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 Sustainable Jersey Masthead

Summer 2017

Municipalities Certified: 198, Participating: 445 ♦ Schools Certified: 194, Participating: 679 ♦ Districts Participating: 273

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### Sustainability in Action: Six Success Stories

We're spotlighting the good things that New Jersey communities are doing to address sustainability issues on a large and small scale. At Sustainable Jersey, we're proud to work with municipalities and schools, helping communities succeed while contributing to a healthy and more sustainable New Jersey. Here are six success stories. Send us your story to: [info@sustainablejersey.com](mailto:info@sustainablejersey.com).

#### City of Summit Free Market

The City of Summit created the innovative [Summit Free Market](#) to provide long-term cost savings and keep unwanted, reusable items out of the landfill. Since the Free Market began in 2008, it has served more than 5,000 residents and over 140 tons of materials have been reused and removed from the waste stream. The student-run Summit Free Market features both an online program that allows citizens to post unwanted goods and search for desired items, as well as a physical location at the City of Summit Transfer Station. Residents are able to bring reusable items to share, and take whatever they may want or need at the seasonal events that operate twice a year; the next events are on October 7 and 14, 2017 from 8am to 3pm. On average, each event diverts five tons of material from the waste stream and puts it to beneficial use. The City of Summit received 10 points for this work under Sustainable Jersey's Waste Management Materials Reuse Program Action and is certified at the silver-level.



### Quick Links

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#### Delran Township School District Energy Savings

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Superintendent Dr. Brian Brotschul and Business Administrator Dr. Chris Russo have spearheaded energy savings in the Delran Township School District. The district is implementing a \$4.5 million capital improvement project through an Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP) which uses projected energy savings to fund efficiency upgrades. The project consists of more than a dozen energy conservation measures, including new air conditioning units, improved lighting and roof-top solar panels at the district's four schools that will produce 75 percent of the district's electricity. Students will have access to hands-on learning about energy efficiency through dashboards that will display energy usage information. The program is projected to reduce the district's energy costs by 32 percent, which equals nearly \$285,000 per year. The district also expects to secure \$325,000 in anticipated rebates and incentives from New Jersey's Clean Energy Program and the PJM Energy Efficiency Credit. These projects could save taxpayers up to \$5 million over the next 15 years, which will free up funds for Delran Township schools. All four of the schools in the Delran Township School District are participating in Sustainable Jersey for Schools. Delran High School and Millbridge Elementary School have achieved certification.

### Sustainable Essex Alliance Connects Essex County Green Teams

Sustainable Jersey's Essex County Hub has been busy this summer. With a new name and logo, [Sustainable Essex Alliance](#) is a coalition of local municipal green teams and environmental commissions working together on sustainability initiatives. The participants share what each town is working on and look for areas where collaboration can create efficiencies and a greater positive impact. The alliance is hoping to make progress together on Sustainable Jersey's new [Gold Star Standard in Energy](#) and in meeting the Paris Climate Agreement through local action. As part of this goal, the group is exploring ways to do the Sustainable Jersey Action [Renewable Government Energy Aggregation](#) (R-GEA) also known as Community Choice Energy Aggregation. With the creation of an R-GEA program, municipalities make renewable energy available to consumers in their community at lower cost through simplified purchasing arrangements; the goal is to provide cost savings and renewable content.



### Morris Plains Borough's Guide to Recycling

Think you know what can and can't be recycled in your town? The Morris Plains Borough "Sustain the Plains" Committee used a \$2,000 Sustainable Jersey Small Grant to produce a recycling handbook for residents and business owners as a reference guide for recycling in the Borough. The guide is being mailed to residents and distributed by hand to the businesses. The Borough is helping to simplify recycling for residents and businesses which will result in a cleaner recycling stream. Check it out: [Guide to Recycling](#).



