



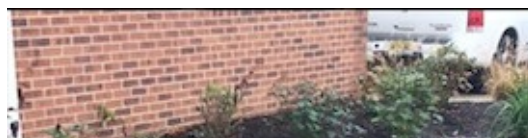
Spring 2018

Municipalities Certified: 200, Participating: 446 ♦ Schools Certified: 194, Participating: 747 ♦ Districts Participating: 300

## SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION: FIVE SUCCESS STORIES

### Rain Gardens for Recess Project Solves Problem at Millbridge Elementary School (Burlington County)

At Millbridge Elementary School, located in the Delran Public School District, a drain pipe leading from the school roof was causing rainwater to pool and flood outside the building. Students were restricted from playing outside because the water covered the blacktop and muddied the lower areas. With the help of a \$10,000 Sustainable Jersey grant, funded by the New Jersey Education Association, the school installed a 10,000-gallon rain garden that has alleviated the problem of stormwater runoff that was plaguing the playground. The 800+ students planted 1,900 plants with the help of multiple community organizations including the PTA, the Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Inside Out Design Studio, the Burlington County Master Gardeners, the Delran Municipal Green Team and Delran High School Horticulture students. When the project was complete, a joint school and municipal Earth Day Celebration was held, which included over 30 classroom presentations by community sustainability experts. A survey of the staff showed that 67% of the teachers believed that their students understood the rain gardens purpose. The administration reports that there is at least 20% more active time on the playground since the rain garden installation, or about 27 additional days spent outside. Also, the relationship built between the Delran High School Green Team, Delran High School Horticulture classes and the Delran



Municipal Green Team has created a strong connection of reliance and trust for future projects.

## Sustainable Frenchtown and Hunterdon County Creative Team Connect a Unique Community

In March 2018, a capacity crowd of 150 people turned out to celebrate the launch of a creative assets inventory in Hunterdon County. To date, the group has 180+ creative assets on the map and in the directory, and close to 400 people have been actively engaged in this project. The arts are part of what makes a community special, unique and sustainable -- so knowing what you have and who the creative people are, is the first step in building a creative network. The Hunterdon County Creative Team was founded under the umbrella of Sustainable Frenchtown. It includes artists, local business members, community groups and members of Sustainable Frenchtown, Holland Township Green Team, Alexandria Township Green Team, Kingwood Township Green Team and Lambertville Green Team. Sustainable Frenchtown received a \$20,000 Sustainable Jersey grant that was used to help guide the inventory process and provide technical expertise. Leigh Marino, chair of the Hunterdon County Creative Team and a local artist,

said, I think we're really on to something. There's a buzz about this work. We're optimistic. It feels like we are building an important movement that our community needs. Learn about the creative assets inventory:

<https://www.creativehunterdon.org/>.



## Four Green Teams Partner with GreenFaith to Promote Energy Upgrades to Houses of Worship (Essex County)

The green teams of Maplewood, South Orange, Irvington and Millburn partnered with GreenFaith to host an event to help houses of worship save energy. The informational session on February 21, 2018, highlighted New Jersey's Clean Energy Program opportunities that are available to houses of worship. Attendees learned about programs like [SmartStart Buildings](#) and [Direct Install](#). Four of the houses of worship that attended brought their energy bills and learned that their facility would

qualify for significant financial incentives to implement energy upgrades that would save them money and increase comfort. These groups also agreed to share information about the residential Clean Energy Programs with their congregations as a bulletin insert. Bradford Motta, the senior pastor



at Morrow Memorial United Methodist Church said Morrow Church takes the stewardship of the earth very seriously. Direct Install was an easy way to reduce our carbon footprint with more efficient and energy conscious lighting. He added, The project dramatically lowered our electricity usage while at the same time it improved the quality of lighting throughout the building. Lower electric bills, improved lighting and the knowledge that we are reducing our carbon footprint made this project a no-brainer. We highly recommend Direct Install to every place of worship. Maplewood is now planning a similar event for local businesses. Learn more about this partnership:

<http://www.essexcommunityenergy.org/funding-for-sustainable-upgrades-at-houses-of-worship/>



### Early Street Garden Builds Community (Morris County)

Once a littered and vacant lot slated for development, the Early Street Community Garden now provides space for over 100 families to grow their own food, flowers and herbs. Located in the heart of Morris County's most densely populated municipality, Grow It Green Morristown partnered with The Trust for Public Land and Town of Morristown to save the garden and secure much-needed open space for the community. The Town of Morristown received a \$35,000 Sustainable Jersey grant funded by The Gardiner Environmental Fund to build a Solar Pavilion for the garden using sustainable materials and incorporating natural systems such as solar power panels and a rain water collection cistern. The energy from the solar panels will provide the energy for the community garden including power for the cistern pump and electricity for movie nights and bands. The rain catchment system will provide water for the plants. On Saturday, May 12, 2018, the community came together to celebrate the garden opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Learn more about the garden:

<http://www.growitgreenmorristown.org/>.

