



**PSEG**  
*Foundation*

**2023 Sustainable Jersey Grants Program  
Funded by the PSEG Foundation**

**Quotes from \$20,000 Grant Recipients (Listed alphabetically by county)**

“Tewksbury Township is honored to receive the Sustainable Jersey PSEG grant in support of our green infrastructure project in Oldwick Park. This project will alleviate stormwater damage in our community and downstream, while educating visitors to the park about green solutions to stormwater management. Oldwick Park is a centerpiece of our town, hosting local sports games, children at the playground, and folks taking walks after visiting the Tewksbury Library. The Sustainable Jersey grant will permit us to build a new bio-retention area at the park, which will capture, infiltrate, and filter stormwater from the park to avoid downstream erosion, flooding and water quality concerns. The grant will also fund signage that will educate park visitors about green stormwater management. We are so grateful for the support from PSEG and Sustainable Jersey and want to thank all the individuals and organizations whose collective efforts have brought us here: Tewksbury’s Green Team, the Tewksbury Environmental Commission, Raritan Headwaters Association, the Tewksbury Department of Public Works, Van Cleef Engineering, and the New Jersey Highlands Council.” - *Jean Frankel, Mayor, Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County*

“We are thrilled the City of Asbury Park was selected to receive a \$20,000 grant from Sustainable Jersey and we are grateful to the PSEG foundation for funding the program,” said City of Asbury Park Mayor John Moor, “The grant will help support an 18-month-long program in Asbury Park to link restaurants with food banks to provide them with unsold food. Through the program we aim to reduce food waste in the City and address food insecurity within our community” - *John Moor, Mayor, City of Asbury Park, Monmouth County*

“I want to express my appreciation to Sustainable Jersey and PSE&G Foundation for choosing to award the Borough of Madison a \$20,000 grant, which will be used to identify areas in our town that would benefit from green infrastructure solutions that help mitigate stormwater runoff and, at the same time, improve the quality of the water reaching the Buried Valley Aquifer – the sole source of our drinking water. With climate change, more intense storms and longer periods of drought the problem of stormwater management now needs more attention than ever and this project is a step forward. We will be working with a team from Rutgers University who will develop a plan and implement a demonstration project, such as a rain garden. Volunteers and members of the Department of Public Works will be trained to work on future projects. This award is an investment in our future and we thank both Sustainable Jersey and PSE&G for providing us with this opportunity!” - *Robert H. Conley, Mayor, Borough of Madison, Morris County*

**Quotes from \$10,000 Grant Recipients (Listed alphabetically by county)**

“On behalf of the Hasbrouck Heights School District, I would like to thank *Sustainable Jersey for Schools* for this opportunity as well as their endorsement. This partnership will give our schools a chance to improve instruction and social emotional well being. Most notably, at Lincoln School, we will be adding an outdoor learning center for our students in grades PRE-K through fifth grade. Research shows that outdoor learning centers provide the perfect environment for learning in all subject matters. In fact, students in an outdoor setting have scored higher on standardized assessments and achieved higher grade point averages. It’s fitting that the “Sustainable Jersey Grants Announcement Event” is taking place in May. With May being Mental Health Awareness Month, outdoor learning centers also have therapeutic benefits for students and staff. We are hopeful that our outdoor classroom will help to reduce stress and solve problems better. Once again, we are grateful for this opportunity and look forward to a long standing relationship with *Sustainable Jersey for Schools*.” - *Dr. Matthew Helfant, Superintendent of Schools, Hasbrouck Heights School District, Bergen County*

“As the Sustainable Jersey hub for over 100 towns, it’s our job to make complex content - including topics like waste remediation - digestible for the residents of Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester counties. This grant from the PSEG Foundation will help us do that.” - *Gina Cohl, Chair, Tri-County Sustainability Food Waste Committee, Burlington-Camden-Gloucester Counties*

“The Borough of Collingswood takes pride in our sustainability work, our Green Team volunteers, and our Sustainable Jersey certification. We are very much looking forward to partnering with Tri-County Sustainability and towns across South Jersey to raise awareness of environmental policies via this grant from Sustainable Jersey and the PSEG Foundation.” - *Jim Maley, Mayor, Borough of Collingswood, Camden County*

“The award for Reading Fleming Intermediate School will help provide professional development and necessary technology to allow teachers to take classes outside to explore, collect data, and utilize our pollinator garden. The overall goal is to develop conscientious students who care about the world and the environment around them, while providing authentic learning opportunities in the outdoors. I am SO pleased to recognize the efforts of Ms. Lisa Coster from Reading Fleming Intermediate School as the teacher leading this project and initiative in their own school. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that students have worthwhile, meaningful opportunities through the grant. We are grateful to Sustainable Jersey for Schools for this experience and funding” - *Kristen Wolff, Supervisor of Mathematics and Science, Flemington-Raritan Regional School District, Hunterdon County*

