

SUSTAINABILITY HEROES



The College of New Jersey

Sustainable Jersey Celebrates a Decade of Impact

To celebrate Sustainable Jersey's 10th anniversary, we are spotlighting the people, organizations and agencies that have been a part of our evolution. The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) is a Sustainable Jersey founding partner and the home of the [Sustainability Institute](#), which administers Sustainable Jersey. TCNJ adds a culture of academic rigor to the Sustainable Jersey certification process and tremendous resources for the program, from faculty who help design best practices, to the students who show up and build the projects. For over ten years, TCNJ has provided Sustainable Jersey with resources, faculty support and access to talented college students. TCNJ has hosted five of Sustainable Jersey's New Jersey Sustainability Summits, in addition to countless Sustainable Jersey Board meetings and other events. The College provides faculty support for Sustainable Jersey Task Forces and has facilitated Sustainable Jersey partnerships with the Bonner Scholars and the New Jersey Department of Education and New Jersey Department of Health.

Sustainable Jersey Founding Partner: The College of New Jersey (TCNJ)

In 2006, TCNJ was funded by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation to create a "Sustainable Communities Leadership Network." The network was tasked with supporting municipal progress toward sustainable development by identifying best practices, facilitating peer to peer learning, developing metrics to judge performance and providing direct technical support and training. Around the same time, mayors at the New Jersey League of Municipalities were coming together to form a "green mayors" group that would work to support similar activities. Concurrently, the New Jersey



Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities were also working on sustainable community related initiatives. The four parties agreed to come together under one banner and began to collaborate on the program that eventually became Sustainable Jersey.

Sustainability Institute at TCNJ

In 2006, the Municipal Land Use Center (MLUC) at TCNJ was managing the development of the Sustainable Jersey program. When the Sustainability Institute at TCNJ was formed, Sustainable Jersey was its primary responsibility. The Sustainability Institute is a "think and do" tank that works closely with TCNJ to promote sustainability initiatives throughout the greater New Jersey community. For five years, Sustainable Jersey

held the New Jersey Sustainability Summit on TCNJ's campus. The Sustainability Summit is attended by hundreds of sustainability leaders and hosts speakers and breakout sessions on a variety of topics related to the Sustainable Jersey actions to support efforts in improving overall quality of social, economic and environmental standards.



Sustainable Jersey for Schools is also administered by the Sustainability Institute. Similar to the municipal program, Sustainable Jersey for Schools convened experts, local school officials, educators and other stakeholders to determine the content of the program. On July 22, 2013 over 100 people attended a kick-off meeting at TCNJ where working groups, representing the various partners began to define the program standards and actions that would advance schools toward certification.



Sustainable Jersey Partnership with TCNJ's Center for Community Engaged Learning and Research

TCNJ's [Center for Community Engaged Learning and Research \(CEL Center\)](#) presents students with community engagement activities that integrate educational experiences with community service, student development and civic participation. Located within the CEL Center, the Bonner Institute houses the [Bonner Community Scholars](#) and [First-year Community Engaged Learning programs](#).

Sustainable Jersey partners with the Bonner Institute to connect TCNJ students with green teams. Sustainable Jersey links green teams and their partners with TCNJ students to make progress toward a specific Sustainable Jersey action while providing the students with an opportunity to serve and engage with New Jersey residents and communities.



The Bonner Scholars work directly with Sustainable Jersey communities to implement projects, and also coordinate ongoing volunteerism in host municipalities. The Sustainable Jersey communities benefit from the student energy and resources to implement Sustainable Jersey actions.

Environmental Studies Minor at TCNJ

Sustainable Jersey has benefited from the access to the faculty at TCNJ. For example, Dr. Diane Bates is a professor of sociology at TCNJ and she serves on the Sustainable Jersey Diversity and Equity Task Force. The Sustainable Jersey Task Forces research and disseminate best practices, translate global and state imperatives into local actions, test sustainability planning models and develop community resources for the program. Dr. Bates also served as the first coordinator for the [Environmental Studies Minor](#) at TCNJ and was an academic fellow for the TCNJ Center for Community Engaged Learning and Research. The Environmental Studies Minor requires students to complete five courses with a minimum of four

disciplines; the students take courses in the natural sciences, as well as selecting options in social science and humanities. Dr. Miriam Shakow is the current coordinator for the Environmental Studies faculty.

Sustainable Jersey Partnership with TCNJ School of Education

The former dean of the School of Education, Jeff Passe and the faculty helped with the development of the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program. For the past two years, Sustainable Jersey has partnered with the TCNJ School of Education to provide professional development training and funding opportunities for teachers implementing environmental sustainability education. Additionally, the Sustainability Institute supports TCNJ pre-service teachers enrolled in the environmental sustainability education five-course minor through guest lectures and internship opportunities with the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program.

Presidents' Climate Commitment Committee (PC3)

TCNJ has a long-standing commitment to the environment. In 2007, the TCNJ president signed the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment. The college then established the [Presidents' Climate Commitment Committee \(PC3\)](#), a team of faculty and students who work together to engage the campus and promote climate neutrality and environmental sustainability through focusing on initiatives such as waste reduction and energy reduction, sustainable transportation methods and gardening initiatives. The committee also works closely with faculty to help empower students in environmentally-centered courses by funding sustainability projects on campus and creating more environmentally focused education programs.

TCNJ's Conservation Policies

Institutionally, TCNJ has [policies](#) implemented to move the campus towards reducing waste, energy consumption and water contamination, to name a few. TCNJ is committed to conservation in the use of electricity, natural gas and fuel oil. All new facilities, additions, or major renovations are required to meet or exceed State standards for energy conservation. In addition, funds are annually allocated from operating budgets for energy improvements.

All new construction and renovations include, where practicable, LEED Silver energy conservation technologies. TCNJ is at the forefront in new energy conservation technologies. The following are examples of TCNJ's commitment to energy conservation and the environment: recapitalization of the Central Utilities Plant; implementation of distributive controls in the Central Utilities Plant; construction of a 3.2 MW cogeneration plant and later the upgrade to 5.2 MW; use of geothermal technology; implementation of an electric metering system for all campus buildings and electric feeders; automatic load management system for demand response opportunities; installation of a new steam boiler with high efficiency, low NOx burners; retrofit of a steam boiler from single fuel (oil) to dual fuel, high efficiency, low NOx burners; installation of two 2,000 ton steam turbine driven chillers that use one-half the steam of the old chillers; a campus-wide lighting retrofit to energy efficient lamps and ballasts. For more information on TCNJ Energy Master Plan, visit: <https://powerplant.tcnj.edu/master-plan/>.