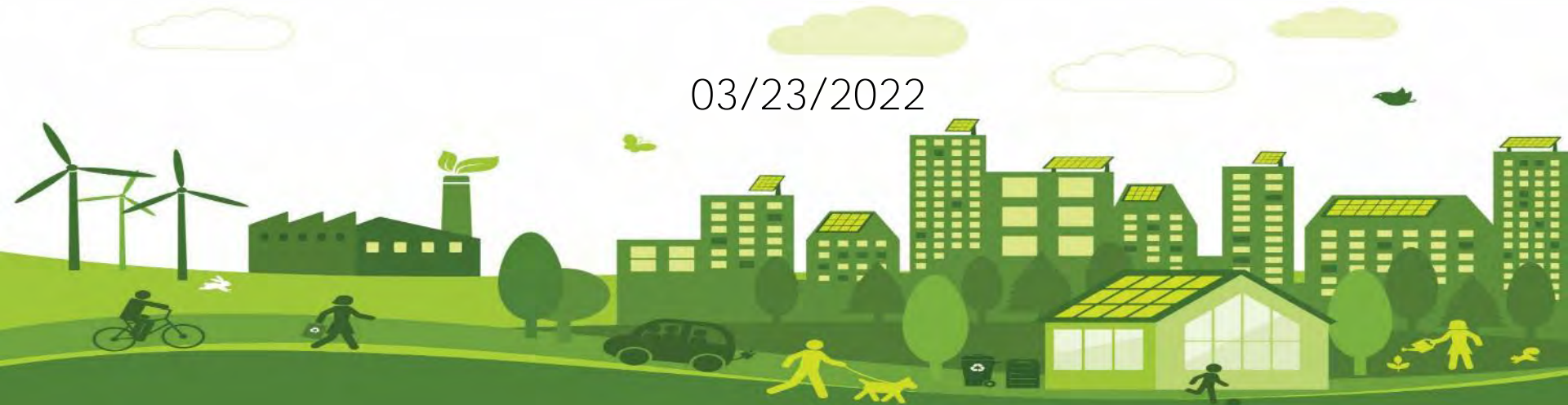




Sustainable Jersey for Schools: Promoting Green Actions in Schools

03/23/2022





Presentation Outline

- What is Sustainable Jersey for Schools?
- Benefits of Participation
- Framework for Sustainability
- Certification
- Support for schools – guidance & resources
- New initiatives
- Grants & Events
- Q&A



Sustainable Jersey for Schools

A free, voluntary program that provides tools, training, and grants to New Jersey public schools to help them implement sustainability initiatives and achieve certification.



- Launched in 2014
- Modeled after successful municipal program
- New Jersey based and consensus driven
- Awards certification to individual schools but requires School Board and district level support



Program Participants

School Program

64 % of NJ Districts Registered

42% of NJ Schools Registered (>1000)

