Sustainable Jersey FREE Technical Assistance for Completing the Municipal Water Story Action

Announcement Date: May 17, 2021
Application Due Date: Thursday, June 24, 2021

For questions, contact: Anne Heasly, Program Manager for Policy, at heaslya@tcnj.edu or 609.771.2865

A. Background

Thanks to the support of New Jersey American Water, this opportunity is open to municipalities located in their service territory. Preference in the selection process will be given to low- and moderate-income (LMI) communities. LMI communities are municipalities with a median household income lower than $65,392. A list of eligible municipalities can be found here and in Section F.

Municipalities face a myriad of water issues from localized flooding even on sunny days; to degraded water bodies that are unsafe for fishing and swimming, and to concerns about drinking water to name a few. The added threat of climate change to already stressed systems, serves as a strong reminder that preparations today to ensure future well-being is time well spent. Municipalities can play a significant role in creating a holistic and sustainable water system. One way to identify the key water issues your municipality faces is through the completion of a new action – Municipal Water Story.

Sustainable Jersey is offering FREE technical assistance to one registered or certified municipality interested in undertaking the newly released Municipal Water Story action. The goal of the action is for a municipality to define and prioritize their local water challenges. To do this a municipality will undertake a data collection process to create a narrative – a water story - that describes water in all its forms – drinking, waste, stormwater and as a natural resource. Municipalities are then charged with sharing the water story narrative to allow citizens to react to the facts, and enhance the story

with information from their experiences with water in order to provide a fuller picture. The Water Story is a first step to achieve the Gold Star Standard in Water and is intended to serve as a catalyst for a wider discussion in the community to formulate an overall water strategy.

Sustainable Jersey staff will provide the technical assistance to the selected municipality for approximately 16-20 weeks during summer and fall of 2021.The assistance will be tailored to the specific needs of the selected municipality and will include coaching for local green team volunteers and municipal staff to guide them through each step of the action. Sustainable Jersey staff will be available to answer questions, provide resources, and advise and assist the municipality in crafting their Water Story. The goal of this effort is assisting a municipality in completing the action and to produce an example of a Municipal Water Story to be featured in the "Spotlight: What NJ municipalities are doing" section of the action.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the technical assistance will be provided remotely. Applicants should be prepared to support collaborative work in an online environment.

The selected municipality will be expected to:

- Identify a minimum of two municipal contacts: at least one must be a municipal staff member and the other(s) can also be staff or volunteers from the green team, environmental commission or other municipal group, to undertake the work outlined in the action.
- Participate in a series of zoom meetings organized and facilitated by Sustainable Jersey staff including, but not limited to, a kick-off call, five to seven check-in meetings and a debrief call. Prior to these meetings, municipal contacts will need to review background information, gather information, and comment on draft materials prepared by Sustainable Jersey staff
- Undertake an inclusive public engagement process to gain broad input from the municipality on the Water Story and identify and prioritize municipal water issues.
- Co-present with Sustainable Jersey staff the Municipal Water Story – findings, issues and priority – to municipal decisionmakers.
- Submit the Municipal Water Story as part of its next Sustainable Jersey municipal certification application.
- Provide feedback on the guidance provided in the Municipal Water Story action.

Applications are due Thursday, June 24, 2021. Please contact Anne Heasly, Program Manager for Policy, at heaslya@tcnj.edu or 609.771.2865 if you have any questions regarding this opportunity.

B. Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to apply for the 2021 Municipal Water Story Technical Assistance program, an applicant must:

- Be a New Jersey municipality registered or certified in Sustainable Jersey (use this link for information on how to register you municipality in Sustainable Jersey); and
- Be a New Jersey municipality located in New Jersey American Water's service territory.

C. Selection Process

A committee of Sustainable Jersey staff will review the applications. During the selection process, an interview with municipal personnel to assess this program's potential match may be requested. Interviews would take place in late June/early July. **Applicants must be responsive to this interview request to be considered for the program in late June.**

Applications will be screened based on the Eligibility Requirements outlined in Section B and evaluated based on the criteria outlined below:

- Responsiveness to selection committee interview, if requested
- Demonstrated commitment to respond to Sustainable Jersey staff requests for data and other information needed to assist the municipality in the completion of the Municipal Water Story
- Preference in the selection process will be given to low- and moderate-income (LMI) communities. LMI communities are municipalities with a median household income lower than $65,392. A list of eligible municipalities can be found here and in Section F.

D. Application Form

Please complete the application form (google form) using this link. Please contact Anne Heasly, Program Manager, at 609-771-2865 or via email heaslya@tcnj.edu if you have any questions regarding this opportunity.

A completed google form application must be **submitted by Thursday, June 24, 2021.** Applicants will receive an email acknowledging receipt of the application, the following week.

E. Resolution

Applicants must submit a resolution from the governing body authorizing the Municipal Water Story Technical Assistance application Click here for a sample resolution **(this resolution is DIFFERENT from the resolution passed to register for Sustainable Jersey)**.

