

**SHOWCASE YOUR WORK!**



# SUCCESS STORIES CONTEST

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*Contest awards funded by:*



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## PROGRAM GUIDE & SUBMISSION INFORMATION

### 1. Program Overview

The Sustainable Jersey Success Stories Contest (herein referred to as the “Contest”) highlights projects implemented by municipalities participating in the [Sustainable Jersey](#) program. The Contest provides an opportunity for municipalities and green teams to showcase initiatives that improve environmental outcomes, advance local sustainability goals, and contribute to a more sustainable New Jersey.

Winners will be announced at the **Sustainable Jersey Annual Awards Luncheon**, held during the New Jersey State League of Municipalities (NJLM) Conference in November. First-, second-, and third-place winners will receive Sustainable Jersey awards funded by the PSEG Foundation ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 to further advance their sustainability efforts. Selected winners will also have the opportunity to present their project during the Sustainable Jersey Annual Luncheon.

### 2. Eligibility

To participate in the Contest:

- The municipality must be **participating (registered or certified) in the Sustainable Jersey program**
- The project or initiative must be **completed** and demonstrate ongoing or lasting benefits to the community
- The project must align with **Sustainable Jersey [actions](#) and sustainability goals**

**Municipalities may submit multiple projects**; however, only one project per municipality will be selected for an award.

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## 3. Program Structure & Submission Requirements

The Contest consists of two rounds of evaluation. A Gmail account is needed to submit the Google form for each submission round—learn how to easily create a free account [here](#).

### Round One: Project Submission

Municipalities will submit projects using this Google form:

[bit.ly/SJSuccessStoriesContestForm](https://bit.ly/SJSuccessStoriesContestForm)

Each submission must include:

- **Municipality Information**  
Municipality name, county, and primary contact information. The primary contact should be a municipal employee or appointed/elected official, such as a green team member.
- **Project Overview**  
Describe your project, including the project title, year implemented, goals, and any key partners or collaborators involved.
- **Implementation and Impact**  
Describe how the project was implemented and the outcomes achieved. Include sustainability benefits, community impact, and any observable results.
- **Supporting Materials (Optional)**  
Upload or link to any supporting materials, such as photographs, reports or plans, media coverage, or other relevant information.

### Round Two: Semi-Finalist Presentations

Selected semi-finalists will be invited to submit a short presentation highlighting their project. A link to the Round Two submission form will be provided directly via email upon notification of selection.

Semi-finalist presentations should be approximately **2–5 minutes in length** and may be submitted in one of the following formats:

- Recorded video
- PowerPoint presentation
- Written presentation script

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While the initial submission focuses on describing the project, the presentation is an opportunity to **tell the full story in a more engaging format**. Presentations should go beyond the written application by:

- Bringing the project to life through storytelling
- Highlighting key impacts and outcomes
- Showcasing community engagement and partnerships
- Demonstrating how the project advanced Sustainable Jersey goals or actions
- Lessons learned for other municipalities who may take on a similar project

Presentations may be used by Sustainable Jersey for educational and promotional purposes, including sharing on the Sustainable Jersey website, social media, presentations, and program reports.

## 4. Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be evaluated based on overall project impact, community engagement, alignment with sustainability goals, and the ability to clearly communicate the project's story and community benefits.

**Round One** focuses on identifying successful and impactful sustainability projects across participating municipalities.

**Round Two** provides semi-finalists with an opportunity to further showcase their work, with an increased emphasis on storytelling, presentation, project impact and advice for municipalities seeking to implement a similar project.

## 5. Awards

Winners will receive awards (1st place) \$2,000; (2nd place) \$1,000; (3rd place) \$500 and will be recognized through Sustainable Jersey communications and at the Sustainable Jersey Annual Luncheon at the NJLM Conference. The award checks will be made out to the municipality and are intended to support local sustainability efforts.

Selected winners will also have the opportunity to present their project during the Sustainable Jersey Annual Luncheon at the NJLM Conference.

Contest awards are funded by the PSEG Foundation.

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## 6. Timeline

Phase	Deadline
Round 1: Submission Period Opens	May 2026
Informational Session	May 20, 2026
Round 1: Submission Deadline	June 22, 2026
Semi-Finalists Notified	Late - July 2026
Round 2: Semi-Finalist Presentations Due	September 14, 2026
Finalists Notified	Mid October
Contest Winners Announced at the Sustainable Jersey Annual Luncheon at the NJLM Conference	November 2026

## 7. Contact Information

For questions regarding the Municipal Success Stories Contest, please contact:

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