335 Schools Certified

- 292 Bronze
- 43 Silver

37 Digital Schools Stars

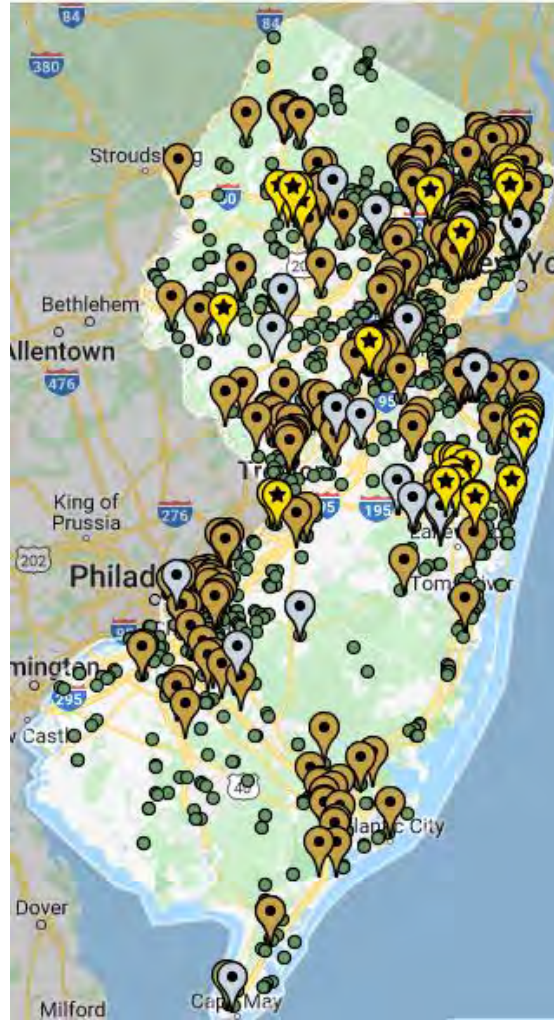
Municipal Program

81% of NJ Municipalities Registered (463)

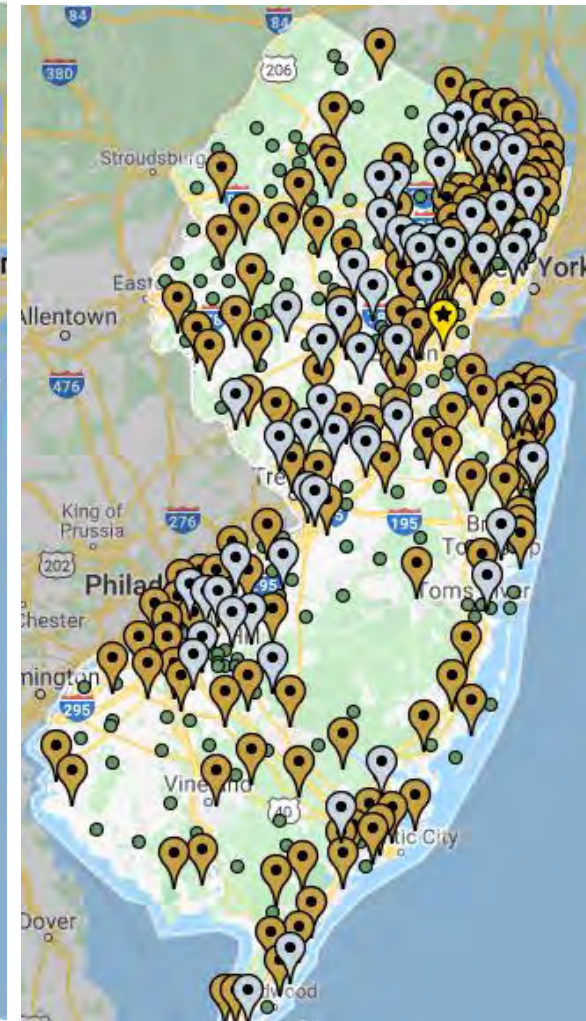
215 Certified

- 148 Bronze
- 67 Silver
- 2 Gold Stars

School Program Participants



Municipal Program Participants





Why Participate?

Sustainable Jersey for Schools...