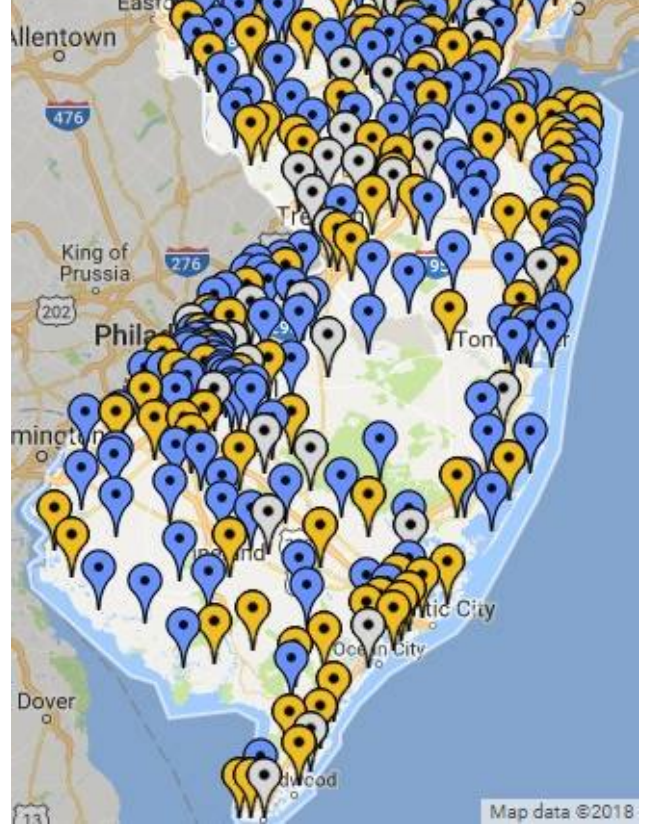


### Borough of Wildwood Crest Follows the Lead of Upper Township (Cape May County)

Im pleased to report that Wildwood Crest is now registered with Sustainable Jersey and a green team of nine resident volunteers has been appointed, said Constance Mahon, the business administrator for the Borough of Wildwood Crest. She explained, The green team is meeting regularly and really diving into the actions. The first tasks planned include developing a green...



team website page, working on a Community Forestry Plan, supporting a wellness fair and looking into initiatives around reducing smoking and litter on our beaches. Ralph Cooper, a member of the Upper Township Green Team and a founding member of the Sustainable Jersey Atlantic-Cape May Regional Hub, serves as a great mentor to towns considering the program. Last fall, he made a presentation to the Wildwood Crest Borough Commissioners about the Sustainable Jersey program and then on April 11, 2018, the Commissioners unanimously approved registration with Sustainable Jersey. Cooper said, Well, I was really glad to hear that Wildwood Crest is registered. Currently 14 out of the 16 municipalities in Cape May County are participating, so we only have two more towns to go, which is a good thing for our community and county. The Wildwood Crest Green Teams first event will be the Wildwood Crest Wellness Fair on June 21, 2018, from 10am-1pm at the Crest Pier Recreation Center. With the addition of Wildwood Crest, Sustainable Jerseys participation rate for municipalities is 79%.



## 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.

- March Hero: [Tanya Oznowich, NJ Department of Environmental Protection](#)
- March Blog: [Artists and creative powerhouses roll up their sleeves to cultivate a sustainable community \(Hunterdon County\)](#)
- April Hero: [Edward Cohen, Founding Member, Mount Laurel Green Team \(Camden County\)](#)
- April Blog: [Toms River Regional School District and Township Green Team collaborate to open School of Environmental Sustainability \(Ocean County\)](#)
- May Hero: [Ann Marchioni, Co-Chair, Caldwell Environmental Commission \(Essex County\)](#)
- May Blog: [Confronting plastic pollution, creating equitable communities and mapping sustainability issues](#)

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