



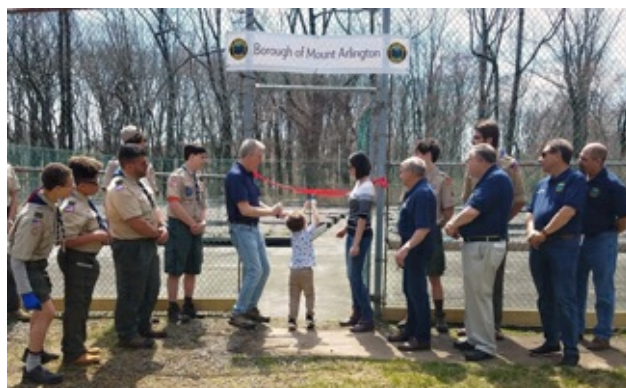
S P R I N G 2 0 1 9

Municipalities Certified: 203, Participating: 450 ♦ Schools Certified: 242, Participating: 864 ♦ Districts Participating: 331

SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION: SIX SUCCESS STORIES

Underused Tennis Courts Become Mount Arlington Community Garden (Morris County)

In April 2019, Mount Arlington Borough celebrated the opening of a new community garden. With support from a \$20,000 Sustainable Jersey grant funded by the PSEG Foundation, the Borough redeveloped underused tennis courts to create a community garden. The project also incorporated Eagle Scout candidate projects. The goal is to promote sustainable, ornamental and edible plant culture for the benefit of the garden members. A true team effort, the project work was done by the Department of Public Works staff, the green team, elected officials, borough staff and the Boy Scouts. Mount Arlington Borough is planning a contest for a sustainability-themed mural for the existing wall of the site and the ten by ten-foot garden plots are now available on a first-come, first-served basis to Mount Arlington residents. One garden plot will be used by the Mount Arlington School District for students. Mount Arlington Borough is one of over 200 towns that have achieved Sustainable Jersey certification.



Pennsylvania Avenue School Students Connect Lighting with Health (Atlantic County)

Did you know that the quality of lighting in a room can affect how well you learn? The [PowerSave Schools](#) Team at Pennsylvania Avenue School in Atlantic City are learning, and teaching their peers, about "right-lighting" in their classrooms and why it is so important for productivity and well-being. PowerSave students are visiting classrooms to explain the optimal light levels for different types of rooms and activities, according to the Illuminating Engineering Society. They then use light meters to measure the current



light levels of the room and make recommendations for how to create the best light levels for learning in each room. The Pennsylvania Avenue School PowerSave Schools Team is also researching positive and negative side effects to lighting. They are exploring how lighting affects reading, thinking and the ability to comprehend

information; reduces or eliminates tiredness and blood pressure; and affects mood and even the frequency and severity of headaches. These students are lighting the way to a healthier learning environment! With the help of Sustainable Jersey for Schools, New Jersey Natural Gas and South Jersey Gas, awareness of energy conservation is spreading within schools throughout the state through the PowerSave Schools Program. Pennsylvania Avenue School is one of 38 schools in New Jersey taking advantage of the education and resources that the program provides.

Community Solar Pilot Program Now Accepting Applications

Governor Phil Murphy and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBP) are advancing renewables like solar and offshore wind in the Garden State. However, not everyone is able to put solar panels directly on their roof. To address that, New Jersey just launched its [first Community Solar Energy Pilot Program](#), and started accepting applications for community solar projects in April 2019. This Pilot Program is intended to increase access to solar energy for New Jersey ratepayers, and the program will allocate 40 percent of the program capacity to projects that serve low- and moderate-income communities. Unlike traditional solar installations, a community solar project does not need to be placed directly on a ratepayer's own roof. The system of panels can be installed—for example—over a neighborhood parking lot, atop an apartment complex, or even on a municipal landfill or brownfield.

Community solar subscribers then receive a credit on their monthly utility bills. New Jersey's Community Solar Pilot Program is administered through NJBP's Clean Energy Program. More details about the program and application forms are available on the [Clean Energy Program website's community solar information page](#). The deadline for applications is September 9, 2019. Questions and requests for more information may be [emailed to NJBP's Clean Energy Program](#).