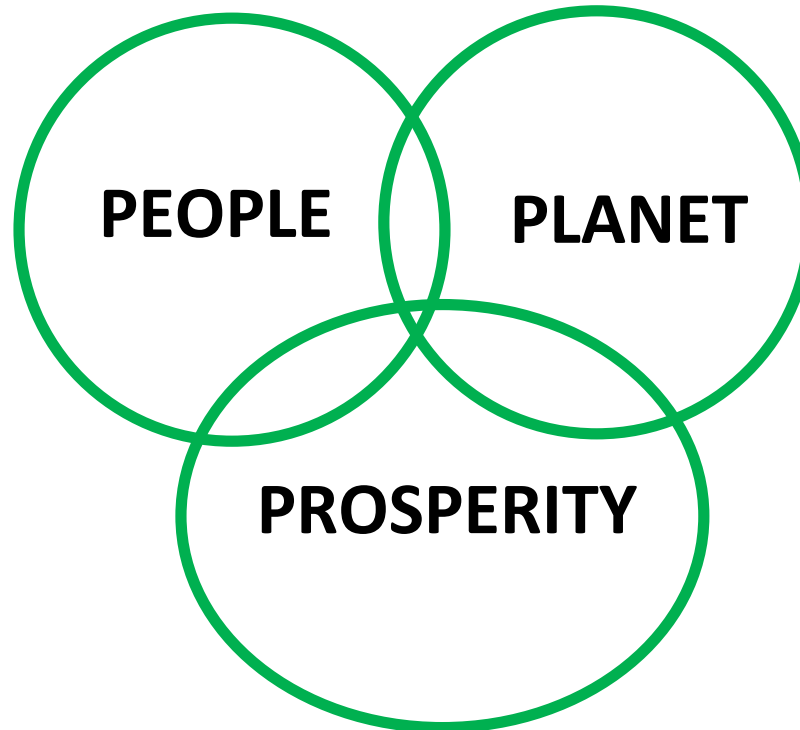
- Identifies **actions** to become more sustainable
- Provides **tools, resources, and guidance** to make progress
- Provides access to **grants** for schools and school districts
- Recognizes **accomplishments**





What is Sustainability?

Stewardship of People, Planet & Economic Resources



Components of Sustainability



Sustainability Framework

Designed for New Jersey Schools

- Program actions developed by Task Forces of subject matter experts from:
 - Professional associations
 - Local non-profits
 - State and federal agencies
 - Private sector
- Schools choose from menu of actions to earn points for certification

PEOPLE		Points
DIVERSITY & EQUITY		
	Accessible Communications	10
	Breakfast After The Bell	20
	Diversity on District Task Forces & Committees	10
FOOD & NUTRITION		
	Healthy Food Choices	10
	Promote Locally Grown Foods	10
	School Gardens	10
HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS		
	Indoor Air Quality Review ★	15
	Access to Healthy Water in Schools	20
	Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement	10
	Asthma Friendly Schools	10
	Classroom Chemical Purchase, Storage & Disposal Policy	15
	Classroom Cleanup Policy & Practices	10
	Integrated Pest Management-Education & Organic Lawn Care	10
	Outdoor Air Quality Awareness	10
	Radon Testing, Education and Mitigation	10-20
	Reporting Process for Indoor Air Quality Concerns	10
SCHOOL CULTURE & CLIMATE		
	Inclusive Environment Where All Can Thrive	10
	School Culture & Climate Needs Assessment	20
	Social Emotional Learning Integrated Unit	10
STUDENT & COMMUNITY OUTREACH		
	Green Team ▲	10
	Community Education & Outreach ★	10
	Civic & Stewardship Volunteer Initiatives	10

PROSPERITY	BOARD LEADERSHIP & PLANNING	Points
	Professional Development for Sustainability ★	5-20
	District Sustainability Policy	10
	Green Enhancement of District Strategic Plans	10
	School Community Asset Mapping	10
	School District Foundation	10
	Strategic Plan Implementation of Green Initiatives	10

PLANET	CLIMATE MITIGATION & RENEWABLE ENERGY	Points
	School Carbon Footprint ★	10
	Buy Renewable Electricity	10
	On-site Renewable Generation System-Geothermal	10
	On-site Renewable Generation System-Solar	5-40
GREEN CLEANING		
	Green Cleaning Equipment	10



Choose from 100+ Actions for Sustainability

So far....



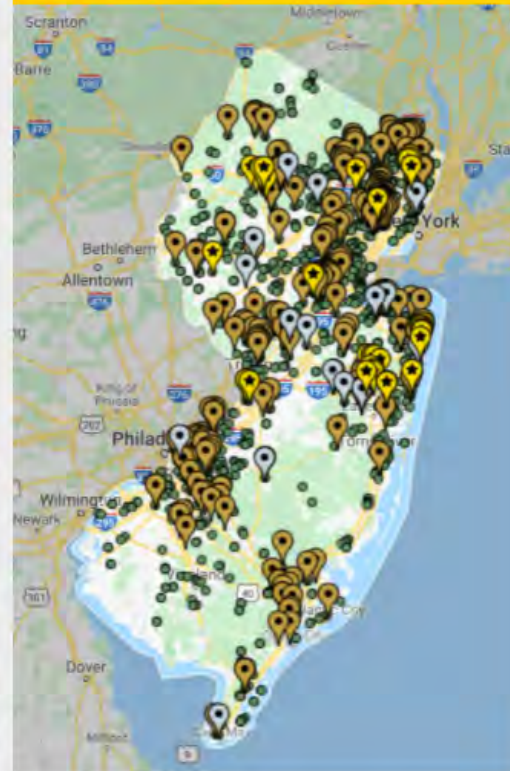
<https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/actions/>