NOTE: *If submitting a resolution, it would be best to start the process of obtaining this resolution **as early as possible** to allow enough time to have the resolution adopted. The approved resolution should be submitted with the application by the June 24, 2021 deadline. Applications will be accepted with a proposed resolution and the date it will be presented to the governing body. Please contact heaslya@tcnj.edu if you are unable to submit the signed and dated resolution with your application.*

F. List of New Jersey American Water service territory municipalities; Sustainable Jersey registered municipalities and LMI municipalities

Bold = Sustainable Jersey Registered Community

LMI municipalities = (low to moderate income)

ATLANTIC COUNTY

- **Absecon City**
- **Egg Harbor Township**
- **Galloway Township**
- **Linwood City**
- **Northfield City**
- **Pleasantville City**
- **Somers Point City**

BURLINGTON COUNTY

- **Beverly City**
- **Burlington Township**
- Cinnaminson Township
- **Delanco Township**
- **Delran Township**
- **Eastampton Township**
- **Edgewater Park Township**
- **Evesham Township**
- Hainesport Township
- Mansfield Township
- **Maple Shade Township**
- **Medford Township**
- **Mount Holly Township**
- **Mount Laurel Township**
- **Moorestown Township**
- **Palmyra Borough**
- **Pemberton Township**
- **Riverside Township**
- **Riverton Borough**
- **Lumberton Township**
- **Southampton Township**

CAPE MAY COUNTY

- **Avalon Borough**
- **Middle Township**
- **Ocean City**
- **Upper Township**

ESSEX COUNTY

- **Cedar Grove Township**
- **Irvington Township**
- **Livingston Township**
- **Maplewood Township**
- **Millburn Township**
- North Caldwell Borough
- **South Orange Village**
- **West Orange Township**

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

- **Deptford Township**
- **East Greenwich Township**
- **Elk Township**
- **Glassboro Borough**
- **Harrison Township**
- Logan Township
- Mantua Township
- **National Park Borough**
- **Pitman Borough**
- **West Deptford Township**
- **Woodbury City**
- Woodbury Heights Borough
- **Woolwich Township**

MONMOUTH COUNTY (cont'd)

- **Bradley Beach Borough**
- **Colts Neck Township**
- **Deal Borough**
- **Eatontown Borough**
- **Fair Haven Borough**
- Farmingdale Borough
- **Freehold Township**
- **Hazlet Township**
- **Highlands Borough**
- Holmdel Township
- **Howell Township**
- Interlaken Borough
- **Keansburg Borough**
- **Keyport Township**
- **Lake Como Borough**
- Little Silver Borough
- Loch Arbor Village
- **Long Branch City**
- **Matawan Borough**
- **Middletown Township**
- **Monmouth Beach Borough**
- **Neptune City Borough**
- **Neptune Township**
- **Ocean Township**
- **Oceanport Borough**
- **Red Bank Borough**
- **Rumson Borough**
- **Sea Bright Borough**
- **Shrewsbury Borough**

SALEM COUNTY

- Carneys Point Township
- Franklin Township
- **Oldmans Township**
- Penns Grove Borough

SOMERSET COUNTY

- **Bedminster Township**
- **Bernards Township**
- **Bernardsville Borough**
- **Bound Brook Borough**
- **Branchburg Township**
- **Bridgewater Township**
- **Far Hills Borough**
- **Franklin Township**
- **Green Brook Township**
- **Hillsborough Township**
- **Manville Borough**
- Millstone Borough
- **Montgomery Township**
- **North Plainfield Borough**
- **Peapack & Gladstone Borough**
- **Raritan Borough**
- **Rocky Hill Borough**
- **Somerville Borough**
- South Bound Brook Borough
- **Warren Township**
- **Watchung Borough**

BURLINGTON COUNTY (cont'd)

Springfield Township
Westampton Township

CAMDEN COUNTY

Audubon Borough
Audubon Park Borough
Barrington Borough
Bellmawr Borough
Berlin Borough
Camden City
Cherry Hill Township
Clementon Borough
Gibbsboro Borough
Gloucester Township
Haddon Heights Borough
Haddon Township
Haddonfield Borough
Hi-Nella Borough
Laurel Springs Borough
Lawnside Borough
Lindenwold Borough
Magnolia Borough
Merchantville Borough
Mount Ephraim Borough
Oaklyn Borough
Pennsauken Township
Pine Hill Borough
Runnemede Borough
Somerdale Borough
Stratford Borough
Voorhees Township
Winslow Township

HUNTERDON COUNTY

Bloomsbury Township
Clinton Township
Frenchtown Borough
Raritan Township
Readington Township
Tewksbury Township

MERCER COUNTY

Hopewell Township
Lawrence Township
Princeton
West Windsor Township

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Cranbury Township
Dunellen Borough
Edison Township
Jamesburg Borough
Middlesex Borough
Monroe Township
North Brunswick Township
Piscataway Township
Plainsboro Township
South Brunswick Township
South Plainfield Borough

MONMOUTH COUNTY

Aberdeen Township
Allenhurst Borough
Asbury Park City
Avon Borough
Belmar Borough

MONMOUTH COUNTY (cont'd)

Shrewsbury Township
Tinton Falls Borough
Union Beach Borough
Upper Freehold Township
West Long Branch Borough

MORRIS COUNTY

East Hanover Township
Chatham Township
Chester Borough
Chester Township
Florham Park Borough
Harding Township
Jefferson Township
Long Hill Township
Mendham Borough
Mendham Township
Mount Olive Township

OCEAN COUNTY

Bay Head Borough
Brick Township
Lakewood Township
Lavallette Borough
Mantoloking Borough
Plumsted Township
Point Pleasant Borough
Toms River Township

PASSAIC COUNTY

Little Falls Township
West Patterson Borough

UNION COUNTY

Berkeley Heights Township
Clark Township
Cranford Township
Elizabeth City
Fanwood Borough
Garwood Borough
Hillside Township
Kenilworth Borough
Linden City
Mountainside Borough
New Providence Borough
Plainfield City
Roselle Borough
Roselle Park Borough
Scotch Plains Township
Springfield Township
Summit City
Union Township
Westfield Town
Winfield Park Township

WARREN COUNTY

Belvidere Town
Franklin Township
Mansfield Township
Oxford Township
Washington Borough
Washington Township
White Township