“The Hopewell Regional School District is honored to have the work of our Climate Action Committee recognized and supported through this grant from Sustainable Jersey for Schools and the PSE&G Foundation. The funding will allow our district to partner with ICLEI, a global sustainability leader, to measure and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and achieve our district's climate action goals.” - *Dr. Rosetta Treece, Superintendent of Schools, Hopewell Valley School District, Mercer County*

“The Rising Tides, Rising Sounds program is an especially unique way to explore climate change through music, and will extend our cross-curricular efforts to address local, global, and societal needs in ways that truly resonate. We are very grateful to Sustainable Jersey for Schools and to PSEG for recognizing the promise of this innovative project, which will promote both artistry and investigation, serving to both delight and challenge our beach community along the way.” - *Michael Citta, Superintendent of Schools, Toms River Regional Schools, Ocean County*

**Select Quotes from Select \$2,000 Grant Recipients (Listed alphabetically by county)**

“The Paramus School District is honored to be a recipient of the Sustainable Jersey grant, which will have a significant and lasting impact on our ability to continue working toward our sustainability goals. The Paramus High School AP Environmental Science (APES) classes and Helping Our Planet Earth (HOPE) club share a common mission: Build and Maintain a Sustainable Future. Together, these groups participate in the annual Paramus Earth Day Event (during which they educate children about environmental issues through fun games and activities), help with community gardens and Paramus Pride clean-ups around town, and function as an integral part of the high school’s Energy Team to make sure we all conserve energy as much as possible. We are extremely excited to utilize these grant funds to start a pilot composting program as a component of our mission to mitigate greenhouse gases, and are grateful to be a part of this experience.” - *Sean Adams, Superintendent of Schools, Paramus Public Schools, Bergen County*

“Each year, the Ridgewood Public Schools District develops and works toward increased sustainability goals. These goals are met through efforts such as Willard Elementary School’s composting initiative,” said Interim Superintendent Dr. Leonard Fitts. “By installing a hands-on, student-driven composting effort, we are not only educating our students on the importance and ease of reducing the amount of waste at our schools, but also how simple it can be for each of them to have a positive impact on our world.” - *Dr. Leonard Fitts, Superintendent of Schools, Ridgewood Public Schools, Bergen County*

“The Clayton Public School district is honored to be awarded these grants. We will use the grants to provide both our Herma Simmons Elementary School and Clayton High School Environmental Club Chairs with a stipend. The Environmental Club Chairs will use the stipends to continue to make strides with the already established Clubs. Both the Elementary and High Schools are currently bronze medal Sustainable Jersey Schools certified and our major goal for the next few years is to work towards achieving silver medal certification. Both Environmental Clubs are instrumental in this process, as many tasks are accomplished through the Clubs. This will help our school and school community have a deeper understanding of environmental issues and will also empower them to enact change.” - *Nick Koutsogiannis, Superintendent of Schools, Clayton Public Schools, Gloucester County*

“One of the top priorities for the Clinton Township Green Team and Environmental Commission this year has been to bring environmental hands-on experience to our younger residents by building partnerships with educational institutions. One of these partnerships is with the North Hunterdon / Vorhees School District. With the help of this grant, we will be collaborating with the North Hunterdon High School Environmental Club to build a pollinator garden and meadow in their newly renovated courtyard. This pollinator garden and meadow will be instrumental in educating students about the critical role pollinators and native plants play in our ecosystem.” - *Brian Mullay, Mayor, Township of Clinton, Hunterdon County*

“The award for Barley Sheaf Elementary School will be used to create an indoor tower garden in our cafeteria for the school community to enjoy. Tower gardens provide great opportunities for students to learn valuable lessons, and they are also wonderful ways to engage families and community members. Our goal is to use the tower garden to promote healthy eating and address social and emotional learning needs through engaging in stress-relieving, meaningful activities. We are confident that this will allow us to work closely with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in science to create meaningful opportunities for all students. I am SO pleased to recognize the efforts of Ms. Morgan Schrum from Barley Sheaf Elementary School as the teacher leading this project and initiative in their own school. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that students have worthwhile, meaningful opportunities through the grant. We are grateful to Sustainable Jersey for Schools for this experience and funding” - *Kristen Wolff, Supervisor of Mathematics and Science, Flemington-Raritan Regional School District, Hunterdon County*