### Town of Morristown's Energy Efficiency Outreach to Local Businesses

The Town of Morristown, [Morristown Partnership](#) (the downtown management association) and [Sustainable Morristown](#) are working together to educate and inform their local businesses about Direct Install, a [New Jersey Clean Energy Program](#) (NJCEP) that will pay for 70 percent of the cost of energy-efficiency upgrades to equipment in a commercial building such as air conditioners, boilers and lighting. Lowering commercial properties' energy usage is good for the environment and good for the

businesses' bottom line. A letter from Mayor Timothy Dougherty was emailed to approximately 1,000 businesses and 800 individuals and Morristown Partnership mailed 500 copies of mayor's letter. Sustainable Morristown held a presentation at the Morristown Library to promote the program. Morristown received 10 points for completing the action, "Outreach Campaign to the Local Business Community" as part of the town's Sustainable Jersey certification.



## Egg Harbor Township School District No Foam Cafeteria Zone

Egg Harbor Township School District received a Sustainable Jersey Small Grant to fund a district-wide initiative called the "No Foam Cafeteria Zone" day when students and staff are encouraged not to use foam trays in the cafeterias. On a regular day, the District uses single-use trays made of non-recyclable polystyrene foam, or Styrofoam. Along with other trash, these trays are hauled to landfills, where they do not disintegrate. The district uses approximately 4,000 trays per day or about 700,000 per year. On "No Foam Cafeteria Zone" days all ten schools in the district replaced single-use foam trays in the lunchrooms with molded fiber trays that are eco-friendly and compostable. The students embraced the concept of a "no foam" day. And as a result of the program, non-recyclable, single-use breakfast cafeteria trays have been completely eliminated at Alder Avenue Middle School and Fernwood Avenue Middle School and replaced with paper bags through their new Breakfast After the Bell programs. The green team's long-term plan is to form a co-op with other Atlantic County schools to group purchase the recyclable, earth-friendly trays at a lower cost. For two years in a row, Egg Harbor Township High School has received the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Sustainability Champion award and has achieved certification at the silver-level.



## Need Funding? New Grants Available

Good news, two new Sustainable Jersey Small Grant opportunities have been announced. The 2017 Sustainable Jersey for Schools Small Grants Program cycle funded by New Jersey Education Association will award: ten \$10,000 grants to school districts or schools and forty \$2,000 grants to support school green teams. For more information, visit: <http://bit.ly/2017NJEAGrants>. The second grant opportunity is funded by the Gardinier Environmental Fund; \$150,000 in grant money is now available to fund energy projects focused on energy conservation, efficiency and renewable energy. Grant proposals are being accepted from municipalities and school districts registered with Sustainable Jersey. For this grant cycle, Sustainable Jersey is offering \$30,000 and \$10,000 grants. For more information about the grant program and details on how to apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/2017GardinierCycle>.



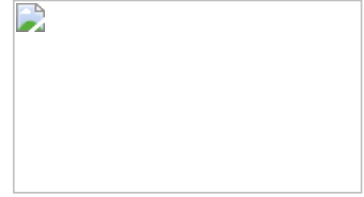
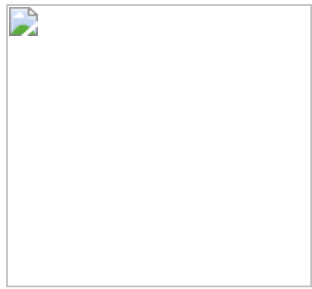
## More Sustainability Stories

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

- June Hero: [Tracey Woods, Chair, Maplewood Township Green Team](#) (Essex County)
- [June Blog: Commit your town to climate progress, instructions included](#)
- July Hero: [Chris Waldron, LEED AP, Director of Sustainability, Camden County](#)
- [July Blog: School nurses take on asthma in Trenton providing needed link between healthcare, school and home](#)
- August Hero: [Adrienne Spota, Chair, Marlboro Township Green Team](#) (Monmouth County)

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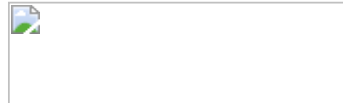
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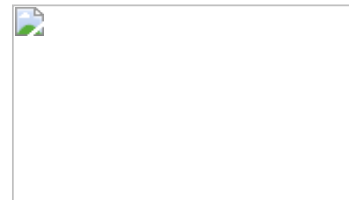
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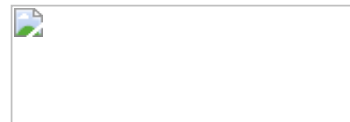
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