



S U M M E R 2 0 1 9

Municipalities Certified: 203, Participating: 450 ♦ Schools Certified: 280, Participating: 872 ♦ Districts Participating: 336

SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION: FIVE SUCCESS STORIES

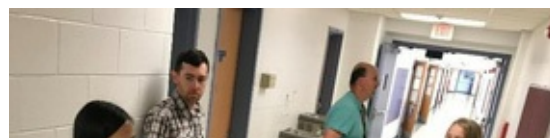
City of Lambertville Ditches Disposables (Hunterdon County)

Located on the Delaware River, the city of Lambertville has passed a single-use plastics ban that will take effect January 1, 2020. The ordinance prohibits single-use plastic bags, Styrofoam and polystyrene foam containers and plastic straws unless a customer requests one. Lambertville is providing an excellent example of how to successfully make this change. The [Lambertville Environmental Commission](#) (LEC) partnered with the [Delaware River Towns Chamber of Commerce](#) to facilitate a smooth transition. The Ditching Disposables Initiative, supported by a \$20,000 Sustainable Jersey grant funded by the PSEG Foundation, is helping Lambertville introduce the changes. LEC is implementing a comprehensive public education campaign that includes sustainable business forums, a community canvassing day, a sustainability lecture, sustainable business awards and a green business certification program. Liz Magil Peer, chair of LEC, explained, "We designed the Ditching Disposables Initiative to foster a sense of community around improving the environmental health of our City. We hope to inspire residents to minimize the consumption of single-use plastics and empower businesses to embrace sustainability as a pillar of their business model." The City of Lambertville hosted a forum on July 31, 2019 with local businesses to discuss successes, concerns, questions and ideas regarding sustainability and the Plastics Ordinance. You can watch the [NJTV News segment on July 31, 2019](#) about the business forum. Community crafters (pictured) partnered with the City of Lambertville on June 24, 2019 to host an event for residents with sewing skills and sewing machines to repurpose old t-shirts into reusable shopping bags. Next, the LEC plans to go door to door to hand out reusable bags and explain the ordinance. Lambertville City is one of over 200 towns that have achieved Sustainable Jersey certification and one of 55 towns that are certified at the silver-level.



Mount Arlington School Students Find High-Value Energy Savings (Morris County)

For the past three years, Mount Arlington School has participated in the [Alliance to Save Energy PowerSave](#) program. With an energy cost savings of over \$11,600 a year, Mount Arlington School is already benefiting from its involvement in the student-



based energy conservation program. Students are empowered to conduct a building energy audit and promote energy saving protocol to help the school district save money. After viewing a series of educational videos, students apply their new knowledge to the school building. The audit has two components: 1) a classroom/office light configuration analysis and 2) a heat energy analysis. The students create a database of light readings and use applied math to calculate average readings and ranges. They then make light switch plate instructions for each classroom and



the offices in the building. The staff and administration modified their energy use habits and the participating students implemented a "last out, lights off" campaign. They did ten rounds of compliance monitoring inspections which include compliance with door and appliance management, as well as using alternative light configurations. Mount Arlington School District Superintendent Monica Rowland said, "The level of engagement of our PowerSave students in Mount Arlington has been incredible. I continue to be impressed by the depth of knowledge they have developed and the passion with which they approach the real-world issues they are studying. We are very proud of their work and cannot wait to see the new ideas and innovations they develop as their work continues." This summer, Sustainable Jersey's EDF Climate Corps Fellow and a Direct Install program auditor representing New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, went to the school to perform an energy audit. The students were able to share all of the work they had done during the year, what they learned during their energy audits and effectively relayed insights about particular classrooms. The students were led by the dynamic Mount Arlington School educator, Julie Crawford, who also is the school's PowerSave coordinator. Crawford said, "The kids were thrilled to see that their hard work could be used by the state auditor for the energy-saving costs analyses. As an educator, it was meaningful to see the kids share their understanding of the energy grid with the auditor. Mount Arlington School is grateful for the liaison of the Alliance to Save Energy, Sustainable Jersey for Schools, New Jersey Natural Gas, the EDF Fellows Program and New Jersey's Clean Energy Program." Mount Arlington School is one of 38 schools in New Jersey taking advantage of the education and resources that the [PowerSave Schools](#) program provides and is one of 264 schools that have achieved Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification. Sustainable Jersey partners with South Jersey Gas, New Jersey Natural Gas and the Alliance to Save Energy to bring the PowerSave Schools program to schools within the South Jersey Gas and New Jersey Natural Gas territories.

