



Winter 2018

Municipalities Certified: 200, Participating: 445 ♦ Schools Certified: 194, Participating: 732 ♦ Districts Participating: 297

In this Issue

[Sustainability in Action: Five Success Stories](#)

[Pedal Power Comes to Eldridge Park Elementary School \(Mercer County\)](#)

[SEA Develops Energy Aggregation Program \(Essex County\)](#)

[EDF Fellow Identifies 380 Metric Tons of CO2 Emissions Reductions \(Monmouth County\)](#)

[NJ Mayors Commit to Climate Change Action](#)

[Cranford Township Cares for its Trees \(Union County\)](#)

[More Sustainability Stories](#)

Quick Links

www.SustainableJersey.com

[Actions for Sustainable Communities](#)

[Participating Towns](#)

[Grants and Resources](#)

[Trainings & Events](#)

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SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION: FIVE SUCCESS STORIES

Pedal Power Comes to Eldridge Park Elementary School (Mercer County)



How do you cut down on driving drop-offs at school? Eldridge Park Elementary School in the Lawrence Township Public School District achieved this goal by providing students with bike racks and bikes. The school used a \$2,000 Sustainable Jersey for Schools grant funded by the New Jersey Education Association to implement their Pedal Power program. When designing the program, the school realized that some students didn't own a bike or know how to ride one, but wanted to learn. The school purchased four bicycles and helmets and the PE teacher taught the selected students how to ride. Thanks to the new bike racks and promotional campaign, the number of car riders have been reduced and the racks serve as a visible sign that the school supports biking to school. Through exploring the joy of riding, students have the chance to lower their carbon footprint, build habits for a healthy lifestyle and have fun!

SEA Develops Energy Aggregation Program (Essex County)

[Sustainable Essex Alliance \(SEA\)](#), a Sustainable Jersey Hub of green team, environmental commission and municipal leaders from Essex County, is working on a community Energy Aggregation Program. Six municipalities have passed resolutions supporting the process including a Glen Ridge, Maplewood,



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Millburn, Montclair, South Orange and Verona. The towns hope to combine their purchasing power in order to procure cleaner, less expensive electrical power for their residents. How does aggregation work for the residents? For the most part, residents will not experience any difference. PSE&G will continue to manage both the grid and physical electrical structure and customers meter reading and billing while also remaining responsible for repairing any outages. This will be an important step in moving Essex County into a sustainable future and will also help these municipalities in their pursuit to achieve the Sustainable Jersey Gold Star in Energy.



SUSTAINABLE ESSEX ALLIANCE

EDF Fellow Identifies 380 Metric Tons of CO2 Emissions Reductions (Monmouth County)

Elihu Dietz is a candidate for a Masters in Energy Management at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment. In 2017, Sustainable Jersey paired Elihu with Middletown Township, Atlantic Highlands School District and Rumson School District to provide on-site technical assistance with energy efficiency projects. Sustainable Jersey did this through the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) Climate Corps, which taps the talents of tomorrows leaders by placing specially-trained EDF Fellows in companies, cities and universities to act as dedicated energy problem solvers. Last year, Sustainable Jersey placed three EDF Fellows within two townships and five school districts in Monmouth County. Elihu identified projects across all three clients with a combined value of \$1.5 million in lifetime electricity savings resulting in 380 metric tons of CO2 emissions reductions. Read the case study [here](#). This technical assistance program was made possible through funding provided by New Jersey Natural Gas. Sustainable Jersey will be announcing the next opportunity for schools and municipalities to apply for an EDF Fellow in spring 2018.



NJ Mayors Commit to Climate Change Action

When the United States pulled out of the Paris Climate Accords, I was distraught. I said to myself, someone should do something about this and then I looked down at my business card and saw the word mayor and said ok, explained Mayor Phil Kramer of Franklin Township. He spoke about taking climate action at the sold-out New Jersey Mayors Climate Summit that drew over 175 mayors, officials and leaders from municipalities large and small. By the day of the summit, twelve New Jersey mayors publicly pledged to collaborate with Sustainable Jersey and make a significant effort to achieve [Sustainable Jerseys Gold Star Standard in Energy](#). Towns will work toward the Gold Star Standard in Energy and implement proven strategies that will make a major contribution to our statewide effort to reduce



greenhouse gasses. The Gold Star in Energy identifies the specific actions and levels of performance that municipalities can, and must, achieve for us to reach our goals for a sustainable New Jersey. For example, the [Direct Install component of the New Jersey Clean Energy Program \(NJCEP\)](#) is an action that will contribute to bringing down energy consumption and emissions in the community.



Cranford Township Cares for its Trees (Union County)

Cranford Township lost nearly 800 trees after Hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy. The township realized that a better understanding of the benefits and services provided by their public trees would increase investment in stewardship, operations and maintenance. After receiving a \$10,000 Sustainable Jersey grant funded by the PSEG Foundation, Cranford completed a tree inventory. The Township contracted with The Land Conservancy of New Jersey to conduct the inventory on public trees and included information such as each trees common and botanical name, diameter, height, condition and location. The completion of the computerized inventory of municipal trees serves as a model for residential and suburban communities for management of their forest canopy. The GPS data coordinates assigned to the individual tree aid in finding locations for future tree plantings, as well as identifying the diseased, dead and damaged trees that should be removed and replaced to protect public well-being as well as the health of the municipal forest. The knowledge gained from this project allows the Township to assess the economic value of the trees on municipal property in Cranford and will enable replacement of the trees lost in the storms.



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.

- Dec. Hero: [Bonnie Akey, Chair, Little Silver Environmental Commission \(Monmouth County\)](#)
- Dec. Blog: [How sustainability became my brand and achieved my campaign promises](#)
- Jan. Hero: [Kristin Wenger, Co-Director, Arts Ed NJ](#)
- Jan. Blog: [Tilting windmills, why not build one instead?](#)
- Feb. Hero: [Mike Hornsby, West Windsor Environmental Commission \(Mercer County\)](#)

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