

2025 Sustainable Jersey Annual Award Recipients

AWARD DESCRIPTIONS AND QUOTES FROM RECIPIENTS



2025 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 845 points. This is the second time that Hillsborough Township has achieved this honor. Hillsborough received the award in 2024 and 2025.</p>	<p>“Hillsborough Township is honored to receive the Sustainable Jersey Large Group Sustainability Champion award for the second year in a row, as well as our 14th overall certification and 11th straight silver certification. Thank you to Sustainable Jersey for recognizing the Township’s dedication towards creating a thriving, sustainable community for all our residents socially, economically, and environmentally.” – 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 seventh time that Madison Borough has achieved this honor; Madison received the award in 2013 and 2020-2025.</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>BORDENTOWN CITY (Burlington County) with 605 points. This is the sixth time Bordentown City has achieved this honor. Bordentown received the award in 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019, 2022, and 2025.</p>	<p>“I want to thank Sustainable Jersey for laying out a forward-thinking vision for communities throughout New Jersey, one that not only protects taxpayer dollars, but fosters a better future for the next generation. I can’t thank our city staff and volunteers enough for their incredible work, both in putting this application together, as well as day in and day out, all year long to help us lead a more sustainable lifestyle.” -The Honorable Jennifer Sciortino, Mayor, Bordentown City</p>

2025 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.

<p>THE HONORABLE SEAN ELWELL, Mayor of Elsinboro Township, Salem County</p>	<p>“I’m honored and humbled to receive this year’s Mayor Ondish Leadership Award. One of the first individuals I had the privilege of working with at the state level was Mayor Ondish, and I’m proud to accept an award that bears his name. This recognition is less about me and more about Elsinboro Township—and the incredible community we represent. We take great pride in being the only municipality in Salem County certified through the Sustainable Jersey program. Our commitment to sustainability reflects a larger truth about leadership and public service. As leaders, we have a responsibility to ensure our communities remain strong and sustainable for future generations. Leadership is never about standing alone at the front—it’s about lifting others up so that together, we can see farther and do more.” - The Honorable Sean Elwell, Mayor, Elsinboro Township, Salem County</p>
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2025 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.

<p>DOWNE TOWNSHIP, Cumberland County</p> <p>The award recognizes the Downe Township Green Team’s creation of the Turtle Patrol to protect the endangered Diamondback Terrapins and assist the turtles back to the Bay after laying their eggs.</p>	<p>"Our residents have always been committed to being good stewards of our natural habitat and the wildlife that make it their home. The Turtle Patrol is an example of Downe Township residents supporting the sustainability of the Diamondback Terrapins." – The Honorable Mike Rothman, Mayor, Downe Township</p>
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2025 ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD

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

<p>MIDDLESEX BOROUGH, Middlesex County</p> <p>Middlesex Borough achieved certification for the first time this year earning 245 certification points for completing Sustainable Jersey actions.</p>	<p>"Middlesex Borough is honored to be the 2025 recipient of the Sustainable Jersey Rookie of the Year Award. The tireless efforts of our Environmental Commission and Green Team, supported where possible by our staff, have been amazing in terms of moving these initiatives forward. Their ability to create innovative programs, educate, encourage volunteerism and achieve results are a real testament to these dedicated members of the team. I'm excited to see what's in store for 2026!" – The Honorable Jack Mikolajczyk, Mayor, Middlesex Borough</p>
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2025 COLLABORATION AWARD

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

<p>FAIR HAVEN BOROUGH, Monmouth County</p> <p>This award recognizes outstanding collaboration in holding community-wide events celebrating the cultural and historic richness of the community by members of the Fair Haven council, green team, Creative Team, Historic Association of Fair Haven, and the Fair Haven Business Association.</p>	<p>"We are honored to be recognized among New Jersey’s leading sustainable communities and for the successful partnerships within our community. Being acknowledged among New Jersey’s best is a privilege we cherish and could not have been accomplished without the state's best Environmental Commission and Green Team. This recognition is a testament to the countless hours spent by our volunteers, residents, and staff to create a cleaner, more sustainable environment in Fair Haven, now and in to the future." – The Honorable Josh Halpern, Mayor, Fair Haven Borough</p>
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2025 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](#), [Water](#), and [Climate Readiness](#).

<p>Gold Star in Water</p>	<p>READINGTON TOWNSHIP (Hunterdon County)</p>	<p>"Readington Township is honored to achieve Sustainable Jersey silver recertification and to again earn the Gold Star Standard in Water. These recognitions affirm our community’s leadership in sustainability and our commitment to protecting water quality, conserving resources, and using them wisely. I’m grateful to our residents, volunteers, and municipal staff whose hard work made this possible, and to Sustainable Jersey for setting a high bar. We’ll keep building on this momentum to keep Readington healthy, resilient, and a model for New Jersey communities." - The Honorable Adam Mueller, Mayor, Readington Township</p>
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Gold Star in Health	PRINCETON (Mercer County)	“We’re honored to receive the Gold Star in Health recertification from Sustainable Jersey. This recognition reflects Princeton’s deep commitment to building a healthier, more sustainable community for all. From improving air and water quality to expanding access to wellness resources, affordable housing, and sustainable transportation, our efforts are grounded in equity and long-term impact. We’re proud of the collaborative work across departments and with our residents, including initiatives like our gas-powered leaf blower restrictions and community gardens to our annual Mayors Wellness Campaign activities, that help make Princeton a healthier place to live, work, and thrive.” – The Honorable Mark Freda, Mayor, Princeton
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