APPLY FOR AN EDF CLIMATE CORPS FELLOW

Free Technical Assistance for Energy Projects!
Applications are due Wednesday April 6, 2022.

View Districts, Schools and Approved Actions



Find participating districts and schools and search school certification reports to view documentation for approved

Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification Program

64%

of New Jersey public school districts are

1046

Participating Schools

335

Certified Schools

7,063

Actions Approved

282

43

37



Five Steps to Certification

• School district adopts resolution of participation and registers. Then any school in the district may also register to participate.

• School principals register their school with letter of participation signed by principal and superintendent

• Green Team created at district or school level to coordinate certification effort

• District/School completes certification actions totaling at least 150 points

• Green Team uploads documentation and submits application



Annual Certification Cycle

Online application for certification has 3 rounds of submissions and reviews each year

2022 Application Cycle:

- **January 13** – Initial Application Deadline
- Late February – Reviewer Comments
- **March 29** – Second Submission
- Early May – Reviewer Comments
- **June 15** – Final Application Submission
- Early August – Certified Schools Notified
- **October** – Certified Schools Celebration



<https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/certification/2022-certification-cycle/>



Levels of Recognition

Bronze Certification



- 150 points
- Green team
- 2 out of 14 priority actions
- Actions completed in 6 of 22 categories

Silver Certification



- 350 points
- Green team
- 3 out of 14 priority actions
- Actions completed in 8 of 22 categories

<https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/certification/certification-overview/>

Digital Schools Star



- 7 Digital Learning actions
- 3 Student Learning actions with digital technology
- 1 School Culture & Climate action with digital learning

https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/fileadmin/media/Digital_Schools/SJDS_Info_Sheet_2021.pdf



Priority Actions

These are actions considered to be especially important and foundational for sustainability in New Jersey schools. They cover a diverse range of education-related topic areas – from Student Learning to Operations.

