



# Sustainable Jersey

## ORGANIZATION BACKGROUNDER

Sustainable Jersey is a nonprofit organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support communities as they pursue sustainability programs. Currently, 457 of New Jersey's 565 municipalities are participating in the municipal certification program and 353 school districts and 969 schools are participating in the new Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification program. By supporting efforts to reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions, improve access to education, stimulate local economies, increase resiliency and progress toward an equitable society, Sustainable Jersey is empowering communities to build a better world for future generations.

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**Certification Focus:** Only NJ municipalities apply for certification. In October 2014, [Sustainable Jersey Schools](#) was launched to provide a certification program for NJ public schools.

**Free:** No registration fee or certification fees are charged.

**Voluntary:** Participation is strictly voluntary and never mandated.

**Specific Menu of Actions:** The program provides applicants with a clear mission and a menu of sustainable actions to achieve. [Sustainable Jersey Actions](#)

**New Jersey Based and Consensus Driven:** The technical content of the program's actions are developed with the help of 19 task forces that comprise New Jersey state local officials, experts, non-profit groups, and members of the business community. Recommended best practices/actions are vetted with local government officials.

**Program Training, Workshops and Technical Support:** Training, monthly workshops and technical support is provided to communities in order to build general capacity and effectiveness of local governments and Green Teams for implementing the program.

**Green Teams:** The only required action to become certified is to have a green team. The green team is appointed by the municipal governing body and includes representatives from the Environmental Commission, Operations and Maintenance, Planning and Zoning, and other relevant municipal departments as well as volunteers from the community and key constituencies such as the business community, faith based groups, and school groups.

### PARTICIPATING TOWNS

**457 towns are registered and working towards certification** in the municipal certification program. That is 81% percent of towns from the 565 municipalities in New Jersey. Nearly 90% of New Jersey's population lives in registered/certified Sustainable Jersey communities

### CERTIFIED TOWNS

**204 municipalities are currently certified:** 151 towns are certified at the bronze-level and 53 towns are certified at the silver-level.

### SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

Sustainable Jersey provides funding to local governments for sustainability projects. To date, over \$5,600,000 has been awarded through the 2009-2020 Sustainable Jersey Grants program. Over 1,000 grants have been given to New Jersey municipalities and schools for sustainability projects to make communities more livable, environmentally friendly and prosperous.

[www.SustainableJersey.com](http://www.SustainableJersey.com) [info@sustainablejersey.com](mailto:info@sustainablejersey.com)

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October 9, 2020

**HISTORY**

Launched in February 2009, Sustainable Jersey began as a collaborative effort between the New Jersey State League of Municipalities' Mayors' Committee for a Green Future and the Sustainability Institute at The College of New Jersey, in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. In 2012, Sustainable Jersey evolved from a partnership into a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a Board of Trustees.

**AWARDS & HONORS**

2019 Sustainable Jersey was awarded the NJLM Distinguished Public Service Award  
 2018 New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Recycling Award for Leadership  
 2017 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award  
 2017 American Association Excellence in Planning Award  
 2016 American Planning Association Leadership Award  
 2015 APA-NJ Civic Leadership Award  
 2012 Sustainability Award from the Economic Development Association of NJ  
 2011 U.S. EPA Environmental Quality Award  
 2010 National Ashoka/Community Matters Changemakers Strong Communities Award  
 2010 NJ Joint Legislative Resolution from the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly

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 Ex-Officio: Michael Darcy, Executive Director, New Jersey State League of Municipalities  
 Ex-Officio: Lawrence S. Feinsod, Ed.D., Executive Director, New Jersey School Boards Association

**CURRENT PARTNERS**

Program Senior Staff: Randall Solomon, Executive Director, Sustainable Jersey  
 Sustainable Jersey's partners include the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, Sustainability Institute at The College of New Jersey, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Clean Energy Program. Program underwriters include the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Clean Energy Program, the PSEG Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The Sustainable Jersey Grants program for municipalities is funded by the PSEG Foundation and the Gardinier Environmental Fund. Platinum Sponsors are South Jersey Gas, New Jersey Natural Gas and PSE&G. The Gold Sponsor is Elizabethtown Gas. Silver Sponsors are NJM Insurance Group, Jersey Central Power & Light, Bayshore Recycling, Northfield Bank, New Jersey American Water, Atlantic Health System, Ørsted, Horizon Blue

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Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, NJ Aggregation and Solar Landscape. The Bronze Sponsors are Anbaric New Jersey, Bryan Electric, Greener by Design, Covanta, and Red Oak Power.

Sustainable Jersey for Schools is underwritten by the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Clean Energy Program, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA), and the PSEG Foundation. The Sustainable Jersey for Schools grants program is funded by the PSEG Foundation, NJEA, and the Gardinier Environmental Fund. Platinum Sponsors are New Jersey Natural Gas and South Jersey Gas. The Gold Sponsor is NJM Insurance Group. The Silver Sponsors are Investors Bank and Solar Landscape. The Bronze Sponsors are the ECG Group, Gabel Associates, and Maschio's Food Services.

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