



## Sustainable Jersey 2021 Municipal Awards

### AWARD DESCRIPTIONS AND QUOTES FROM RECIPIENTS

**2021 Sustainability Champion Award:** The Sustainability Champion award recognizes municipalities that have scored the most points in the Sustainable Jersey certification program in three population categories: large (over 40,000), medium (5,000 to 40,000) and small (under 5,000).

**Woodbridge Township (Middlesex County)** LARGE CATEGORY with 1,250 points. This is the twelfth time that Woodbridge Township has achieved this honor since the awards began in 2009; the Township received the award from 2009-2013 and 2015-2021.

*"Woodbridge Township is pleased to once again accept the prestigious Sustainable Jersey silver-level recertification and Sustainability Champion Award for large-size municipalities for the 12th year. Sustainable Jersey serves as a benchmark for our sustainable initiatives, while providing the Township with additional resources as we continue to lead the state in sustainable and green initiatives. In the quest for our 12th Champion Award, Woodbridge Township competed against 460 participating municipalities, including 224 Sustainable Jersey certified municipalities and 65 silver-level certified towns in the Sustainable Jersey competition, earning sustainable points with 112 actions in 18 separate categories – scoring a record 1,250 points which surpassed our 2020 score by 10 points. And throughout, Greenable Woodbridge continued to advance many more sustainable initiatives and programs that serve to better manage the ways we use energy and other natural resources at work and home. The Sustainable Jersey program is an important vehicle by which our Township will continue to move into the future as a sustainable and environmentally-conscious community."* – **The Honorable John E. McCormac, Mayor, Woodbridge Township, Middlesex County**

**Madison Borough (Morris County)** MEDIUM CATEGORY with 850 points. This is the third time that Madison Borough has achieved this honor since the awards began in 2009; Madison received the award in 2013 and 2020 and 2021.

*"It is a great honor that Madison is being recognized as the Sustainability Champion for medium sized municipalities. Receiving this recognition is greatly appreciated, and reflects the dedication and hard work our volunteers have done and continue to do. However, the true prize is the commitment that Madison has made to create a better world and environment for all."* – **The Honorable Robert H. Conley, Mayor, Madison Borough, Morris County**

**Cape May City (Cape May County)** SMALL CATEGORY with 435 points. This is the fifth time Cape May City has achieved this honor. Cape May City received the award in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2017 and 2021.

*"We are honored to receive the Sustainability Champion Award. The City of Cape May, through its Green Team and a committed Citizenry, has worked hard to implement the best practices put forth by Sustainable Jersey. The collaborative efforts achieved under the Sustainable Jersey umbrella ensure our communities go beyond simply sustaining for future generations, but have moved us all to flourish beyond what was thought possible."* – **The Honorable Zachary Mullock, Mayor, Cape May City, Cape May County**

**2021 Mayor Ondish Leadership Award: Honorable Ras J. Baraka, Mayor, City of Newark (Essex County):** This award recognizes the leader of a Sustainable Jersey certified community who has provided ideas, policy support and resources to enable the green team to achieve success at the local level and contribute to the statewide movement.

Under Mayor Baraka's leadership, Newark has made sustainability a priority. Mayor Baraka appointed a Chief Sustainability Officer to develop and implement the City of Newark's Sustainability Action Plan. Mayor Baraka issued a directive to all department directors to incorporate sustainability priorities into their annual plans. The Sustainability Action Plan includes commitments for interdepartmental collaboration to make Newark cleaner, greener, healthier, more engaged and more prepared in the face of climate change. Sustainability commitments include actions related to litter and recycling, brownfields remediation, green infrastructure, urban forestry management, open space planning, inclusive development, idling enforcement, healthy homes, urban agriculture, climate planning, renewable energy and alternative fuels infrastructure, energy efficiency savings, and internships for young sustainability champions. The City of Newark City achieved Sustainable Jersey certification as part of the 2020 certification cycle at the silver-level with 375 points.