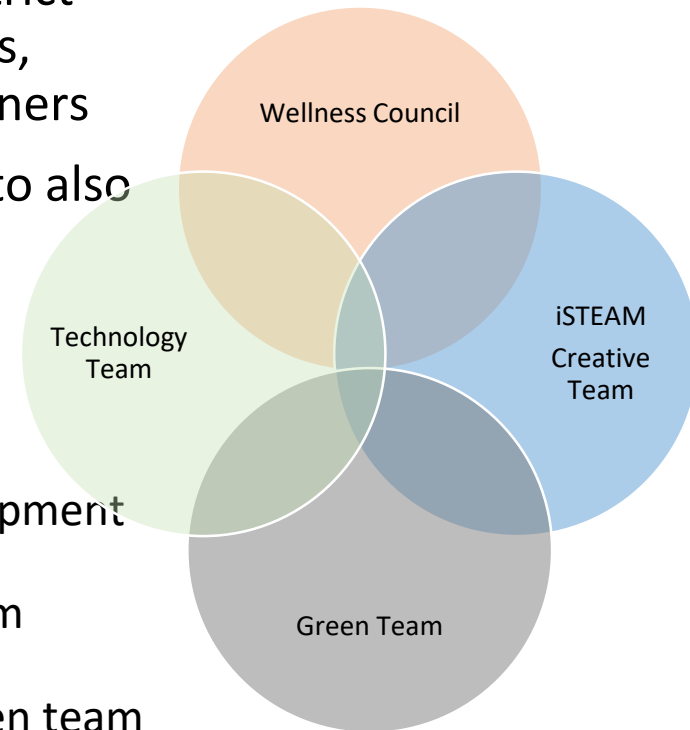
14+ Priority Actions

- District Sustainability Policy
- Professional Development for Sustainability
- School Carbon Foot Print
- District Commitment to Digital Learning
- Equitable Access to Digital Learning
- Digital Citizenship
- Education for Sustainability Actions
(category of 14 actions)
- Energy Efficiency for School Facilities
- Green Building Policy
- Green Purchasing Policy
- Indoor Air Quality Review
- Community Education & Outreach
- School Wellness Council
- Waste Audit



Activate A Green Team

- Recruit members from diverse sectors of the district – administration, educators, facilities, food services, school nurse, parents, students, community partners
- Use existing committees (e.g. Wellness Council) to also serve as green team
- Tips to encourage and facilitate staff participation in the green team:
 - Make sustainability part of district goals
 - Include sustainability-related professional development in staff goals
 - Provide stipends to staff to coordinate green team initiatives and the application process
 - Release staff from hall/lunch/recess duty for green team meetings and to work on application
 - Use a shared drive (e.g. Google) to compile documents for application
 - Publicly recognize green team efforts and the contributions of volunteers



Green Team Resources

Creating a Green Team

Working on Certification

Promoting Your Green Team

Presentations

Resource Library

Publications

Green Team Resources

Creating a Green Team

Learn what you need to know when establishing a green team.

Read More

Working on Certification

View resources to help green teams achieve certification.

Read More

Green Team Promotion

Read helpful tips on how to promote the work of your team.

Read More

Apply for a Grant

Find out about Sustainable Jersey for Schools grants to help complete actions.

Learn More

Check out Green Team Resources at:

<https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/resources/green-team-resources/>

Quick Start Resources

Application User Guide

This document provides step-by-step guidance on all aspects of the Dashboard, School Dashboard and online certification application. It covers the online application, updating the District or School profile, and managing the account.

Download Application User Guide

Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet

This spreadsheet provides an inventory of program actions, at requirements, look back and approval periods, resubmission requirements, and point values. It is a great tool to help a green team identify what actions have been completed by the district or the school. The spreadsheet can also be used to track progress in completing actions the school or district may already be doing and hopes to pursue. It can also be used to track progress in compiling the required documentation.

Download the MATS

Sustainable Jersey for Schools Brochure

This brochure lists all of the actions in the program and the general requirements. It is an excellent resource for green team meetings.

Sustainable Jersey for Schools Registered Logo

When your school is registered with Sustainable Jersey, you can have access to the Sustainable Jersey for Schools registered logo. The logo should be used in accordance with Sustainable Jersey for Schools logo guidelines.

To request a registered logo, email schools@sustainablejersey.com.



Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certified Logo

Each certified school receives a customized certified logo that includes its name. Logos are customized for bronze and silver certification.

The logo is emailed to all green team members with access to their school's certification application at the time of certification.



TIP: Download the Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet to survey actions and plan: https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/fileadmin/media/Grants_and_Resources/Green_Team_Resources/Certification/SJS_Master_Action_Tracking_Spreadsheet.xlsx



Partner With Your Municipal Green Team

Look up your town on the Sustainable Jersey Municipal Program website:

<https://www.sustainablejersey.com/certification/search-participating-municipalities-approved-actions/>

Search for “Collaboration” actions. These are actions that schools and municipalities can work on together and each earn points for their respective certifications.

<https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/actions/>

Search Actions

Click a box below to open all the actions with that attribute. Clear Search to reset filters.

Mandatory
 Priority
 District Only
 School Only

Collaboration

Digital Schools

Search Actions

[↑ BACK TO TOP](#)
[EXPAND ALL](#) ↓

Board Leadership & Planning

School Community Asset Mapping

10 Points

Collaboration



Action Descriptions on Website

Green Purchasing Policy

10 Points Bronze Priority Silver Priority District

Why is it important?
Who should lead and be involved with this action?
Timeframe
Project costs and resource needs
What to do, and how to do it ("How to")
What to submit to earn points for this action
Spotlight: What NJ Schools are doing

Resources

Print Action Description
Download PDF Version

Resources

The following resources may be helpful in completing this action.

