

# SUSTAINABILITY HEROES

## February 2019



Pam Mount  
and Richard S. Dovey  
Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees

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**Sustainable Jersey Celebrates a Decade of Impact:** Sustainable Jersey was launched in 2009; after ten years of hard work, it is amazing how far New Jersey has come. The organization began as a partnership between The College of New Jersey, the New Jersey League of Municipalities, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. In 2012, Sustainable Jersey evolved from a partnership into a non-profit organization with a [Board of Trustees](#).

The Board of Trustees oversees the work of Sustainable Jersey and includes leaders from across the state hailing from local and state government, universities, non-profits and businesses. Since 2012, two outstanding sustainability heroes have led this group: Pam Mount served as the board chair from 2012-2015 and Richard (Rick) Dovey was the board chair from 2015-2018.

**Sustainable Jersey Board Chair Pam Mount:** Since day one, Pam has been an energetic force moving Sustainable Jersey forward. Pam was on the Lawrence Town Council for twelve years and she served as mayor three times.

As mayor, Pam held a series of community meetings to discuss how to create a sustainable future for Lawrence Township. The engagement exceeded expectations and participants represented every part of the community—business, education, faith, families, farming, government, neighborhoods—as well as age groups spanning seven decades. Seeing the overwhelming response in her town, Pam knew the time was right to make progress around sustainability issues across New Jersey.

The creation of the nonprofit organization, [Sustainable Lawrence](#), in 2006 was a direct result of Pam’s community meetings. A few years later, Pam served on the New Jersey League of Municipalities Mayors Committee for a Green Future which was the committee that preceded the Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees. In 2012, Pam was elected to fill the Sustainable Jersey Board Chair role. During her tenure, the Sustainable Jersey municipal certification and [Sustainable Jersey Grant Program](#) grew significantly. She oversaw the start of the [Sustainable Jersey Regional Hubs](#) and the launch of [Sustainable Jersey for Schools](#) in 2014.

Pam is a doer; don’t ask her to write a plan because she would rather form a community organization and get straight to work. Pam said, “Of all the Sustainable Jersey actions we reviewed, I’m most proud of the mandatory [“Create a Green](#)



[Team](#)” action that towns must do to be certified by Sustainable Jersey. From my community building work in Lawrence, I knew that the strength of the program would come from the dedicated volunteers who lead sustainability programs at the local level. To be successful, the town residents need to have a say and that is true of the Sustainable Jersey program. The green teams keep the momentum going.” She added, “Now when I speak at green events, I’m amazed by how many people identify themselves as members of a Sustainable Jersey green team. The green teams are making sustainable change possible in New Jersey.”

**Sustainable Jersey Goes to Taiwan:** Sustainable Jersey was identified as a model for statewide municipal sustainability certification programs across the country. In 2011, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, through an agreement with the American Institute in Taiwan, invited a Sustainable Jersey delegation to meet with counterparts in Taiwan.



The Sustainable Jersey delegation went to Taiwan to engage in mutual learning and sharing of best practices on climate and energy issues. Pam and Rick joined Randall Solomon and Donna Drewes who were the co-directors of Sustainable Jersey at the time. Lawrence Township’s Benjamin Franklin School Principal Chris Turnbull was the lone educator in the delegation. As part of the visit, his school developed a sister school program with a school in Taiwan.

In New Taipei City, Pam met Borough President Chiu Mei Ying; like Pam, she was known for her tireless energy and smart sustainability ideas. Pam said, “When I met Borough President Ying, I was reminded that we are not alone in this work. Sustainability is a global issue and thoughtful people all over the world are trying to figure out what to do next.”

**Sustainable Fare for Sustainable Jersey:** In addition to all of her public service work, Pam and her husband Gary Mount own [Terhune Orchards](#). Pam hosted three Sustainable Jersey fundraisers at Terhune Farm from 2012 through 2014. Sustainable Fare for Sustainable Jersey was a farm-to-table dining event that celebrated farmers, restaurants that serve local produce and eaters who love good food and bluegrass music. Pam organized a seven-course meal with wine pairings and music in the Terhune barn. Renowned area chefs came together to celebrate the farm-to-table movement and promote awareness of sustainability efforts while raising money for Sustainable Jersey. Terhune Orchards continues to hold this special event every year. In 2018 they hosted the seventh annual farm-to-table fundraiser dinner on the farm, with the proceeds now benefitting the [Mercer County Sustainability Coalition](#) that represents the green teams and sustainability organizations of Mercer County.



**Sustainable Jersey Board Chair Rick Dovey:** Rick is the president of the [Atlantic County Utilities Authority](#) (ACUA)—a position he has held for more than twenty-seven years. He oversees a staff of two-hundred and fifty, an annual operating budget exceeding sixty-million dollars and an annual capital budget averaging five-million dollars. The ACUA operates a forty million gallon-per-day wastewater treatment plant and a regional sewerage collection system serving fourteen municipalities in Atlantic County.



Rick served as the Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees Chair from 2015 through 2018. The Sustainable Jersey Board was fortunate to benefit from Rick’s vast expertise and sustainability knowledge during an important period of growth for the

organization. Rick is a thoughtful leader who inspires those around him to be and do better. During Rick's time as chair, Sustainable Jersey hosted the first New Jersey Sustainability Summit and launched the [Sustainable Jersey Gold Star Standards](#). The number of schools certified by Sustainable Jersey for Schools grew from fifty-nine to two hundred and forty-three while Rick was the board chair.



