



## 2024 Sustainable Jersey Grants Program Funded by the PSEG Foundation

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

"We are very excited that Bloomfield has received this grant and thankful to Sustainable Jersey for selecting our township. I would like to acknowledge, Jean-Guy Lauture Sr., Assistant township administrator, Councilman Rich Rockwell, Councilman Nick Joanow and Cailyn Bruno, Chair Environmental Commission for their roles in making this possible. The township acquired this property located in a flood prone area which significantly impacts water runoff for residents in the neighborhood during heavy rain events. The property currently is covered by impervious asphalt which will be removed, and organic mulch/soil will be added, allowing for the creation of a tree farm. This project will provide additional storm water mitigation and provide a much-needed nursery for trees. These trees will be available for planting throughout the township which is an added benefit for years to come. This grant allows the township to utilize a vacant piece of property and convert it into a sustainable tree farm which mitigates flooding and benefits all residents." – *Ted Gamble, Mayor, Township of Bloomfield, Essex County*

"The Town of Clinton is deeply honored to be the recipient of the Sustainable Jersey PSEG grant, which will support our nocturnal pollinator and firefly habitat project in two locations. This grant represents a significant step forward in our efforts to enhance biodiversity and combat light pollution, both critical issues impacting wildlife and human health. Through this project, we will expand our pollinator gardens, remove invasive species, and replace them with native plants. This initiative not only aims to restore habitat but also seeks to raise public awareness about the challenges faced by wildlife due to light pollution and ways to mitigate its impact. We extend our heartfelt gratitude the PSEG Foundation and Sustainable Jersey for their support, as well as to all the individuals and organizations whose collaborative efforts will make this project a reality. Special thanks to Clinton's Green Team, Environmental Commission, and Shade Tree Commission, the Clinton Conservancy, Raritan Headwaters Association, Dark Sky New Jersey, and the Clinton Department of Public Works. Together, we are making a difference for our environment and community." – *Janice Kovach, Mayor, Town of Clinton, Hunterdon County*

"Our objective is to optimize the quality of life for our residents by ensuring that our environmental and economic objectives are balanced and mutually supportive. We (the Borough of Tinton Falls) recognizes the importance of smart, sustainable growth, consistent with our Master Plan, as a long-term strategic priority. I am elated and honored to announce that our volunteers and professionals, working together, will not only receive grant funding awarded by the PSE&G Foundation through Sustainable Jersey, furthermore the Borough of Tinton Falls has committed to matching funds in the amount of the grant awarded as well, totaling \$40,000." - *Vito Perillo, Mayor, Borough of Tinton Falls, Monmouth County*

"As Montgomery continues working to understand and mitigate the local effects of climate change, we are grateful to Sustainable Jersey for their support. This grant enables our staff to enhance our community's stormwater management plan and prioritize infrastructure improvements that help reduce the effects of flooding" - *Neena Singh, Mayor, Township of Montgomery, Somerset County*

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

"This funding will kickstart our recycling and sustainability initiatives within Bogota. Even though most of this money will help us purchase the initial needed supplies and equipment to improve recycling and reduce waste, it's really more about changing perspectives and building sustainable daily habits at school and at home. Once our students, staff, and community make sustainability a habit and a mindset, the real change begins. The grant has forced us to have real conversations with our municipal DPW and our building green teams. Real, tangible, change is happening. We are very excited and so are the students!" – *Damian Kennedy, Superintendent of Schools, Bogota Public School District, Bergen County*

"I am extremely proud of our Green Team, led by Brittany Beyer, for all of the hard work that they put into this grant application," said Mayor Kyle Hanson (Barrington, Camden County). "Communities across our State, especially in our area in Camden County, have been dealing with stormwater management concerns for years. This funding will not only support the growth of our green infrastructure projects, through the creation of rain gardens and dry well workshops but will also help us to share the tools and resources with our residents that they can use to effectively manage stormwater on their properties. I am thankful to the PSEG Foundation for funding this grant and I look forward to seeing all of the great things that our Green Team does with this opportunity." – *Kyle Hanson, Mayor, Borough of Barrington, Camden County*

"On behalf of Ms. Tania Wilson, my outstanding grade 3 Science teacher, and the rest of the team at Roseville Community Charter School, I want to express how excited and appreciative we are to be awarded this \$10,000 grant from Sustainable Jersey! With these grant funds, we will be able to accomplish our goal of creating a community-based green space and outdoor classroom to the benefit of all our scholars Grades K-4 and the community. Creating this green space and the outdoor classroom space accomplishes our long-term environmental goals which includes helping to remediate heat islands and the decline of pollinator populations, and our educational goal which is to provide our scholars with more opportunities and spaces for hands-on, project-based learning. We ultimately envision our garden being filled with fruits, vegetables, flowers and herbs, and our scholars actively learning and applying what they have learned within this space as part of their S.T.E.A.M. educational program. By tending to the vegetation within the garden, scholars will gain applicable knowledge about the interdependence of all lifeforms. The garden / green space site will also serve as a resource center where residents of the Greater Metro Newark area can learn about and experience the many benefits of sustainable living. The green space to be created through this grant award, replete with endangered and pollinator native NJ plant species, will also serve as a powerful contributor towards the environmental health of our state. We look forward to getting started with this innovative project, and to one day soon, Roseville Community Charter School being identified as a Sustainable Jersey School!" – *Dr. Dionne Ledford, Executive Director and Superintendent, Roseville Community Charter School District, Essex County*