“Lambertville’s Governing Body, members of our commissions -- including Environmental, Parks & Recreation and Shade Tree -- and volunteer groups such as Lambertville Goes Wild are all acutely aware of our City’s vulnerability to the effects of weather extremes that are the new normal, and to the fact that insects, birds and other species with which we are interdependent are also threatened. All City representatives are working together to strengthen our resiliency for our residents, both human and wildlife. The theme for our planned Green Fair is ‘We are the Solution.’ The fair is an opportunity for us to provide our residents with more information about the steps we have already taken toward resiliency -- including the planting in 2022 of 20 trees and hundreds of perennials at our North Union Street Park, financed by Sustainable Jersey and the PSEG Foundation -- and additional actions we are planning to take. We are inviting a diverse group of organizations to participate in the fair, to offer ideas for actions that residents themselves can take to reduce their carbon footprint, air temperatures, and waste, to manage stormwater, and to provide wildlife habitat. This will be an opportunity to exchange ideas and information with all residents of Lambertville and neighboring municipalities about how we can all work together to strengthen our communities. We couldn’t be more pleased to have been chosen as the recipient for this grant. We thank Sustainable Jersey for this wonderful opportunity and for their continued partnership.” - *Andrew J. Nowick, Mayor, City of Lambertville, Hunterdon County*

“I am grateful our team was awarded this grant to develop a “Community Forestry Management Plan” for the Township of Belleville. Every tree in our community makes a significant and positive impact towards a healthy place to live and work, which is why we are committed to increasing trees in our community.” - *Michael Melham, Mayor, Township of Belleville, Essex County*

“On behalf of the Township of Howell we would like to thank Sustainable Jersey for awarding our community a \$2,000 grant to install a native plant garden at our Community Wildlife Habitat site. We thank Sustainable Jersey & PSE&G for the work that they are doing and the help they are providing to communities like ours in our efforts to preserve our natural resources and beautify our township open spaces.” - *Theresa Berger, Mayor, Township of Howell, Monmouth County*

“The Township will hold its first Green Fair to educate the residents of Millstone Township of available township resources and actions they can take to support a Green environment. The fair will be a major activity at the annual Millstone Day, a well-attended event. Millstone Township’s motto is “An environmentally friendly and concerned town” so this joint event will introduce the township citizens to the Green Team and Sustainable Jersey activities. We are proud to be Millstone!” - *Al Ferro, Mayor, Township of Millstone, Monmouth County*

“On behalf of the Board of Education, faculty, staff and students of Franklin Township Public Schools, I would like to say how proud we are of the EAS Green Team for their work in securing this grant. Their project to rejuvenate their existing school courtyard making it more ADA friendly is wonderful. The renovated courtyard will provide an outdoor oasis for learning and wellness and will provide an opportunity for all children to better enjoy the space. The EAS Green Team's consideration of student voice in decision making while working towards their Sustainable Jersey recognition truly represents the district's goals” - *Dr. John Ravally, Superintendent of Schools, Franklin Township Public Schools, Somerset County*

“We always welcome grant funding in Hillsborough Township. Thank you to Sustainable Jersey and PSE&G for this opportunity. This collaborative initiative between the Sustainable Hillsborough Steering Committee and our Social Services Department will offer educational opportunities for our Senior Community on gardening projects and initiatives.” - *Shawn Lipani, Mayor, Township of Hillsborough, Somerset County*

“Pollination is one of the most important aspects of successful crop production. Green Township has a long history that is intertwined with farming. With very little commercial development, the majority of lands in Green Township are utilized by local farmers. The grant that was received for a pollinator garden will not only aid in pollination of local crops, but will also be used as an education tool for local residents. This project will not only help with the pollination of local plantings but will be an esthetic addition to EverGreen Park.” - *Margaret “Peg” Phillips, Mayor, Green Township, Sussex County*

“The Hillside Board of Education, along with the Hillside High School Garden Club and I, are thrilled to be the recipients of the 2023 Sustainable Jersey Grant. With this grant, we plan to create a protected habitat for Monarch Butterflies, which will serve as a valuable hands-on learning environment for our students. The Hillside High School Garden Club students will use the Next Generation Science Standards to create an outdoor learning project that will have a lasting impact on our school community. Curricular resources and hands-on tools will expand students’ knowledge of this intriguing insect, and our students will be able to help improve the environment for one of the most beautiful insects in our ecosystem. Our students will be able to use this project to use their scientific voice and expertise to be advocates for change, leading the way in helping our communities understand the impact of climate change on living species in our society.” - *Erskine R. Glover, Superintendent of Schools, Hillside Public Schools, Union County*