



2026 Sustainable Jersey Grants Program Funded by the PSEG Foundation

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

"Because of Fort Lee's dense development and proximity to the George Washington Bridge, traffic and stormwater management are ongoing concerns for our community. These new bicycle shelters with integrated rain gardens will provide secure bike parking, help reduce runoff entering the sewer system, and introduce native pollinator plantings near heavily used recreational areas and community gardens. We are excited to create infrastructure that benefits both residents and the environment." – *Christian Nowell, Founder - Fort Lee Mayor's Active Transportation Advisory Committee, Fort Lee Borough, Bergen County*

"We are deeply grateful to the PSEG Foundation and Sustainable Jersey for their generous \$10,000 grant, supporting the creation of a bike shelter with rain garden roof. This investment not only encourages sustainability but also demonstrates a meaningful commitment to a resilient community infrastructure. Thank you for helping us build a greener, healthier future." – *Ila Kasofsky, Councilwoman, Fort Lee Borough, Bergen County*

"This grant will help create a comprehensive Environmental Resource Inventory that provides the data and insights needed to support informed planning, protect natural resources, enhance green spaces, and improve quality of life for Hackensack residents." – *Caseen Gaines, Mayor, City of Hackensack, Bergen County*

"Gloucester Township is proud to be recognized for our commitment to sustainability, environmental stewardship, and community education. Through our Educational Classroom & Tour Program and the work being done at our Ecological Center, we are creating opportunities for residents, students, and organizations to learn firsthand about recycling, composting, and the positive impact these efforts have on our community. We are grateful for the partnerships that make these programs possible and remain committed to building a cleaner, greener future for Gloucester Township" – *David R. Mayer, Mayor, Gloucester Township, Camden County*

"The Town of West New York is honored to have been awarded the grant from Sustainable Jersey and PSE&G. We are grateful for this generous support that will allow us to advance on our Native Plant Project. Sustainable Jersey has always been a valued partner and supporter of our Town's environmental goals. This funding is going to not only advance our project, but also help strengthen our community's commitment in creating a native plant hub that neighboring towns can learn from." – *Rosemarie Avallone, Sustainability Coordinator and Assistant to the Administrator, Town of West New York, Hudson County*

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

"I'm pleased that Rochelle Park has been awarded a \$10,000 Sustainable Jersey Grant funded by the PSE&G Foundation to support improvements to our Community Garden at Carlock Field. This grant will help advance sustainability, community beautification, environmental education, and community engagement efforts here in Rochelle Park while creating an even better shared space for residents to gather, garden, and connect with one another. I want to thank Environmental Commission Chair Michael Warren and the members of the Environmental Commission for their hard work and advocacy in helping secure this Sustainable Jersey grant. Their efforts continue to help move Rochelle Park forward in building a greener, healthier, and more connected community." – *Thomas Miller, Mayor, Township of Rochelle Park, Bergen County*

"We are so grateful to Sustainable Jersey and the PSEG Foundation for this \$10,000 grant award, empowering Merchantville to further its commitment to the arts, strengthening community, creativity and pride." – *Ted Brennan, Mayor, Merchantville Borough, Camden County*

"We are grateful to Sustainable Jersey and the PSEG Foundation for supporting Irvington Township's continued commitment to sustainability and community improvement." – *Charnette Frederic, Ph.D. Councilwoman and Green Team Chair, Irvington Township, Essex County*

"As Verona builds awareness around composting with residents, we're very excited to introduce our compost pilot "From Scraps to Solutions" with this grant award. This will not only enable us to initiate a compost program, but allow us to survey residents and compile statistics in order to implement successful long-term composting!" – *Kerry Bass, Chair-Sustainable Verona, Verona Township, Essex County*

"This Sustainable New Jersey grant is allowing us at West End Memorial Elementary School to bring hands-on, experiential learning directly into our K–2 classrooms through meaningful partnership. By connecting classroom instruction to real-world investigations of forests, animals, and life cycles, our students will engage in deeper, more authentic learning that strengthens both their understanding of science and their environmental stewardship. This project not only enriches our curriculum but also builds lasting connections between our school, local farms, and families. Through field experiences and classroom projects, we are creating opportunities for students to learn by doing while fostering a strong sense of responsibility for the natural world and sustainability in their community." – *Joseph DeLecce, Principal, West End Memorial Elementary School, Woodbury City Public Schools, Gloucester County*

