

2024 Sustainable Jersey Annual Award Recipients

AWARD DESCRIPTIONS AND QUOTES FROM RECIPIENTS



2024 SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION AWARD

The Sustainability Champion award recognizes municipalities that have scored the most points in the Sustainable Jersey certification program in three population categories: large (over 40,000), medium (5,000 to 40,000) and small (under 5,000).

<p>Large Category</p>	<p>HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP (Somerset County) with 830 points.</p>	<p>“On behalf of Hillsborough Township, I am incredibly proud to be a recipient of the Sustainable Jersey Champion Award. This recognition reflects our collective commitment to creating a greener, more sustainable future. Together, we have taken bold steps to reduce our environmental impact, promote renewable energy, and invest in the long-term health of our town. I want to thank all the residents, local businesses, and municipal staff who have worked tirelessly to make sustainability a priority. This award belongs to all of us, and it inspires us to continue our efforts in building a resilient and eco-friendly community for generations to come. – The Honorable Robert Britting, Jr., Mayor, Hillsborough Township</p>
<p>Medium Category</p>	<p>MADISON BOROUGH (Morris County) with 1,000 points. This is the sixth time that Madison Borough has achieved this honor since the awards began in 2009; Madison received the award in 2013 and 2020-2024.</p>	<p>“Madison is once again honored to receive Sustainable Jersey silver recertification and the Sustainability Champion Award for medium-sized municipalities, reflecting our community's unwavering commitment to environmental progress. With \$200,000 in Community Energy Plan Implementation Grants, supporting crucial projects at our recently purchased 199-year-old Heller Center, as well as our municipal Building, Hartley Dodge Memorial, and our recently announced electrification incentives funded by Madison, we continue to prioritize sustainable solutions for all residents. Our record-breaking 1,000-point certification is a testament to the dedication of our all-volunteer Sustainable Madison Green Teams and our forward-thinking elected officials and staff.”– The Honorable Robert H. Conley, Mayor, Madison Borough</p>
<p>Small Category</p>	<p>CAPE MAY CITY (Cape May County) with 445 points. This is the sixth time Cape May City has achieved this honor. Cape May City received the award in 2011, 2012, 2104, 2017, and 2021.</p>	<p>“This award is a fantastic testament to the dedication of Cape May’s citizens and the hard work of all our Departments. I want to thank our Environmental Commission, Green Team, Planning Board, Zoning Board, Historic Preservation Commission, Shade Tree Commission, City Council and the City Manager’s Office for all working together in a collaborative effort for such a worthy cause. Cape May’s commitment to preserving its beautiful natural environment truly shines through. We have focused our efforts on the stewardship of local ecosystems, including efforts to protect flyways, migratory patterns, wetlands, and other sustainability efforts for our community and beyond. Achieving first place among all towns with populations under 4,999 is no small feat. This recognition speaks volumes about our sustainability initiatives and community spirit. I am grateful for our City Employees and Volunteers that help keep the City of Cape May a model for environmental responsibility!” – The Honorable Zachary Mullock, Mayor, Cape May City</p>

2024 MAYOR ONDISH LEADERSHIP AWARD

This award is given annually in memory of Mayor Art Ondish of Mount Arlington to recognize a leader who provides the green team with ideas, policy support and the necessary resources to achieve significant success towards sustainability.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT CONLEY , Mayor of Madison Borough, Morris County	The Honorable Robert Conley, Mayor, Madison Borough
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2024 CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION AWARD

This award recognizes forward-thinking municipalities that support a culture of creativity and innovation as they implement new approaches to solving problems.

MARGATE CITY , Atlantic County Margate City created standards to contain harmful microcontaminants on construction sites which are released into the air and down storm drains. The green team, Sustainable Margate, provides education and outreach to state and local leaders, and green teams across New Jersey, establishing a true movement to improve public health and the quality of our air and waterways.	“I am very proud of the Sustainable Margate Team for their constant efforts in helping to improve the quality of life in Margate and beyond. To receive the Sustainable Jersey Creativity and Innovation Award is an honor and shows they are focused on a better tomorrow for all of us.” – The Honorable Michael Collins, Mayor, City of Margate
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2024 ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award recognizes a newly certified municipality that effectively leveraged a wide range of resources to achieve success.

BARRINGTON BOROUGH , Camden County Barrington Borough achieved certification for the first time this year and effectively leveraged a wide range of resources to achieve success.	“I am extremely proud of our Borough and our Green Team for attaining a bronze certification, and now for being named the Sustainable Jersey Rookie of the Year. The work our Green Team does is not only about preserving the environment, but they strive to foster a community in our town where individuals feel empowered and motivated to help contribute to a greener, healthier, and more sustainable future. This recognition of being named Rookie of the Year goes to show how hard and diligently our Green Team works, and I am immensely proud and thankful for their work and dedication to Barrington.” -- The Honorable Kyle Hanson, Mayor, Barrington Borough
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2024 COLLABORATION AWARD

This award recognizes green teams that have advanced sustainability by building strong partnerships.

LONG BRANCH CITY , Monmouth County This award recognizes the important collaboration established by the Long Branch Green Team for the restoration of Jackson Woods Park.	“The City of Long Branch is thrilled to receive Sustainability Jersey's Collaboration Award. Our partnerships with local businesses, city officials, the governing body and other environmental stewards, have been a critical piece of our success in implementing more sustainable practices and protecting our natural resources.” – The Honorable John Pallone, Mayor, Long Branch City
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2024 GOLD STAR RECIPIENTS

Municipalities receive Gold Star recognition for reaching high levels of achievement in key dimensions of sustainability. Currently, Sustainable Jersey awards Gold Stars in [Energy](#), [Health](#) and [Water](#).

Gold Star in Health	CHATHAM BOROUGH (Morris County)	"We, in the Borough of Chatham, are thrilled to receive Sustainable Jersey's Gold Star in Health. This recognition, which is awarded to only a few select municipalities, is the result of years of commitment to and planning for the health and well-being of our entire community. Chatham has always been a wonderful place to live and thrive, and this award is public affirmation of everything we appreciate about living in the Borough. I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the many volunteers, professionals, and members of our Borough Administration who work with our Board of Health, Mayors Wellness Campaign Advisory Committee, Environmental Commission, and so many other sectors of our community. They have created an integrated plan that secures, sustains, and celebrates Chatham's mental, physical, emotional, and environmental health now and for years to come." – The Honorable Carolyn Dempsey Mayor, Chatham Borough
Gold Star in Health	HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP (Somerset County)	"We are very proud and excited to receive the Gold Star in Health, an achievement that reflects nearly two years of dedicated effort and collaboration. This milestone was made possible through the work of the Hillsborough Health Collaborative, which unites Township staff from numerous departments, Township Committee members, Sustainable Hillsborough, a diverse group of public and private partners, and many volunteers. This process has allowed us to better understand the main health issues and community conditions affecting our residents and provides a roadmap for working to address them in an equitable and sustainable manner." - Robin Vlamis, Health Educator, MPH, CHES.– Hillsborough Township Health Department