

Sustainability Hero



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Nanette LoBiondo Galloway

Councilwoman, Egg Harbor City
Chair, SustainableEHC (Atlantic County)

Councilwoman Nanette LoBiondo Galloway is a standout sustainability champion with more than 24 years of experience as an award-winning journalist and community organizer. In 2022, she was elected to the Egg Harbor City Council, and has served as the chair of [SustainableEHC](#), Egg Harbor City's Green Team, since 2009.

Known for her integrity and fearless approach to environmental stewardship, good governance and communications, Nanette has made it her mission to advocate for a clean environment and to protect Egg Harbor City's natural resources.

Nanette's fundraising record alone is outstanding. Through her advocacy, the green team has secured more than \$1,117,000 in grant funding for sustainability projects. "It's my nature to find a way to tackle issues. If you tell me no, that only makes me want to work harder to find a way to get it done," Nanette explained.



As one of four sisters growing up in South Philly, Nanette learned early on how to get what she wanted by pairing her communication skills with her strong will. In high school, this resulted in using her babysitting money to see Jimi Hendrix, the Allman Brothers and many other artists at the Spectrum. Now, she is using her resourcefulness to protect Egg Harbor City's tree canopy while educating its residents on the benefits of trees.

Honored as Egg Harbor City Citizen of the Year in 1999, Nanette was also founder-past president of the Egg Harbor City Education Foundation, Inc., coordinator of NetDay Project that wired three schools for the internet and was chairwoman of Egg Harbor City Municipal Alliance for 12 years. Nanette is an active participant in Sustainable Jersey's [Atlantic-Cape May Hub](#) that supports green team communities in Atlantic and Cape May counties. She has published many articles to support the efforts of the Hub green teams.



[Egg Harbor City](#) achieved bronze-level Sustainable Jersey certification in 2015, 2018 and 2021. Egg Harbor City Mayor Lisa Jiampetti is an active member of SustainableEHC and serves on the [Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees](#). To learn more about the Egg Harbor City sustainability program, read the [2021 Sustainable Jersey Certification Report of Egg Harbor City](#). SustainableEHC has received \$41,000 in [Sustainable Jersey grants](#) to help support the work of the green team. In 2023, 2017 and 2015, SustainableEHC was awarded a \$2,000 Sustainable Jersey grant funded through the PSEG Foundation to support communications and capacity-building. In 2019, SustainableEHC received a \$10,000 Sustainable Jersey grant funded by the Gardinier Environmental Fund to conduct a solar feasibility study. Nanette is a leader on the Clean Energy

Program working group that addresses many energy-related sustainability initiatives including bringing public electric vehicle charging stations to Egg Harbor City's downtown corridor. The team was also awarded a \$25,000 Energy Planning Grant to forge a path toward energy savings for the municipality, its businesses and homeowners. The team was also awarded Atlantic City Electric's Sustainable Communities grants every year they have been offered.

\$1 Million Tree Grant: In September 2023, Egg Harbor City was awarded \$1 million grant that will be used to hire a certified tree expert who will be tasked with providing maintenance for the aging street trees, monitoring two city parks, planting trees on streets undergoing reconstruction and developing a plan to remove invasive species from public and private lands.

Nanette explained, "The city's urban tree canopy is in jeopardy because our trees are nearing the end of their lifespan, many have been removed during street reconstruction projects and felled in major storm events. This grant will provide the city with the funding needed to hire a certified tree expert to properly trim our street trees for health, safety and beauty, extending the lifespan of still-healthy trees that were planted in the rights-of-way of our avenues more than 80 years ago."



The United States Department of Agriculture awarded more than \$1 billion in grants from the Inflation Reduction Act allowing the U.S. Community Forestry Service to distribute funding to plant and maintain urban trees across the nation. Egg Harbor City's allotment of funding came through the Biden administration's [Justice 40 Initiative](#), which reserves 40% of funding opportunities for overburdened communities.

Lincoln Park Tree Identification: Community education and involvement is a key component of Egg Harbor City's forestry management plan. Lincoln Park, located in the heart of the city, now has signage that identifies and teaches residents about its large trees. Nanette explained, "I went to Lincoln Park and was mesmerized by the soaring trees, many of which are about to be 100-years old, and I immediately thought residents should be able to identify them and learn more about their best habitats." This work was made possible through a \$5,000 grant from the [Atlantic City Electric \(ACE\) Sustainable Communities Grant program](#) that is administered by Sustainable Jersey.