"The East Amwell Township Environmental Commission is excited to start the long overdue remediation of the Clawson Park rain gardens. We look at this endeavor not just as a remediation, but also an opportunity to collaborate with and educate stakeholders, residents and students. The Sustainable Jersey grant affords us the opportunity to preserve the functionality and beauty of these gardens for years to come." – *Alison Kavchok, Chair, East Amwell Township Environmental Commission, Hunterdon County*

"The Growing Connections Cafe initiative will transform the skylit foyer of our school media center into an immersive Agricultural Learning Space that highlights the beauty, sustainability, and history of Howell Township's local farming community. Through hydroponic and cascade gardening systems, farmhouse-style collaborative seating, a curated library of agriculture and nutrition texts, and a photographic gallery celebrating local farms, students will gain hands-on, place-based learning experiences. This project will foster agricultural literacy, environmental stewardship, and a deeper connection to the local community." – *Teresa Castellan (Science Teacher) & Josephine Schneider (Media Specialist), Howell Middle School North, Howell Township School District, Monmouth County*

"I am proud to announce the Sustainable Jersey/PSEG \$10,000 grant awarded to Morris Township which will help fund a project to create an Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI). This will serve as a vital tool in our commitment to preserving and enhancing our community's natural resources. We will identify, assess, and catalog the diverse ecosystems within our Township, addressing sustainable land use, conservation of biodiversity, and enhanced public awareness of our environmental assets. The ERI will help balance development and conservation. Project highlights will include an assessment of our forests, wetlands, waterways, and wildlife habitats, as well as engaging community members to raise awareness about our ecological heritage. This grant will help us take significant strides towards creating a sustainable future for Morris Township, ensuring that our environment thrives alongside our community. Kathleen Hourihan and Barbara Buda will be co-managing the project for our Environmental Commission." – *Donna Guariglia, Mayor, Morris Township, Morris County*

"We are incredibly grateful to be named a recipient of the \$10,000 Sustainable Jersey Grant, funded by the PSEG Foundation. This investment allows Arthur P. Schalick High School to construct a dedicated greenhouse, providing a year-round 'living laboratory' for our Agricultural program and our new 'Birds & Botany' course, while creating a dynamic space for cross-curricular learning. This hands-on classroom environment will not only enrich our S.T.E.A.M. curriculum but also cultivate vital community partnerships and empower our students to lead the way in sustainable practices for the Pittsgrove community." – *Melissa Bonham, Supervisor of Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts & Math, Arthur P. Schalick High School, Pittsgrove Township School District, Salem County*

"We are incredibly grateful to the PSEG Foundation and Sustainable Jersey for awarding Woodstown-Piles Grove Regional School District a \$10,000 grant to support our Wolverines Amplified initiative. What began seven years ago as a small equity committee—a handful of educators sharing resources and creating opportunities for students and staff—has grown into a district-wide movement that reaches students and families from Pre-K through 12th grade. As a small rural district with an increasingly diverse student population, we recognize the importance of ensuring that every student feels seen, heard, valued, and represented. This grant will allow us to expand Wolverines Amplified, a student-driven, sustainable arts ecosystem rooted in diversity, equity, and inclusion, while creating meaningful opportunities for student voice, creativity, and community engagement. We are deeply appreciative of this investment in our students and our future. The support of the PSEG Foundation and Sustainable Jersey will help us continue building a culture where every Wolverine has the opportunity to amplify their voice and share their story." – *Kate Kidder, Interventionist and DEI Lead, Mary S. Shoemaker School, Woodstown-Piles Grove School District, Salem County*

"Manville High School is extremely grateful for this wonderful opportunity to redesign and refresh our greenhouse. This funding will allow us to update a physical space that has remained untouched for a while. Furthermore, our project aims to design inclusive curricula and activities that engage all learners across all areas of STEAM. The interdisciplinary approach will provide our students with the hands-on skills and real-world experiences necessary for future success." – *Dr. Christa Mawn, Supervisor of STEAM, Manville High School, Manville School District, Somerset County*

"Hurden Looker Elementary School is ecstatic to begin working on their school yard forest. Taking inspiration from the Miyawaki Method, Hurden Looker Climate Ambassadors will plant native species of trees and shrubs to welcome and preserve wildlife at our school and provide our community with cooler and cleaner air. We are grateful for our administration, Sustainable Schools and PSE&G for making this all possible." – *Grace Petroccia, Teacher and Climate Ambassadors Club Advisor, Hurden Looker Elementary School, Hillside Public Schools, Union County*

