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Sustainable Jersey Masthead

Fall 2017

Municipalities Certified: 208, Participating: 445 ♦ Schools Certified: 194, Participating: 703 ♦ Districts Participating: 284

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Sustainability in Action: Six Success Stories

We're excited to share good news about New Jersey communities working to address sustainability challenges. These municipalities and schools are helping communities succeed while contributing to a better New Jersey. Send us your story: info@sustainablejersey.com.

City of Summit's Home Energy Audit Program (Union County)

The City of Summit has had impressive results with their [Home Energy Audit Program](#). With 208 home energy assessments, the city has already surpassed its goal of performing 150 assessments in 2017. Of those assessments, 40 have converted to retrofit projects that will result in energy savings. Homes are significant consumers of energy in New Jersey, accounting for approximately 24% of the annual statewide energy usage. The campaign was established as a way to promote awareness of practical resources that will help save energy and money while bringing the town closer to achieving a goal of a sustainable City of Summit. The program used the purchasing power of the city to secure a negotiated rate on a home energy audit for Summit residents at a significant discount from the prevailing rate through Ciel Power LLC. The City of Summit added 20 points to their Sustainable Jersey certification with this work: [Residential Energy Efficiency Outreach](#) action. Summit Mayor Nora Radest sent a city-wide email to promote the program; check out this great video of the mayor getting a home energy audit: [Summit Mayor Radest Energy Audit Assessment](#). Incentives and low-interest loans are available to homeowners to pay for the work recommended in the energy audit through the Home Performance with Energy Star program offered by the [New Jersey Clean Energy Program](#) (NJCEP). Remember, the best way to know where to start with energy-efficiency improvements is to schedule a home energy audit!



Sustainable Downbeach Connects Green Teams (Atlantic County)

Realizing that sustainability issues do not stop at the town line, four municipal green teams have joined forces to increase the quality of life on Absecon Island. Sustainable Downbeach is comprised of the Longport, Margate, Ventnor and Atlantic City green teams. All four towns have achieved Sustainable Jersey certification at the bronze-level. Sustainable Downbeach and the Surfrider Foundation worked to have all Atlantic and Cape May County coastal communities pass an ordinance that prohibits the intentional release of balloons. Atlantic City, Margate, Longport, Ventnor and approximately seven other coastal communities have adopted an ordinance. The group is now focusing on statewide

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legislation. Other projects the group has partnered on include: reusable bag education and carry-out bag fee ordinances, beach sweeps, Absecon Island Back Bay Cleanup, bike and pedestrian plan and currently a watershed management plan. Through collaboration, Sustainable Downbeach is making considerable progress.



Gear Up and Go in



Winslow! (Camden County)

Winslow Township received a \$10,000 Sustainable Jersey grant funded by the PSEG Foundation to implement their Gear Up and Go in Winslow program. The town is hosting a series of initiatives that encourage youth to appreciate the value of a sustainable lifestyle from health and wellness to recycling to local economies. Through the grant, the town is doing a pick-up game initiative and basketball/football giveaways. Grant funding is used to purchase sports equipment that is handed out by police officers to kids in the neighborhoods of Winslow. The goal is to improve the relationships between police officers and youth through pick-up basketball and football games. Spalding even got involved to help Winslow purchase more balls than they could afford. Kids report that their views of police officers have improved since the initiative. The grant funds also partially funded the first annual Cops and Bobbers event that taught children about fishing, aiming to direct their attention away from negative influences like gangs, drugs and criminal activity. The Winslow Township Police Department led the event in hopes that friendships will develop between officers and the kids.

APA Award: Building Ecological Solutions to Coastal Community Hazards

Sustainable Jersey is one of multiple partner organizations to receive an Excellence in Planning Award in Outstanding Community Engagement for work done on the project Building Ecological Solutions to Coastal Community Hazards. The award was given by the American Planning Association - NJ Chapter in October, 2017. Sustainable Jersey's role included the facilitation of coastal vulnerability assessments in ten municipalities, and as technical team member to help communities identify ecological based strategies to mitigate coastal flooding. The project was administered by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Office of Coastal and Land Use Planning.



Hawthorne Borough Green Team Native Plant Innovation Project (Passaic County)

Hawthorne Borough received a \$2,000 Sustainable Jersey Grant funded by the PSEG Foundation to implement a native plant innovation project to enhance biodiversity in Hawthorne. Led by Rayna Laiosa, a 2014 Sustainable Jersey Hero and the green team chair, the group chose three municipal locations and three retail properties to add native plants. Plants were added to the: Municipal Building, Ambulance Building Corp, Hawthorne's Community Garden, Puzo's Family Restaurant, Magic

Carousel Pre-School and Paul's Volvo. The funds were used for the purchase of native plants, installation of a water sprinkler head in the butterfly garden at the Hawthorne library, purchase of tall metal plant identification signs for the native plants and a Native Plant Identification Designated Area Sign for the above locations.



Lawrence Township Public Schools Gets Revenue from Sun (Mercer County)

Since 2010, Lawrence Township Public Schools has earned over three million dollars in revenue from energy generated by solar panels on all seven district school



buildings. This revenue is in addition to the energy usage offset by the panels. The total solar panel revenue plus cost of energy offset by the panels totals over four million dollars. Dr. Crystal Edward, Superintendent of Lawrence Township Public Schools explained the process. "We were delighted in 2008 when our Board of Education proposed and the Lawrence residents supported a referendum to place solar panels on the roofs of all seven schools. Since that time, revenue generated and savings earned by energy usage offset by the panels is passed to Lawrence residents in the form of tax relief. To be recognized by Sustainable Jersey for Schools with a Sustainability Makes \$ense Award for this green initiative is the icing on the cake." Four of the seven schools in the district have achieved Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification.

Need Funding? New Grants Available

Good news, new Sustainable Jersey Small Grant opportunities have been announced. This new 2018 grant cycle is funded by the PSEG Foundation. For school and school district grants visit: [Current Funding-Schools Districts](#). For municipal grants, visit: [Current Funding](#).



More Sustainability Stories

Take a moment to read about three people doing impressive work in their communities. Catch up on the monthly Sustainable Jersey blog for the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

- Sep. Hero: [Sandy Sandmeyer-Bryan, Cape May City Elementary School](#) (Cape May County)
- Sep. Blog: [Making sustainability change stick](#)
- Oct. Hero: [Jennifer Gonzalez, Chief Sustainability Officer, City of Hoboken](#) (Hudson County)
- Oct. Blog: [Cost savings, collaboration and champions](#)
- Nov. Hero: [Bonnie Stewart, Chair, Borough of River Edge Green Team](#) (Bergen County)

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