Rick spoke about what he sees as one of the strengths of the program; he said “Sustainable Jersey has created a grassroots movement throughout the state. It has empowered new sustainability leaders at the local level that have championed real results like the plastic bag legislation that is now moving through the state legislature. Single-use plastic reduction is an important issue to the community. Sustainable Jersey created a structure for the towns to work together to bring this issue to the state level.”



As board chair, Rick represented Sustainable Jersey at countless events and posed in hundreds of certification and grant award photos. Rick said, “I really enjoyed being in the photos because it allowed me to meet the green team members and see firsthand how enthusiastic they are about the program; they have a tremendous sense of accomplishment in the work they are doing in their communities which inspired me.” Rick participates on his local green team, [Sustainable Egg Harbor City](#), and the regional [Atlantic Cape May Sustainable Jersey Hub](#).

**More about Pam Mount:** Pam and her husband, Gary Mount, have owned and operated their family farm, [Terhune Orchards](#) in Lawrence Township, since 1975. It is a community treasure that welcomes more than half a million visitors each year. The family farms more than two hundred acres of permanently preserved farmland, growing forty different types of fruits and vegetables. Other highlights of the farm include a farm store, a winery tasting room and agritourism activities including festivals, Pick Your Own, educational opportunities and summer camps. Terhune Orchards is listed on the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection [Sustainable Business Registry](#) due to its many sustainable features such as solar panels, efficient lighting, trickle irrigation, no till planting and certified organic vegetable.



Pam's service to her community is impressive. She is one of the founding board members of the [Lawrence Hopewell Trail](#), a twenty-mile plus bicycle and pedestrian recreational trail that runs through public and private lands in Lawrence and Hopewell townships. She is the founding chair and board member of [Lawrence Community Foundation](#), which awards grants to local nonprofits. In 2006, Governor Corzine appointed Pam to the NJ Clean Air Council, and she served there until 2017. She represented Lawrence on the Central Jersey Transportation Forum and served as co-chair. She is a current board member of [New Jersey Future](#), a smart growth and development nonprofit. She continues to be a trustee on the Sustainable Jersey Board.

Pam served on several state level agricultural committees. As a board member of the [New Jersey Agricultural Society](#), she helped develop [New Jersey Farmers Against Hunger](#) and the [New Jersey Agricultural Leadership Development Program](#) for young farmers. Pursuing her lifelong interest in sustainability, climate change and preserving open space, Pam is also the board chair of Lawrence Conservation Foundation that has had a hand in saving forested areas, wetlands and farmsteads and is board president of the [Lawrence Nature Center](#). In 2016 she helped found [C-Change Conversations](#), a nonprofit, nonpartisan climate educational program.



The recipient of numerous awards, Pam was honored by the [New Jersey Society of Women Environmental Professionals](#) for her efforts to promote environmental sustainability in the local community and beyond. Pam said a lot of her inspiration comes from the beginning of her journey. She served in the Peace Corps in Micronesia from 1967-1970 after she graduated from Lake Erie College. She lived on a small island in the Pacific Ocean called Satawal, then spent six months traveling around the world. Pam explained, "In the Peace Corps, I learned that you can have a huge impact if you narrow your focus. For me it began in my community. When I was asked to chair the Sustainable Jersey Board, I stretched a bit and made New Jersey the focus." Pam and Gary have three children and nine grandchildren. Daughters Tannwen and Reuwai are now partners in the farm business.



**More about Rick Dovey:** Under Rick's leadership, the Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA) has been nationally recognized for excellence in innovation, efficiency and environmental stewardship. As a strong proponent of renewable energy and sustainability, he initiated many of ACUA's green projects, including: landfill gas utilization (turning methane gas into electricity), a 500-kilowatt solar installation, South Jersey's first compressed natural gas station, New Jersey's first wind farm at ACUA's Wastewater Treatment Facility, and most recently, the installation of the state's first and largest energy storage battery project. His continued focus on delivering excellent customer service and engaging with the community has made ACUA a highly regarded agency both locally and throughout the state.

Rick currently serves as treasurer of the [Atlantic County Economic Alliance](#), supervisor of the [Cape Atlantic Conservation District](#) Board, a member of the Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees, chair of the Egg Harbor City Industrial Commission, and as a member of the Stockton University Foundation Board. He is also a member of several advisory boards at Stockton University, Rowan University of Engineering, Atlantic Cape Community College and Atlantic County Institute of Technology. As an environmental leader, Rick is often called to advocate on behalf of the wastewater and solid waste industries. He is frequently asked to lend his knowledge on environmental topics and issues at industry conferences and events.



Rick holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Studies from Stockton University (formerly Richard Stockton College of New Jersey). He was a member of the first class at Richard Stockton College, referred to as the Mayflower students, because the school was located in the former Mayflower Hotel on the Atlantic City boardwalk. Rick has always been drawn to the natural environment. He credits time spent as an active Boy Scout in his home town of Edgewater Park in Burlington County as the inspiration that led him down the path of sustainability. He resides in Egg Harbor City with his wife, Mary. They have three children, Kate, Luke and Scott, and a new granddaughter.

Rick concluded, "Sustainability is more important than ever. There is definitely a movement growing in New Jersey thanks to Sustainable Jersey. I am proud to have been a part of it and look forward to continuing to work toward the goal of a more sustainable New Jersey."

*Photo of Pam Mount courtesy of Amy Goldstein Photography.*