*“Creating sustainable solutions for the City of Newark has been a central priority for my administration since taking office in 2014. Generating a healthy environment starts at the local level, and every community, regardless of size and location, must use every tool at hand to protect our city from further injury. The future of Newark will not come to us. We cannot wait for it. We must build it and be proactive, taking strong measures, leading by energy, effort and example. While there are still many challenges that face us, I am proud that we have taken aggressive steps that will protect Newark families. This award recognizes the many outstanding members of my administration, businesses in our community, non-profit organizations, and Newark residents who have developed and implemented these critical programs.” – The Honorable Ras J. Baraka, Mayor, City of Newark, Essex County*

**2021 Creativity and Innovation Award: Red Bank Borough (Monmouth County):** This award recognizes forward-thinking municipalities that support a culture of creativity and innovation as they implement new approaches to solving problems.

Red Bank Borough is being recognized for two innovative programs that contribute to making the Borough a safer and more inclusive community. The Volunteer Translator Program makes volunteer interpreters available to help police in their normal duties as well as at community events. The volunteers bridge language divides when police are dealing with the public. The Operation Blue Angel program involves the installation of a blue lockbox on or next to the front door of a residence. Inside is a key to the home supplied by the home’s primary occupants, which police alone can use to enter the residence in an emergency. The service is open to borough residents over 55 who live alone or have medical conditions that might impede them in opening the door for police answering an emergency call.

*“This award is a sweet moment as it recognizes the teamwork, hard work, and creativity of Red Bank. Creativity doesn’t stop at the arts. When applied to areas such as public safety and community outreach, the possibilities are endless. Thank you, Sustainable Jersey, we are honored!” – Kate Triggiano, Councilwoman, Red Bank Borough; Council Liaison, Red Bank Environmental Commission; Public Safety Chair; Monmouth County*

**2021 Rookie of the Year Award: Borough of New Milford (Bergen County):** This award recognizes a newly certified municipality that effectively leveraged a wide range of resources to achieve success. New Milford is receiving this award for their perseverance as they remained committed to achieving certification. New Milford was certified with 190 points.

*“The Borough of New Milford recently achieved bronze certification and was named “2021 Rookie of the Year” and I could not be prouder. Thank you, Sustainable Jersey, for providing the tools and direction necessary to assist us in building a better and stronger community that will not only benefit us on the local level but serves as a bridge to support our regional and statewide efforts to build a better world for future generations. When we forge partnerships, we are forging the mechanisms to make positive and profound change.” – The Honorable Michael J. Putrino, Mayor, Borough of New Milford, Bergen County*

**2021 Collaboration Award: Friends Along the Mullica Project: City of Absecon, Atlantic City, City of Brigantine Beach, Egg Harbor City, Galloway Township, Town of Hammonton, Mullica Township and the City of Port Republic (Atlantic County):** This award recognizes green teams that have advanced sustainability by building strong partnerships. The “Friends Along the Mullica” project is a great example of advancing sustainability through strong partnerships.

The Friends Along the Mullica project culminated in the production of an [educational film](#) that communicates the importance of connectivity between upstream and downstream communities along the 50.6-mile-long Mullica River. The project was developed with a consortium of eight towns along the Atlantic County side of the Mullica River. The project was made possible through a Sustainable Jersey grant funded by the PSEG Foundation. Common interests explored include history, wetlands issues, climate change, litter, illegal dumping, off-road vehicle damage, native plant and animal awareness, storm and wastewater management, loss of habitats and more.

*“Imagine the opportunity for eight contiguous New Jersey towns to weave their histories, ecological concerns and visions for the future into a joint presentation! Such was the possibility nurtured by the challenge to the Atlantic & Cape May Counties Hub of Sustainable Jersey. Linked by a beautiful river watershed system that has sustained nature and humans for eons, these “Friends Along the Mullica” would like to share their piece of New Jersey with you!” – Stephen Fiedler, Chairman, Galloway Township Environmental Commission; Secretary, Go Green Galloway*