

## MEDIA RELEASE

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**PSEG**  
Foundation

### **Making New Jersey a Sustainable State: 32 Towns Receive Grants to Advance Goal**

*Funded by the PSEG Foundation, grants help build healthy, resilient and sustainable communities*

#### **QUOTES FROM SELECT \$20,000 GRANT RECIPIENTS (ALPHABETICAL BY NEW JERSEY COUNTY)**

*On behalf of the Town of Secaucus, I extend my sincerest gratitude to the PSEG Foundation and Sustainable Jersey for this generous award. With this funding, we will be able to purchase the necessary materials for a community greenhouse. Once it is fully built by skilled Public Works employees, this project promises to greatly enhance our community garden program while also supporting efforts to grow and plant more native species. Since the greenhouse will be built on school grounds, it will also be transformational for Secaucus teachers who are eager to implement comprehensive garden-based learning. – Michael Gonnelli, Mayor, Town of Secaucus, Hudson County*

*I am beyond thrilled to accept this grant award on behalf of High Bridge. This is the second grant our Green Team has received through Sustainable Jersey to beautify our Commons Park, which serves as the trailhead to the Columbia Trail and is enjoyed by many residents and visitors throughout the year. With this funding we will be taking another step forward in improving the direct access to Main Street from the Commons by further clearing the area, creating a stairway and including effective signage to direct people to our wonderful shops and restaurants. I would like to thank Sustainable Jersey and the PSEG Foundation for this funding and share my sincerest gratitude to the volunteers of the Environmental Commission and Green Team for their success and service to our community. – Michele Lee, Mayor, High Bridge Borough, Hunterdon County*

*We are thankful for Sustainable Jersey's partnership with the PSEG Foundation. The City of Long Branch applied, and has been awarded, their \$20,000 grant. These funds have been earmarked for consult fees and services pertaining to the creation of an Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI). We are thankful for the Long Branch Green Team for leading this initiative which will assist our city in its continuous efforts for a more sustainable future. – John Pallone, Mayor, Long Branch City, Monmouth County*

*Montgomery is excited to receive this grant and begin a pilot project to retrofit a few older detention basins with newer green infrastructure techniques that will provide a host of environmental benefits, such as increasing groundwater recharge, improving water quality any requiring less mowing. This will also make us better neighbors to those communities downstream by helping to reduce flooding. – Devra Keenan, Mayor, Montgomery Township, Somerset County*

#### **QUOTES FROM SELECT \$10,000 GRANT RECIPIENTS (ALPHABETICAL BY NEW JERSEY COUNTY)**

*We are excited to welcome a new, fresh farmer's market to the Mount Laurel community. My sincerest appreciation to Sustainable Jersey and the PSEG Foundation for supporting Mount Laurel's latest achievement in sustainability and local farmers. Also, a big thank you to the Rancocas Business Association for their innovative and continued efforts to revitalize Mount Laurel's Shops along the Rancocas Woods. – Stephen Steglik, Mayor, Mount Laurel Township, Burlington County*

*What great news our Municipal Green Team was selected to receive a Sustainable Jersey grant to educate residents, businesses and students on ways they can improve water usage. Water conservation is critical and my first step to kickoff this campaign is to take the National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation! – Michael Melhams, Mayor, Belleville Township, Essex County*

*We are excited to receive this grant which will be used to reduce household waste in our community,” said Glen Ridge Mayor Stuart Patrick. “This funding will enable us to increase our composting and recycling facilities and programs as well as to provide continuing education on waste management to our residents. We also believe that this program will not only benefit our community, by showing our residents ways in which they can reduce their waste, but may, also provide other benefits to communities that house commercial waste disposal facilities. – Patrick Stuart, Mayor, Glen Ridge Borough, Essex County*

*Our Green Team and Environmental Commission do an excellent job planning their projects around educational value and broad community benefit. The ongoing Mickleton Park project is a perfect example. When complete, the various elements will not only help residents learn about the value of native plant life, but it will give them practical examples that can be experienced in full simply by visiting. The Township Committee and I are grateful that Sustainable Jersey has seen the value of this effort to our community and we look forward to seeing it come to fruition. – Dale Archer, Mayor, East Greenwich Township, Gloucester County*

*Howell’s green team has once again proved their love of our town, by working tirelessly to maintain and increase our greenery. Congratulations and thank you for all of your hard work for Howell Township! – Theresa Berger, Mayor, Howell Township, Monmouth County*

*Pompton Lakes is thrilled to be one of the recipients of the \$10,000 Sustainable Jersey grants. The Borough has made considerable progress in acquiring and conserving many flood-prone properties in town, allowing them to return to a natural state while helping to mitigate the impacts of flooding on our community. This grant will allow us to take the next step, removing invasive plant species in some of these locations and helping us to establish native plantings that further improve the quality of the floodplain. We will use this opportunity to educate our residents on the importance of native species to our natural habitats through programing and signage. – Mike Serra, Mayor, Pompton Lakes Borough, Passaic County*

### **QUOTES FROM SELECT \$2,000 GRANT RECIPIENTS (ALPHABETICAL BY NEW JERSEY COUNTY)**

*This grant will make our seniors very happy because the existing kitchen appliances in their center are either not working or sadly outdated. The new equipment will open up the possibility to improve the quality of our senior citizens entertainment and socialization. It will also guarantee their personal safety inside our beautiful senior center they enjoy so much – Christopher M. Kelemen, Mayor, Bogota Borough, Bergen County*

*Harrington Park would like to thank Sustainable Jersey for approving our grant application. Combined with other funding from SUEZ, Bergen SWAN and the Borough we will be able to replant native trees and plants in an highly sensitive area of watershed that was damaged. The Harrington Park Environmental Commission and Green Team developed and executed a plan to raise funds from various groups, and will oversee the preparation and planting of the site, and I thank them for their efforts to rehab this piece of property as well as for all the other work they do to keep our town green. – Paul A. Hoelscher, Mayor, Harrington Park Borough, Bergen County*

