such as organic waste recycling, share tables, smarter lunchrooms, and incorporating local produce. Presenters will share implementation strategies, resources, partnerships, and challenges. Leave with concrete ideas to strengthen your own waste reduction efforts.

[CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom; CEFM, 1.0]

FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION: BUILDING CLIMATE-READY COMMUNITIES SJ

Is your community prepared for the reality of climate change? Moving beyond simple awareness, this session provides a roadmap for action. Discover how to assess critical hazards—including flooding, extreme heat, and wildfires—and identify solutions that balance immediate adaptation with long-term sustainability. Hear directly from planners and municipalities that utilized Sustainable Jersey's Climate Vulnerability Assessment Technical Assistance grant. We will demonstrate a comprehensive methodology that not only fulfills the mandatory climate assessment for your Master Plan's Land Use Element but also positions your town for the Gold Star in Climate Readiness. Join us to learn how to make climate adaptation a foundational pillar of your community's vision. [CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom;]

SUSTAINABILITY SESSIONS: 1:45 – 2:45pm

ASK THE MUNICIPAL CLIMATE DATA EXPERTS (DROP-IN COACHING SESSION) SJ

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! [CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom;]

Anne Heasley, Senior Program Manager, Policy & Planning, Sustainable Jersey; Tanya Rohrbach, Program Manager, Policy & Planning, Sustainable Jersey

LEARNING BEYOND WALLS: EXPANDING ACCESS TO NATURE, SEL, AND BELONGING SJS

This session highlights how New Jersey schools are leveraging nature-based experiences and outdoor classroom activities to increase student engagement and strengthen social-emotional learning. Participants will explore how authentic learning in green spaces can support diverse learners, including students in alternative programs, while fostering connection, regulation, and a sense of belonging. The session will also examine how these experiences help students see themselves reflected in environmental spaces and future career pathways, empowering them to be active participants in conservation and stewardship efforts that are more inclusive and representative of their communities. [CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom;]

PLUG INTO ENERGY FUNDING FOR MUNICIPALITIES & SCHOOLS SJ, SJS

There's no shortage of energy funding opportunities, but knowing where to start (and how to stack programs) can be the hardest part. Join us for a practical, example-driven session featuring updates from NJBPU and NJEDA, plus insights from people who have recently delivered on funded projects that made a big impact. Walk away with funding strategies, ready-to-use resources, and a clearer path to powering your next energy initiative. [CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom;]

ROOTED IN SUSTAINABILITY: HEALTHY LANDSCAPES AND SMART PURCHASING FOR MUNICIPALITIES SJ

How "green" are your municipal operations? We'll explore the best resources for green purchasing and landscaping practices that support soil health, water conservation, non-toxic pest management, biodiverse and adaptive plant selection, and sustainable leaf and turf maintenance. [CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom;]

STATE LEGISLATION + LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS = COLLECTIVE IMPACT SJ, SJS

The recent flurry of bills signed at the start of the year included several environmentally-focused laws, now in effect or soon-to-come. How do they impact your efforts on the ground? We will hear from experts on the roll out and local implementation efforts of the new Skip the Stuff Law (S3195), Invasive Species Management Act (S1029), and County Food Waste Recovery Plan Act (S2426).

[CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom; NJCCC, 1.0;]

SUSTAINABILITY SESSIONS: 3:00 – 4:00pm

COMPLETE STREETS: FROM TEMPORARY TO TRANSFORMATIONAL SJ, SJS

Want to make streets safer without waiting years for a full redesign? Temporary Demonstration Projects offer an affordable way to test roadway safety ideas quickly and build community support. This session will highlight programs, partners, and resources that help municipalities and schools plan, install, and evaluate projects using real-world conditions—not just drawings and renderings. [CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom;]

FOOD WASTE MANAGEMENT: NEW STATE REQUIREMENTS & LOCAL PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS SJ

Food waste management is entering a new phase in New Jersey. Recently enacted legislation directs the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to develop a tiered regulatory framework for composting facilities and requires counties to incorporate food waste management into their waste management plans. This session will review what's known so far and feature local program spotlights on food waste collection programs, highlighting program design, partnerships, and lessons learned. [CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom;]

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY BOOTCAMP: PRACTICAL HOW-TO'S FOR NEW MUNICIPALITIES & SCHOOLS 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! [CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom; CEFM, 1.0]

JoAnna Contarino, Program Coordinator, Sustainable Jersey; Maureen Jones, Program Coordinator, Sustainable Jersey; Kaitlyn Vollmer, Grants Program Manager, Sustainable Jersey

WATT'S NEXT? EMERGING ENERGY PRACTICES SJ, SJS

As New Jersey communities advance toward a cleaner, more resilient energy future, emerging technologies and practices are creating new opportunities to accelerate progress and sustain long-term success. This session will explore technologies on the horizon—from advanced energy storage to new clean energy financing tools. Join us to navigate the new energy landscape. [CEUs available: CRP, 1.0 Classroom; CEFM, 1.0]

**SJS = session has schools related content | SJ = content relates to municipal certification program
Keep checking. More CEUs will be added.**