The project spotlights various tree species and provides a real-life example of a tree variety residents may want to plant at home. This is important because SustainableEHC also encourages its residents to [plant new trees](#) and the green team even created a brochure for guidance: [Tree Planting in Egg Harbor City](#).

Community Forestry Management Plan and Tree Inventory: To guide the process of developing a healthy, economically efficient and safe community forest, Egg Harbor City developed the [Community Forestry Management Plan 2019-2023](#). This is the most recent update to the document that plans for a five-year period. The proactive approach to tree/forest management is designed to lower tree hazard problems, decrease tree maintenance and removal costs and increase tree benefits for the community. SustainableEHC is working to ensure the goals outlined in the plan are accomplished. Egg Harbor City received 20 Sustainable Jersey certification points after completing the action: [Community Forestry Management Plan and NJUCF Accreditation](#).

Dick Colby, an active member of the SustainableEHC subgroup known as the "tree huggers," is largely responsible for the tree inventory. Colby, who was a professor at Stockton University, surveyed the city's 3,000+ street trees and recorded each tree's species identity, location, state of health, sidewalk/curb condition and property-owner. The data creates a Tree Hazard Inventory which identifies tree hazards and evaluates risks posed by structural defects, disease and pests to

the community tree resources. The inventory is an invaluable tool in managing municipal tree care programs. Egg Harbor City received 10 Sustainable Jersey certification points after completing the action: [Tree Hazard Inventory](#).

Tree Planting Projects: Egg Harbor City received two \$30,000 [New Jersey Urban & Community Forestry Program](#) (NJUCF) grants to plant new trees on public property. The first grant awarded in 2016 replaced 109 trees lost in the freak derecho storm of July 2012, and the most recent grant was used to plant [67 new street trees](#) in November 2022 and engage the community in maintaining them during the two-year maintenance period.

Nanette and SustainableEHC were recognized by the NJUCF and New Jersey Forest Service for this work. Nanette said, "In addition to the tree plantings, I'm really proud of how the community mindset has changed. Trees are valued now; they get why it is important and what we are trying to do. Sometimes it takes a long time to make change and I am glad to see the years of hard work are paying off." She added, "While these tree planting projects are not without challenges, it's important to educate the public about the importance of trees and their effects on the well-being of citizens." The tree plantings fulfill the recommendations in the Community Forestry Management Plan.



Egg Harbor City Lark Park Stewardship: The 400-acre Egg Harbor City Lake Park has a lake, a campground and Pine Barrens woodlands and wetlands. SustainableEHC has secured grants to enhance the park.

On October 4, 2023, it was announced that Egg Harbor City received a \$5,000 Sustainable Communities grant funded by [Atlantic City Electric](#)

[\(ACE\)](#). The grant will be used to upgrade the north shore side of the park, which is home to the historic gravesite of Sibel Shaler, by enhancing interpretive signage along the well-known trail. This grant will build on a \$5,000 ACE Sustainable Communities grant received in 2022 that was used to improve Nature Trail, a 3-mile trail located in the park. SustainableEHC team member Michael Sheridan created a plan and then led the effort to mark cultural resources along the trail. The upgraded trail includes a head-of-trail kiosk, signage, benches, newly planted trees and revegetated areas that were impacted by off-road vehicles. In 2020, Egg Harbor City received a \$10,000 ACE Sustainable Communities grant to shore up the bulkhead at City Lake Park.



Award Winning Journalist: Nanette has been covering news, events and people of Atlantic County for more than 20 years. Currently, she is a staff writer for [Downbeach.com/Mediawize, LLC](#). You can see her articles [here](#). More than half of the readership are vacationers and/or second homeowners. Nanette said, "Because many people in Atlantic County have summer homes here and they live in Philadelphia, they don't realize the marine environment is different. A lot of my stories call attention to the differences and how to adapt." A past controversy involved rabbits, attracted by homeowners manicured lawns and flowers, that were being poisoned. There was a need to create awareness about the impacts of poisoning on rabbits, dogs, humans and the environment: [Margate to introduce ordinance regulating use of vermin poisons](#).

More About Nanette: Nanette has lived in Atlantic County for 45 years. She first came to the area to work at Atlantic City Resorts International. She saw many great performers while working at the Superstar Theater, including Frank Sinatra, Diana Ross, Tina Turner, Johnny Carson and Jackie Gleason. In her spare time, she enjoys conversations with her son Matt who is living and working in St. Louis, Missouri. At home, her adopted dog Cooper makes sure that she walks every day. Nanette is also an accomplished quilter. She has made dozens of quilts and was the founder and past president of the [Lafayette Quilters' Guild](#).