*Gloucester City is very pleased with our Sustainable Jersey activities in the past two years. We’ve taken several actions as part of our Long Term Control Plan, in that we are a CSO community, such as rain gardens, rain barrel classes and many tree plantings. We are so very thankful to Sustainable Jersey and PSE&G for this opportunity to continue that challenge and encourage the use of reusable water bottles in all environments. – Patrick Keating, Interim Mayor, Gloucester City, Camden County*

*This sustainability grant will allow us to enhance the services we offer through our Small Tools Library, which is an extension of our efforts to include all of our residents in our mission to keep our city clean and green. Together, we are improving the quality of life for everyone in the City of East Orange — block by block, house by house. – Ted R. Green, Mayor, East Orange City, Essex County*

*Readington is please to thank PSE&G Foundation for this grant award. When completed, Township residents will be able to access a map, select a category of natural resources in the community indicating location and a narrative about the resource. We expect this effort will expand community awareness and participation in sustainable activities. – Robert Becker, Green Team Member, Readington Township, Hunterdon County*

*The Woodbridge Green Team is ready to get to work implementing rain barrel education workshops. We are so grateful Sustainable Jersey awards our team funding so that we can continue to educate our residents on ways to engage in sustainable practices and lifestyles. – John E. McCormac, Mayor, Woodbridge Township, Middlesex County*

*We have had multiple requests for a municipal compost facility. Since we are such a small city and we have almost no City owned vacant land, it is a request we really cannot accommodate. We thought that providing composting bins and education to residents could be a solution to municipal composting. We applied for the Sustainable New Jersey grant to do such a project and we are very happy to have received it – John Moor, Mayor, Asbury Park City, Monmouth County*

*I am pleased to see how our Green Team has hit the ground running, working amidst the pandemic and its restrictions to move green initiatives forward for our charming bayside town. We are thankful to be a recipient of the PSEG Foundation grant, as this particular project will send positive messages of collaboration and togetherness to the entire community as we journey forward from the impacts of the pandemic. To be designed and built by community volunteers, this native species, pollinator-attracting garden will build awareness and educate on the part pollinators play in our ecosystem, particularly the very unique one we have here in Atlantic Highlands, where we have bayside beaches, woodland hills, and the highest point on the Eastern seaboard south of Maine. It is our responsibility to ensure we all become stewards to protect and preserve it, from the tiniest pollinators to the tallest trees. – Loretta Gluckstein, Mayor, Atlantic Highlands Borough, Monmouth County*

*On behalf of the Borough of Roosevelt, I would like to express my gratitude and excitement at the awarding of the Sustainable Jersey Grant to us. Roosevelt is a tiny municipality with a very large heart. From its inception in 1935, the town has been well-known for its passion for the arts, for politics, for its acceptance of people of every background and personality, and particularly for its interest and devotion to the environment. We are a rural agrarian community, which is evident immediately upon stepping into town. Our love of trees, flowers, shrubs, and wildlife, shows everywhere. From municipal spaces to resident's lawns and gardens, you will find every type of outdoor area. Our Environmental Commission is active, involved, and takes their work very seriously. We also host a litter pick-up which our residents eagerly join each year. The financial benefits we will reap from this award will only further our efforts to keep Roosevelt our beautiful green gem that it is. I am very appreciative. – Peggy Malkin, Mayor, Roosevelt Borough, Monmouth County*

*Mountain Lakes is honored to be a recipient of the Sustainable Communities Grant Program funded by the PSEG Foundation. Our \$2,000 grant will be used to start a seed saver exchange program at our Mountain Lakes Library and stock a newly created environmental DVD movie shelf. The Mountain Lakes Green Team has been active since 2014 and hopes to attain our third consecutive Sustainable Jersey certification later this year. GO SUSTAINABLE JERSEY! – Tom Menard, Mayor, Mountain Lakes Borough, Morris County*

*The Township Green Team is extremely pleased with the grant award from Sustainable Jersey. This Grant funded by the PSEG Foundation continues to be further evidence of the positive impact of our mission to encourage private/public partnerships, all working for the betterment of the future of NJ. – Green Team, Parsippany-Troy Hills Township, Morris County*

*This grant from Sustainable Jersey will enable Andover Township to complete the launch of our Buy Local Program. For two years, our community has worked to design our Buy Local and Visitor's Guide to promote the value of sourcing our products and services here in our community. We are grateful for the dedication from Sustainable Jersey to support all New Jersey municipalities to advance their sustainability goals. – Janis McGovern, Mayor, Andover Township, Sussex County*

*The Berkeley Heights Adopt-a-Drain grant award from PSE&G and Sustainable Jersey is in alignment with the Township's goals of cleaner waterways and healthier communities. The Passaic River runs along our border and there are a number of tributaries through the Township that are important to stormwater runoff. I applaud Kim Diamond for launching this program and earning these grant dollars. We are excited to get started!* – **Angie Devanney, Mayor, Berkeley Heights Township, Union County**

*The City of Plainfield is excited to receive the Sustainable Jersey grant to foster a community garden that will provide healthy food options and farming and gardening skills to the residents of this great city. Your grant will provide supplies, plants and seedlings, potted soil and much more. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.* – **Adrian O. Mapp, Mayor, Plainfield City, Union County**

*We are excited to launch a pilot program for reusable food containers here in Westfield. I'm grateful to the Green Team for identifying yet another way to make everyday items more environmentally friendly as we continue our focus on sustainability.* – **Shelley Brindle, Mayor, Westfield Town, Union County**