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Anna Evans

Committeewoman and Green Team Chair

Hainesport Township; Burlington County, New Jersey

Anna Evans serves on the [Hainesport Township Committee](#) and chairs the [Hainesport Green Team](#), where she is known for her energy and determination. A steadfast champion of sustainability, she has led the township's recent environmental efforts with focus and resolve. She does not shy away from hard fights, and that resilience has defined both her path to elected office and her deep commitment to the community she has called home for almost 26 years.

Anna's journey to elected leadership was anything but easy. She ran for Township Committee three times—and lost three times—in contentious elections that occasionally became personal. Rather than step away, Anna leaned in. She became chair of the Hainesport Democrats and continued to attend almost every Township Committee meeting, studying local policies, budgets, and township activities. She advocated for transparency, sustainability, and good government long before she held office.

In 2022, she won her seat by just 16 votes. Anna raised awareness about the long-term impacts of commercial development and connected with residents concerned about open space preservation and quality of life. Motivated by what she describes as a deep intolerance for social injustice, Anna also sought to bring broader representation to the Township Committee. "There hadn't been a Democrat on the committee for about 30 years," she said. "The community is strengthened by balanced representation." She was reelected in 2025.

Soon after taking office, Anna presented the Township Committee with a cost-benefit analysis for joining Sustainable Jersey. She highlighted grants, cost savings, and community benefits. The vote to join was unanimous. "I ran on a platform that included working toward Sustainable Jersey certification," Anna said. "The program is nonpartisan and offers actions, resources, and grants that help municipalities. It made sense to me."



In 2023, she formed and chaired Hainesport's Green Team. Within one year, the township achieved bronze-level certification. The following year, Hainesport advanced to silver-level certification—an impressive accomplishment for a small municipality building its sustainability infrastructure—and secured a \$20,000 grant. Read the [2025 Hainesport Township Certification Report](#).

Anna explained, "I like how Sustainable Jersey is set up. We take steps—actions—that increase awareness and our town's sustainability." For Anna, persistence is not just a personality trait. It is a governing philosophy — and in Hainesport, it is producing measurable change.

Residential Energy Efficiency Campaign: Anna secured Hainesport's participation in the [Sustainable Jersey–PSE&G Partnership Program](#), bringing in technical assistance and a \$2,500 grant to support a Residential Energy Efficiency Outreach Campaign. Launched at the Mayor's 2024 Wellness Event, the campaign includes a township-wide [letter from the mayor](#), informational sessions, open houses, social media outreach, a large banner, and [a dedicated website](#). Residents learned how to receive a free home energy assessment and access available incentives. In 2026, the township plans to target outreach to older neighborhoods.

The [Commercial Energy Outreach Video](#) features Committeeman Ken Montgomery and local business owner Audrey Winzinger highlighting PSE&G's free energy assessments and no-cost energy-saving products installed during visits. "This initiative helps residents save money while reducing their energy use," Anna said. "After this winter, we all need practical ways to reduce drafts and lower energy bills." Hainesport Township earned 20 certification points for completing the Sustainable Jersey action: [Residential Energy Efficiency Outreach](#).

Building Healthier Communities: Anna helped strengthen community wellness efforts through participation in the [New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute's Mayors Wellness Campaign](#). Anna began by compiling community health data to better understand the most pressing challenges facing residents, including vulnerable populations. After analyzing the data, she helped set measurable goals and expand education and prevention programs. "Improving health takes partnerships and commitment," Anna said. "And much of what determines a person's health is shaped by the conditions of the community they live in—and for us, that's Hainesport."

In 2024 Hainesport earned "[Healthy Town to Watch](#)" recognition and received a Mayors Outreach Campaign Wellness grant supporting seniors, youth, employees, and families. Highlights of the resulting programming include a free seminar on knee and hip anatomy and osteoarthritis management in partnership with the Hainesport Seniors Club; a preschool nutrition lesson with the Food Bank of South Jersey; and the annual Community Wellness Day. Hainesport Township earned 25 certification points by completing the Sustainable Jersey action: [Building Healthier Communities](#).

Enhanced Stormwater Management Control Ordinance: New Jersey municipalities are required to update their Stormwater Management Control Ordinances. Anna led Hainesport Township's review and strengthening of its existing ordinance to align with updated state requirements and improve long-term resilience.

"This was another positive result of our certification work with Sustainable Jersey," Anna said. "We followed the action guidance to improve our ordinance so Hainesport can manage stormwater more effectively—improving water quality, promoting green infrastructure, reducing local flood risks, and strengthening overall water management."

Working closely with the Township Engineer, the Township Committee guided amendments in four key areas to bring the ordinance into compliance with the state's requirements. The Township Committee introduced the stormwater ordinance in August 2025, followed by a public hearing and final adoption by the governing body in September 2025—positioning Hainesport to better manage future storm events and protect community assets ([Adopted Stormwater Ordinance](#)). Hainesport Township received 20 certification points for completing the Sustainable Jersey action: [Enhanced Stormwater Management Control Ordinance](#).