Community Solar Pilot Program Now Accepting Applications

Governor Phil Murphy and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPUB) 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 NJBPU'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 NJBPU's Clean Energy Program](#).



Middleton Township Improves Recycling through Education (Monmouth County)

[Middleton Township](#), in coordination with their contracted waste hauler, conducted a waste audit using a 200-pound sample. Through this audit they discovered that the Township's contamination rate for the recyclables was 14.1 percent, with over 70 percent of the contamination caused by plastic bags. To improve their recycling Middleton Township began working on Sustainable Jersey's [Recycling and Waste Reduction Education and Compliance](#) action, which is a priority action toward the town's 2019 Sustainable Jersey certification application. The Township has surpassed standard educational practices by implementing a recycling educational campaign to help residents understand what can and cannot be recycled and how to do so properly while complying with the requirements of the Township's single-stream recycling system. The educational campaign which included a mailed postcard and newsletter, media and social outreach and interviews on the local news channels, covers recycling topics that go beyond curbside recycling. For example, the outreach materials make sure to list the items that are accepted at the recycling center like clean plastic shopping bags and plastic toys. The Township also launched the Recycle Coach app for residents and "tag" resident's recycling bins if they have specific violations with "OOPS" stickers during regular inspections (opening lids). Since the enforcement efforts have begun, 139 residential properties have been tagged for violations. Enforcement will continue until the Township sees a significant reduction in the contamination rate and a change in behavior, with the goal to ultimately clean the recycling stream and reduce household waste. Middleton Township is one of over 200 towns that have achieved Sustainable Jersey certification.



13 Towns Launch Ocean County Sustainability Hub (Ocean County)

With a front-row seat to the harmful effects caused by discarded cigarette butts and plastic pollution on New

Jersey beaches, thirteen coastal towns have come together to form the [Ocean County Sustainability Hub](#): Barnegat, Beach Haven, Brick, Island Heights, Lacey, Long Beach, Mantoloking, Point Pleasant Beach, Seaside Park, Stafford, Toms River, Tuckerton and Waretown. One of the local leaders who was instrumental in getting this regional hub off the ground is Tanara Hall, a member of [Sustainable Island Heights](#) and the green team that helped Island Heights Borough achieve Sustainable Jersey certification



at the silver-level. Hall explained, "The Ocean County Sustainability Hub wants to improve communication between municipalities and organizations in order to give green teams the tools and steps to implement programs and projects to help Ocean County achieve sustainability." Currently 24 of the 33 Ocean County towns are registered with Sustainable Jersey, but only eight municipalities have achieved Sustainable Jersey certification. Hall added, "The Sustainable Jersey certified towns can help the rest of our towns get on board to apply for certification and work together on different projects. We can share materials and experiences between communities to make Ocean County develop in a more sustainable way. By working together, we have found that there are organizations that will provide free educational materials, workshops and guidance, while other organizations can provide meeting space for events and the green teams can provide volunteers or coordinate with other groups like the Boy Scouts. Collaboration is key to moving forward." The next [Ocean County Sustainability Hub](#) meeting is on 9/16/19 at 6:30 pm at the Save Barnegat Bay Eco Center in Toms River. Additional Hub events include: [Sailfest Island Heights](#) on 9/7/19, a [Recycling Public Forum](#) on 9/25/19 in Manchester, Lacey Day on 9/30/19 and the [Toms River Green Fair at Jersey Shore Makerfest](#) on 10/12/19. The Ocean County Sustainability Hub joins the list of eight other Sustainable Jersey [Regional Hubs](#) working for change across New Jersey.

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.

- June Blog: [Sustainable Jersey: Few thought it was possible let's do it again](#)
- July Heroes: [New Jersey League of Municipalities](#)
- July Blog: [Community solar pilot program now accepting applications](#)
- August Heroes: [New Jersey School Boards Association](#)

Our Sponsors

Sustainable Jersey is Underwritten by:



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Grants Program Underwritten by:



Platinum Sponsors:



10th Anniversary Sponsor



10th Anniversary Sponsor



10th Anniversary Sponsor

Silver Sponsors:



10th Anniversary Sponsor



10th Anniversary Sponsor



10th Anniversary Sponsor



10th Anniversary Sponsor



10th Anniversary Sponsor



A FirstEnergy Company

10th Anniversary Sponsor



10th Anniversary Sponsor



10th Anniversary Sponsor

Bronze Sponsors:



Click [here](#) to unsubscribe to the Sustainable Jersey e-newsletter