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

"We are gratified to be recognized by Sustainable Jersey and the PSEG Foundation with a grant that will help us introduce our re-established Green Team. We will share the Green Team's mission, current projects, volunteer opportunities, and practical borough-specific guidance on recycling, town-wide pickup, and the tree removal/permit process. This direct-to-household communication will rebuild visibility, recruit volunteers, and strengthen ongoing community engagement as the Green Team works toward Sustainable Jersey certification." – *Tod Christie, Green Team Chair, Park Ridge, Bergen County*

"We are incredibly grateful to Sustainable Jersey and the PSEG Foundation for supporting the sustainability work happening here in Bordentown City," said Mayor Stephanie Lagos. "This grant will help our amazing Green Team expand hands on environmental education, strengthen programs like our cigarette butt recycling initiative and Toy Library, and provide supplies and matching funds that support the volunteers behind these and many other sustainability efforts. In just one square mile, our community continues proving that small cities can make a big impact, and I'm so proud of the creativity, collaboration, and heart that make this work possible." – *Stephanie Lagos, Mayor, City of Bordentown, Burlington County*

"We are so proud of all those who helped us achieve Silver Certification from Sustainable Jersey in 2025. We are thrilled to accept the \$2000 grant from PSE&G to continue our work moving Hainesport toward sustainable practices. By subsidizing a Pilot Collection program we will be raising awareness of issues surrounding Food Waste and giving Hainesport residents a chance to see how food collection can work!" – *Andy Dick, Mayor, Hainesport Township, Burlington County*

"We are incredibly grateful to Sustainable Jersey for Schools and PSEG for supporting this project at Pennsauken Public Schools. This grant will provide our students with meaningful, hands-on learning opportunities focused on sustainability, environmental responsibility, and community engagement. Through the creation of a recycled-material hallway mural and an indoor herb growing tower, students will explore creative ways to reduce waste, understand healthy food systems, and share their learning with the broader school community. We are proud to continue fostering innovative educational experiences that empower students to become thoughtful environmental stewards and active contributors to their community." – *Dr. James Bevere, Superintendent, Pennsauken Public Schools, Camden*

"We are grateful to Sustainable Jersey for Schools for supporting the creation of a rain garden at 120-year-old Hazel Avenue Elementary in West Orange, an investment that addresses both an environmental challenge and a safety concern on our campus. Formerly the home of several mature trees recently lost to damage and disease, the grassy site currently experiences stormwater runoff from an adjacent blacktop during rain events, flooding the edge of a sloped, public sidewalk and often freezing into hazardous ice during the winter. This project will transform that problem area into a resilient landscape that captures and absorbs runoff, reduces erosion, and improves local water quality. The rain garden also creates a meaningful opportunity for hands-on, student-centered learning. Hazel is a Title I school with a strong culture of community engagement and environmental stewardship. Our fourth graders have already begun this work by winter-sowing native pollinator plants for the site as part of their science curriculum, using seeds donated by the Flagship Native Seed Library of South Orange. The plants are thriving and will be ready to go in the ground in the next few weeks. Once complete, the rain garden will serve as a living laboratory for all K-5 students, where they can observe water infiltration, track plant growth, and study the relationships between native plants and the ecosystem they support. This project advances multiple goals at once: stormwater management, pollinator habitat creation, beautification of a highly visible school frontage, and the development of an outdoor classroom. It also reflects a collaborative community effort. The Hazel Green Team and PTA are leading implementation, with support from Spitball Society, a local nonprofit that held a workshop to guide students through the site assessment and landscape design process. West Orange's Scouting America Troop 6 and ROTC programs will assist with planting. We have also received a Mid-Atlantic Habitat Kit from the Xerces Society; donations from Montclair Community Farms native plant sale; and a Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education grant from Wild Ones, which we used to purchase plugs from native plant design firm EcoThumbs to supplement the fourth graders' plants. The SJS grant will fund site treatment by Green Glow Gardens, a local organic and regenerative soil building company run by a Hazel alumnus will be amending the soil to keep our local microbial population thriving. Long-term care will be led by the PTA's Green Thumbs Garden Club, ensuring the garden remains a vibrant resource for years to come. This rain garden is part of a broader vision to expand ecological learning at Hazel, alongside a greenhouse project also supported by Sustainable Jersey for Schools. By turning stormwater runoff into an educational and ecological asset, this project will benefit our students and the broader community for years to come." – *Jamie Hardy, Hazel PTA Green Thumbs Coordinator, Hazel Avenue Elementary School, West Orange School District, Essex County*