"Throughout the school district, we are committed to educating our students on the significance of practicing sustainability. Part of this educational effort involves raising awareness. The grant funds allocated for the 3D Printed "SustainTree Project" will greatly contribute to spreading awareness about sustainability and also enhancing the school's beauty." – *Hayden Moore, Superintendent of Schools, West Orange Public Schools, Essex County*

"East Greenwich is deeply invested in keeping our community clean, green, and healthy," said East Greenwich Township Mayor Dale Archer. "The Township Committee, The Environmental Commission, and the Public Works Department have been collaborating for months on planning this next phase in the redevelopment of Mickleton Park. We will continue to focus development on safe and accessible recreation, education, sustainability, and native plant life. I am grateful to Sustainable Jersey for seeing the value in our proposed inclusion of an outdoor reading center as a critical part of these efforts. The investment of this money will create positive returns for our community for years to come." – *Dale Archer, Mayor, Township of East Greenwich, Gloucester County*

"The Readington Township School District is grateful for Sustainable Jersey for Schools and their work to support communities in nurturing a more sustainable future. With their generous \$10,000 grant the Readington Schools will launch a student-led broadcast video program dedicated to promoting sustainability and wellness in our schools and community along with various other topics of interest to our students. Our district goal is to empower our students to 'lead purposeful lives and to cultivate a spirit of discovery.' The idea for EcoAction News originated as a passion project from our student EcoAmbassadors and their teacher, Ms. Freeman. It is a thrill to see how our district mission lives within our students and faculty. as they turn their passions into action" – *Jonathan Hart, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools, Readington Township School District, Hunterdon County*

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

"As mayor, I'm thrilled to announce Florence Township's acceptance of the \$2000.00 Sustainable New Jersey Grant for our pollinator garden. This investment not only beautifies our community but also nurtures our environment, fostering biodiversity and sustainability for generations to come. Together, we're sowing the seeds of a greener, more vibrant future." - *Kristan Marter, Mayor, Township of Florence, Burlington County*

"Rosa is delighted to announce that with support from Sustainable Jersey we are expanding the offerings of our library to develop a space to learn about sustainability and to create a culture of stewardship for the earth. Our students complete an interdisciplinary project on climate change and this grant provides us with funds to create a wider selection of materials for students to conduct research on climate and sustainability topics, to help our students develop "climate literacy." In 2023, we debuted our Climate and Sustainability Showcase in which student presenters share their research with the larger community in our library. This grant will not only provide us with additional resources on climate and sustainability topics for research and prepare for the showcase event, but will expand our fiction and graphic novel offerings with sustainability themes, including new "Cli-fi" offerings. Finally, the grant will allow us to further develop community stations at our annual showcase to demonstrate sustainability topics such as composting, seed harvesting, upcycled art, sustainable homemaking, sustainable materials, etc. Students, led by our Climate Action and Sustainability Team and community sustainability organizations can come together in the space for students and community members to explore sustainability in a fun and engaging atmosphere. We are very proud of the hard work of our teachers, librarian and students and especially our Climate Action and Sustainability Team to imbue students with skills and knowledge to become climate literate stewards of the planet and thank Sustainable Jersey for this incredible opportunity." – *George Guy, Principal, Rosa International Middle School, Cherry Hill School District, Camden County*

"The Sustainable Jersey for Schools grant is a wonderful opportunity to create our Panther Retreat, a green space/outdoor classroom. It provides an inclusive environment to have the students and staff work collaboratively on the garden. At P.S. #39, we have an autistic population, gardening can help children with ASD to stay relaxed and focused on a series of tasks, and continued engagement with their school community." – *Chantel Perry, Ed.D., Principal, Dr. Charles P. DeFuccio School, P.S. #39, Jersey City Public Schools, Hudson County*

"We are in the middle of an urban oasis. We are looking to bring our garden back to life as a warm welcoming place for our students and families when they enter and leave our building each day. We are also looking to add an outdoor classroom for our students and provide more impactful hands-on learning opportunities." – *Joseph Apruzzese, Principal, Jotham W. Wakeman P.S. # 6, Jersey City Public Schools, Hudson County*

"East Amwell Township School would like to express our gratitude to Sustainable Jersey for Schools and the PSEG Foundation for their generous grant toward our bee pollinator garden initiative. The funding will help introduce live bees to our school garden, fostering student engagement in pollinator education, advancing STEAM skills, and nurturing a passion for environmental stewardship. We applaud our dedicated Green Team for their commitment to enhancing our school community." – *Erin Dolan, Interim Principal, East Amwell Township School, East Amwell Township School, Hunterdon County*