Rain Garden and Microforest: Anna is a champion for the Township's green infrastructure initiatives, addressing flooding, stormwater runoff, and water quality challenges that affect both residents and local ecosystems. The township installed a 165 square foot rain garden next to the Municipal Pavilion in 2023, with design and installation support from Rutgers Cooperative Extension, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, and leadership from the Township Committee and Environmental Commission. The garden captures roof runoff and improves filtration. Signage and articles in the Hainesport Newsletter educate residents about stormwater management. Additional rain gardens are planned for The Glen, a 55+ community prone to boggy conditions, and at municipal park fitness stations, where porous surfaces improve drainage and accessibility.

In 2025, the Hainesport Environmental Commission and Green Team assisted in creating a microforest through the Landscape Makeover Program, supported by an \$18,800 grant from New Jersey American Water and more than 25 volunteers. Over 20 native species of trees, shrubs, and wildflowers were densely planted using Miyawaki-inspired methods to reduce flooding, capture carbon, and support pollinators. Workshops accompanying the project help residents apply regenerative landscaping practices at home.



Environmental Resources Inventory Update: Anna was awarded a 2025 Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions Municipal Leadership Award. Hainesport’s [Environmental Resource Inventory](#) was nearing 24 years old when Anna led the Environmental Commission and Green Team to update it. The 160-page document was developed with [NJ-GeoWeb](#) and NJ Map mapping tools. By using volunteer hours, the Township paid nearly nothing. Hainesport Township earned 20 certification points with this inventory for the Sustainable Jersey action: [Natural Resources Inventory](#).

Bamboo Removal and Native Restoration: To address the rapid spread of invasive bamboo — known to crowd out native plants, destroy otherwise healthy and functional habitats and create standing water that attracts mosquitoes—the Hainesport Environmental Commission and Green Team secured a \$20,000 [Sustainable Jersey grant](#) funded by the PSEG Foundation. The funding supports the removal of bamboo across more than 60,000 square feet of Creek Turn Park and its replacement with native trees and plants. Volunteers of the Boy and Girl Scout Troop 22, Hainesport Green Team and the Environmental Commission helped to remove the invasive bamboo. This will improve biodiversity, stormwater management, and the recreational value of the park. Community planting events and educational signage will foster long-term stewardship. “The project brought outside funding to solve a local problem,” Anna said. “It definitely sparked widespread conversation about the issues, but ultimately shows how sustainability can support both environmental and fiscal health.”



Community Equity & Diversity Profile: One of Anna’s first major initiatives was completing the Community Equity and Diversity Profile for Hainesport Township. Using a combination of census data, online mapping tools, and local insight, she developed a comprehensive snapshot of the community’s demographics and communication needs.

The data revealed that Hainesport has the 27th oldest median age in New Jersey. It also highlighted a growing Punjabi Sikh community and a near doubling of the Asian population over the past decade. The profile identified five groups that may face communication or access barriers, including older Indian-American immigrants with limited English proficiency, residents over 75 living in aging housing stock, mobile home residents, Davenport Village residents and residents living with disabilities.

A key finding: while the township offers strong digital communications—a website, app, recorded meetings, and e-newsletters—four of the five identified groups may face barriers to accessing them. Age, income, and limited digital literacy underscored the need for more inclusive outreach. “If we improve social equity, we create a more informed and connected community,” Anna said. Hainesport earned 10 certification points for completing the Sustainable Jersey action: [Community Equity & Diversity Profile](#).

Recycling Depot: Anna worked closely with the Township Assistant Clerk and increased visibility and usage of Hainesport’s Recycling Drop-Off Center through improved signage and outreach. “It was always there, but not everyone knew about it,” she said. “We added a sign and publicized it. Small steps add up to meaningful change.” The resident-only site accepts electronics, paint, and other materials beyond curbside limits. Twice-yearly Community Clean Up Days further expand access. Ongoing promotion through flyers, newsletters, the township website, and social media has made the center more accessible and widely used.



Staffordshire to South Jersey: Born and raised in Little Haywood, Staffordshire, Anna grew up in a family that valued education—her father was a Deputy Headmaster and her mother was a kindergarten teacher. She earned a Master’s degree in Chemical Engineering from Imperial College London and later moved to the United States with her husband. Anna has lived in Hainesport with her husband, Keba, for 26 years. Their two daughters grew up and attended school in Hainesport and are graduates of Penn State University. Anna also holds a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Bennington College. She serves as Vice President of Global Bridge LLC, and teaches English at Rowan College at Burlington County and poetry at the West Windsor Arts Center. A published poet and translator, her works include *Under Dark Waters*, *Sisters & Courtesans*, and *The Selected Poems of Marceline Desbordes-Valmore*. She previously served on the Burlington County Women’s Advisory Board and on the Board of Education for the Burlington County Institute of Technology and the Burlington County Special Services School District. A fitness enthusiast, she regularly takes classes at Orangetheory Fitness.