"We are honored to receive continued support from Sustainable Jersey as we expand the native garden at the Crescent Deck. This grant builds upon our previous partnership and reflects Montclair's ongoing commitment to creating beautiful, sustainable public spaces that benefit both residents and wildlife. Native plantings play an important role in supporting pollinators, improving environmental health, and helping our community connect with nature." – *Dr. Renee Baskerville, Mayor, Montclair, Essex County*

"On behalf of the Newark School of Global Studies community, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to Sustainable Jersey and the PSEG Foundation for awarding our school the 2026 Sustainable Jersey Grant in the amount of \$2,000. We are honored to have been selected and are excited about the opportunities this grant will provide for our students and school community." – *Nelson Ruiz, Principal, Newark School of Global Studies, Essex County*

"We are incredibly grateful to Sustainable Jersey for investing in South Orange and supporting the outstanding work of our Environmental Commission. As communities across New Jersey confront more frequent flooding and extreme weather, green infrastructure is one of the smartest and most effective tools we have to protect our environment and strengthen resilience. This grant will help inspire and empower residents to take action right in their own backyards, while continuing South Orange's tradition of leading the way on sustainability, innovation, and environmental stewardship." – *Sheena Collum, Mayor, South Orange Village Township, Essex County*

"We are deeply grateful for our continued partnership with Sustainable Jersey and the PSEG Foundation. Thanks to their incredible generosity, our school garden will continue to grow alongside our students, providing a vibrant outdoor space rich with hands-on learning opportunities." – *Joseph Apruzzese, Principal, J.W. Wakeman Public School 6, Jersey City Public Schools, Hudson County*

"The City of Lambertville is deeply grateful to Sustainable Jersey and the PSEG Foundation for the \$2,000 grant to begin an Adopt a Drain program. With over 575 storm drains in our small City, we need all the help we can get to keep drains clear and protect water quality. This grant will give our local children and community members a great way to be part of the solution in their neighborhoods. Thanks to Sustainable Jersey and the PSEG Foundation!" – *Andrew Nowick, Mayor, City of Lambertville, Hunterdon County*

"We are grateful to The College of New Jersey and PSE&G for their support of South Plainfield's sustainability efforts through this grant opportunity. This funding will help us expand our Green Fair, provide valuable recycling and environmental education resources to residents, and connect families with important utility assistance programs offered by PSE&G. Partnerships like these strengthen our community, promote environmental stewardship, and ensure residents have access to information and services that can improve their quality of life. We look forward to building greater awareness of sustainable practices while helping residents take advantage of available energy-saving and financial assistance programs." – *Matthew P. Anesh, Mayor, South Plainfield, Middlesex County*

"Thank you to Sustainable NJ for their continued partnership! Ardena School is thrilled to be awarded a \$2,000 grant that will help create a wonderful space for all of our learners!" – *Ray Gredder, Principal, Ardena Elementary School, Howell Township Public Schools, Monmouth County*

"Many thanks to Sustainable New Jersey for its support of the important work of Avon-by-the-Sea's Environmental Commission." – *Edward Bonanno, Mayor, Avon-by-the-Sea Borough, Monmouth County*

"We are proud to congratulate the Howell Township Green Team on receiving the 2026 Sustainable Jersey Grant funded by the PSEG Foundation in the amount of \$2,000. This grant reflects our community's continued commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability. The funding will support valuable initiatives including rain barrel and rain garden workshops, as well as community stream cleanup events that will help protect our natural resources and engage residents in making a positive impact. We thank the Green Team for their dedication and leadership in creating a greener, healthier Howell Township for future generations." – *Lisa Doud, Chair, Howell Green Team, Howell Township, Monmouth County*