"We are committed to moving Belmar forward with more sustainable, greener practices that bene-fit all residents. This grant from Sustainable Jersey will reinforce that commitment, and we are deeply thankful for their recognition and support" – *Gerald Buccafusco, Mayor, Borough of Belmar, Monmouth County*

"We at HMSS are thrilled that our school has been awarded a generous grant to initiate our Tree Planting Project! This grant is not just a recognition of our efforts but a testament to our commitment to environmental stewardship and education. With this funding, we will cultivate a greener, more sustainable campus, providing our students with invaluable opportunities to learn about the importance of conservation and ecology. Together, we'll sow the seeds of change, nurturing not just trees, but a future generation of environmentally conscious citizens. Thank you to all who have supported our vision, and let's get ready to dig in and make a lasting impact!" – *Robert K. Henig, Ed.D., Principal, Howell Township Middle School South, Howell Township Public School District, Monmouth County*

"We are excited to have been selected to receive the \$2,000 award from the 2024 Sustainable Jersey Grant from PSEG Foundation. Point Pleasant Beach has been working hard to improve our sustainable profile, and we are fortunate to have a great community to support us, so this grant will go a long way to help us recruit new volunteers and SJ participants. We are looking forward to developing informational handouts for public outreach and education to teach our residents new ways to incorporate environmentally-friendly solutions at home and in their businesses" – *Doug Vitale, Mayor, Borough of Point Pleasant Beach, Ocean County*

"We are so excited for our students in Passaic to gain this experience through the sustainable Jersey Grant! By working together to create an energy-smart, eco-friendly, and cost-effective solution of a rain garden at Passaic Prep Academy, our students will gain life skills and understand the importance of pre-serving our environment through natural resources. It is our hope this opportunity will take root and encourage our students to continue to expand their knowledge base through hands-on experiences that have a rewarding and positive impact on our world." – *Stacey Bruce, Principal, Passaic Preparatory Academy, Passaic City School District, Passaic County*

"We at Paterson STEAM High School are so excited about receiving this grant for a School Garden Initiative. This monetary support will bring to fruition the idea of creating a much larger, far more comprehensive, on-site garden for us, from kick-off to harvest and beyond. It will serve as a timeless educational tool and learning lab for our sustainable studies pathway, as well as being a lovely and inspiring example to our community in regard to such healthy and economical cultivation. This grant will be set in motion in collaboration with a community partner (City Green) who our district has had longstanding ties with, as well as the students and staff members that make up our Green Team." – *Dr. Nellista Bess, Principal, Paterson STEAM High School, Paterson Public School District, Passaic County*

"Finding ways to empower our students in the 21st century to improve the quality of life by using natural resources is paramount. In doing so, we will be helping students find creative ways to produce steady sustainability. Thus, future generations will face fewer challenges and also will be able to enjoy the natural beauty we preserve for them." – *Dr. Abner Mendoza, MA.Ed, Principal, Penns Grove Middle School, Penns Grove-Carneys Point Regional School District, Salem County*

"This project will support and enhance our access to healthy water in schools sustainable initiatives. Currently, Franklin High School met the requirements needed to receive points for Access to Healthy Water in Schools. However, based on the School Drinking Water Needs Assessment Checklist the school needs an additional water refilling station and needs to increase promotional efforts of the benefits of drinking water. This project will add an additional water refilling station that will be installed in our cafeteria area." – *Rod Brundidge, Vice Principal, Franklin High School, Franklin Township Public Schools, Somerset County*

"I am excited to announce that Cranford was awarded the 2024 Sustainable Jersey Grant to support our Cranford Canopy Project. This grant will support the efforts of our Environmental Commission to rebuild the tree canopy in our town. The Cranford Canopy Project will make it easier for residents to plant trees in their yards - by sourcing native shade trees, distributing them locally, advising on planting, and partially offsetting the cost of the trees. The Cranford Canopy Project goal is to distribute at least 125 trees in our town in 2024 -- to clean the air, absorb storm-water, provide wildlife habitat, and beautify our neighborhoods. This grant will allow us to achieve this important goal!" – *Brian Andrews, Mayor, Township of Cranford, Union County*

“The Borough of New Providence is proud to accept the 2024 Sustainable Jersey Grant funded by the PSEG Foundation in the amount of \$2,000. This Grant will help fund our Green Challenge, which will be offered free of charge to all residents and offer them a weekly sustainability task, valuable information about living life with a smaller carbon footprint, and the opportunity to win “green” prizes. The Green Challenge helps us toward our goal of educating our entire community about programs like the PSEG Quick Home Energy Check-up, and ways to save natural resources such as recycling and unplugging appliances after use. The Green Challenge also moves us closer to our goal of obtaining Silver Status from Sustainable Jersey the next time we apply for certification. Thank you to Sustainable Jersey and the PSEG Foundation for this Grant and the incredible opportunity it provides to the Borough of New Providence.”  
– *Allen Morgan, Mayor, Borough of New Providence, Union County*