Fully Electric Police Vehicle Unveiled in Leonia Borough (Bergen County)

In May 2019, Leonia Borough put one of the first fully electric police vehicles in New Jersey on the road. The 2019 Chevy Bolt will perform various police functions including traffic control, parking enforcement, community relations and administrative tasks as well as be available for borough-wide staff to use as the Borough's first fleet vehicle. Former Borough Administrator Alex Torpey, who led the effort to secure the grant, commented, "It's our responsibility as a government to use our purchasing power for good. Not only will this vehicle, and more like it, save taxpayer money by reducing long-term

maintenance costs, but it produces no local tailpipe emissions and contributes to a reduction of our carbon footprint, especially as electrical generation technology continues to improve." Borough officials hope that using a fully electric vehicle for public functions will not just communicate the Borough's commitment to being more sustainable, but act as one more avenue to engage the public in conversations about how both parties can constantly improve their sustainability practices. Leonia Borough has an active green team and the town is certified with Sustainable Jersey.



Five Towns Launch Cheaper and Greener Energy Alternative for Residents (Essex County)

Maplewood, Glen Ridge, Montclair, South Orange and Verona came together to form the Sustainable Essex Alliance Energy Procurement Cooperative, a joint purchasing initiative with the goal of using bulk purchasing power to procure electric power supply on behalf of residents at a lower price, and with a higher renewable content, than power supply provided by PSE&G. The five neighboring Essex County municipalities have been awarded a contract for the Sustainable Essex Alliance Renewable Government Energy Aggregation program. Under this contract, residents of these towns in PSE&G territory, will pay a ten percent lower rate for electricity supply in their utility bills, while receiving power supply that has nearly double the renewable energy content (about 41 percent in total) of the standard power supply product currently provided by PSE&G. Community Energy Aggregation is a state program that allows a municipality to conduct a bulk purchase of energy supply on behalf of its residents at prices lower than the average utility price. This alliance of these towns was facilitated through regular meetings of Sustainable Essex Alliance, one of the Sustainable Jersey [regional hubs](#). The five municipalities are currently updating residents about the program and the contract starts in July 2019 running to the end of 2020. "Increasing use of renewable power is one of the most important strategies for developing a more sustainable approach to how we choose and use our energy," Montclair Sustainability Officer Gray Russell said. "In Montclair's case, both cost savings and higher renewable content will be realized simultaneously."



Long Branch Public School District's Virtual Summit (Monmouth County)

The Long Branch Public School District has taken an innovative and green approach to professional development. To promote and adopt a culture of innovation and sustainability throughout the school district, the District supports an online, peer-to-peer green approach to professional teaching and learning for faculty and staff. A short video is made available to all staff members to watch during the dedicated professional development days. The District kicked off the Future Ready Virtual Professional Development Summit with over forty individual sessions for the staff. The nearly 1,000 staff members can learn remotely and have options and flexibility when it comes to their professional growth. By creating an online platform for all of the district's peer-to-peer sessions, the District has completely eliminated the need for paper handouts and are able to reach each staff member right in their classroom, office or home without the need for them to travel to another location. All nine schools in the Long Branch Public School District have achieved Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification.



More Sustainability Stories

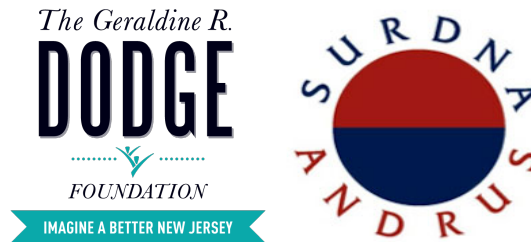
Take a moment to read about the people doing impressive work in their communities. Catch up on the monthly Sustainable Jersey blog for the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

- March Heroes: [10-Year Certified Municipalities](#)
- March Blog: [Dying trees get new life as vibrant public art](#)

- April Heroes: [The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation](#)
- April Blog: [Sustainable Jersey Celebrates 10-Year Anniversary](#)
- May Heroes: [New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection](#)
- May Blog: [Starting with the lunch line, students push for sustainable solutions](#)

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