"On behalf of Chatham Borough, I would like to express our gratitude to Sustainable Jersey and the PSEG Foundation for this \$2,000 grant for our new Biodiversity Garden. This award builds on the work of our Environmental Commission, chaired by Susie Robertson, to revitalize the municipal building's outdoor space. The aim was to replace traditional, high-maintenance landscaping with native trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowers that reduce turf, lower maintenance needs, support birds and pollinators, and create a more attractive and educational public space for residents and visitors. This project has been a collaborative effort between the Borough's Mayor and Council, Administration, Community Services, DPW, EC, and the Town & Country Garden Club. The grant will help fund the garden's educational features, including interpretive signs, plant identification markers, and QR-linked resources that will help visitors learn more about native plants, pollinators, and sustainable gardening practices. These additions will turn the space into more than just a garden — it will become a public "living classroom" that can inspire residents to make similar changes in their own yards and neighborhoods. Because the garden is located at one of the Borough's busiest sites, it will have a broad and lasting impact. It can host workshops, guided walks, school visits, pollinator counts, Earth Month and Arbor Day programming. We are very proud of the new Biodiversity Garden and grateful for the opportunity this grant provides. Special thanks go to our Chatham Borough EC Chair Susie Robertson, Town & Country Garden Club Chair Debbie Barnes, DPW Chair Tony Torello, and all borough staff and volunteers who have made this project possible. Sustainable Jersey and PSEG Foundation's support reinforces our commitment to sustainability and helps us continue building a greener community in Chatham Borough." — *Carolyn Dempsey, Mayor, Chatham Borough, Morris County*

"Denville Township is proud to be awarded a 2026 Sustainable Jersey Grant funded by the PSEG Foundation. Through this support, the Township will enhance its existing pollinator gardens and increase community engagement by installing interpretive signage and hosting a milkweed giveaway. These efforts, together with Mayor Tom Andes signing the Mayor's Monarch Pledge this year, underscore the vital role pollinator habitats play in our communities — supporting bees, butterflies, birds, and other species that sustain healthy ecosystems, strengthen local food systems, and contribute to resilient landscapes." — *Stephanie Turkot & Julie Stroffolino, Environmental Commission Co-Chairs, Denville Township, Morris County*

"This grant-funded Native Shrub Swap Program is another example of how Madison continues to invest in a healthier, more sustainable future. By replacing invasive species with native plants, we are supporting local ecosystems, helping reduce tick populations, and giving residents and businesses an opportunity to play a direct role in keeping Madison green. We thank Sustainable Jersey and the PSEG Foundation for supporting this important initiative and our dedicated Green Team members for their continued hard work on behalf of our community." — *Mayor Robert H. Conley, Mayor, Borough of Madison, Morris County*

"We will utilize these funds to remove invasive plants and replace with native wet land plants along the banks of town owned Oakwood Lake. The lake is a central point of this local community, and the restoration will hopefully attract more of the community to come out and enjoy this little gem. The town of Bloomingdale would like to thank Sustainable Jersey and PSEG foundation for this grant award." — *Michael Sondermeyer, Borough Administrator, Bloomingdale Borough, Passaic County*

"We are grateful to receive this Sustainable Jersey grant, which will help us enhance both the learning environment and the overall appearance of our school. The funding will allow us to create additional outdoor learning spaces where students can engage in hands-on educational experiences while also transforming the front of our building with plants, landscaping, and other welcoming features. These improvements will provide students, staff, families, and community members with a more inviting and engaging environment that supports learning, fosters school pride, and strengthens our connection to the community." — *Gwen Herman, Chief School Administrator, Quinton Township School, Quinton Township School District, Salem County*

"Hillsborough Township is thrilled to accept this grant award from Sustainable Jersey and the PSE&G Foundation. This funding will be used to assess the feasibility of on-site green infrastructure improvements on a currently underutilized Township Open Space property. Hillsborough has been an active participant in the Sustainable Jersey program since its inception in 2009, and we are grateful to Sustainable Jersey for helping municipalities across the state develop impactful initiatives that make a lasting impact in the lives of every resident in our communities." – *Catherine Payne, Mayor, Hillsborough Township, Somerset County*

"On behalf of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission, I would like to thank Sustainable Jersey for your generous support in the revision of our Environmental Resource Inventory. An updated ERI is essential for the Township to properly identify current environmental conditions that serve as the factual basis for municipal land use planning, including preparation of land use element for the municipal master plan. Thanks to your contribution, we are now able to contract with an external professional, who has experience in developing and updating ERIs. We are truly grateful for your partnership and belief in our vision. We will keep you updated on our progress and the positive changes made possible by your support. Thank you once again for your generosity and commitment." – *David Harris, Environmental Commissioner, Berkeley Heights Township, Union County*