SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION NEWSLETTER



Philip's Academy Charter School Plants 31 Trees and Grows Community Health and Resilience (Essex County)

JERSE

In 2024, Philip's Academy Charter School planted 31 beautiful shade trees along several streets leading to the school thanks to a Trees for Schools grant of nearly \$150,000. The school is using the grant over a three-year period to fund costs associated with planning, site preparation, trees, planting, watering, monitoring and other related expenses.





Communities Take Action to Make Leaf and Lawn Maintenance More Sustainable

Movement away from gas-powered leaf blowers is happening in municipalities across the United States. In 2024, Sustainable Jersey introduced a new certification action: Town-Wide Gas Leaf Blower Restrictions.

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Reading-Fleming Intermediate School Turns Unused Area Into a Pollinator Garden and Outdoor Classroom (Hunterdon County)

Reading-Fleming Intermediate School (RFIS) transformed an unused area of their school campus into a certified pollinator garden and outdoor classroom in just over two years. The Readington-Fleming Intermediate School Garden earned both the National Wildlife Foundation's Certified Schoolyard Habitat status and The Watershed Institute, New Jersey Water Supply Authority and Raritan Headwaters Association River Friendly School certification in Spring 2023.

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Sustainable Jersey for Schools Celebrates 10 Years

Sustainable Jersey for Schools is celebrating 10 years of New Jersey



Celebrating Progress, Envisioning the Future

public schools getting certified. Since the 2015 inaugural group of 59 certified schools, a total of 566 schools have earned certification. Today, over 1,202 schools participate in the program, driving change on critical sustainability issues across New Jersey.

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TRIENNIUM 2

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

Make the Switch to a Cleaner and Greener Fleet

New Jersey is leading the way on electric vehicle (EV) adoption on the East Coast. New Jersey's Clean Energy Program Clean Fleet EV Incentive Program supports local, state government and nonprofit entities as they transition to EVs. The program offers incentives to eligible entities for purchasing EVs and charging equipment. Incentives are also available for fleets for the make-ready costs for charging equipment. Extra incentives are available for overburdened municipalities. Applications are accepted until funds are expended.



New Jersey's Decarbonization Efforts and Energy Efficiency Initiatives StrengthenedJanuary 1, 2025

marked the start of the second program cycle, or Triennium 2, of New Jersey's multi-year energy efficiency programs available through New Jersey's seven public electric and gas utilities. In the process of supporting building decarbonization and energy conservation, these programs will prioritize low-income customers who shoulder disproportionately high energy burdens.



Sustainability Heroes

September

October

November



<u>Betsy Freeman</u>

Readington Township Public Schools Green Committee and Readington Middle School Gift and Talent Development and Enrichment Teacher



David L. Steinberg

Runnemede Borough Green Team; Towns Helping Towns Committee; Reimagine Runnemede



<u>Joann Held</u>

Chair, Hopewell Valley Green Team; Member, Pennington Borough Environmental Commission





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