SAMPLE Policies

Comprehensive Green Purchasing Policy Sample can be found here

- Township of Bernards Green Purchasing Policy is modeled after the Comprehensive Green Purchasing Policy Sample

Simple Green Purchasing Policy Sample can be found here

- The simple policy is modeled after the Santa Cruz City School Board Environmental Preferable Purchasing Policy. The Santa Cruz City School Board passed a landmark EPP policy to encourage the use of environmentally-preferable products and services, thereby reducing its environmental footprint. Download the PDF of the policy here.

Green Standards and Purchasing

Carpet and Rug Institute, Green Vacuum Cleaner standards <http://www.carpet-rug.org/CRI-Testing-Programs/CRI-Seal-of-Approval-Program/Vacuums/Certified-Vacuums.aspx>

EcoLogo Certified products, services, and packaging are certified for reduced environmental impact. EcoLogo certifications are voluntary, multi-attribute, lifecycle-based

<https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/actions/>



Check out Examples: Action Spotlights

Exemplary submissions from schools that were certified are “spotlighted” in the action descriptions:

Education for Sustainability Grades 4-12 Social Studies 5 Points School

Why is it important?

Who should lead and be involved with this action?

Timeframe

Project costs and resource needs

What to do, and how to do it ("How to")

What to submit to earn points for this action

Spotlight: What New Jersey schools are doing

Resources

[Print Action Description](#)

[Download PDF Version](#)

Spotlight: What New Jersey schools are doing

Bell Oaks Elementary School, Bellmawr Public School District

The students of Bell Oaks Elementary School viewed a Channel One News video that explained how Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Four Freedoms" speech sought to move Americans to join the war and laid the framework for the declaration. To view Bell Oaks Elementary School approved submission click [here](#).

Bret Harte Elementary School, Cherry Hill School District

During our Trash to Treasures project, students used waste products from their homes in order to create a usable product. This project effectively involved both students and parents as conversations extended into the homes as students sought to recycle and repurpose waste products. The creativity involved in the project also sparked interest among students and families alike, leading to far reaching effects such as follow-up conversations and suggestions for extension activities in the home. To view the complete description of Bret Harte Elementary School's Trash to Treasures project click [here](#).

Reeds Road Elementary School in Galloway, NJ The fourth grade students Reeds Road Elementary School learned about the life cycle of plastic water bottles to help them understand how to combat linear waste. Students participated in a blind taste test of bottled and tap water. They brainstormed different ways to break the cycle of products that damage the environment through reducing, recycling, and re-using. Students were



Check out Examples From Your Peers: Certification Reports

Use the Participating Schools Map to find examples of documentation from certified schools

Search by action

View certified schools approved for that action

View certification report for example documentation

MAP VIEW LIS

Filter This Map

By Type

- District
- School
- All

By Status

- Registered
- Bronze Certified
- Silver Certified
- Digital Schools Stars Awarded
- Any Certified
- Any

By Certified Action

- Board Leadership & Planning
- District Sustainability Policy
- Professional Development for Sustainability

Map Satellite


Tabernacle Elementary School (Burlington)
Certification Level: Silver
Certified On: August 09, 2018
Total Points: 440
Certification Report: [View Report](#)
Applicant Profile: [View Profile](#)

<https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/certification/search-participating-districts-schools-approved-actions/>

more
Dover
Milford
Cape May
Ocean City
Google
Keyboard shortcuts

Search Features

Sustainable Jersey for Schools Community Certification Report

 [Download PDF Version](#)

This is the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification Report of Tabernacle Elementary School (Burlington), a Sustainable Jersey for Schools silver certified applicant.

Tabernacle Elementary School (Burlington) was certified on August 09, 2018 with 440 points. Listed below is information regarding Tabernacle Elementary School (Burlington)'s Sustainable Jersey for Schools efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Jersey for Schools contact for Tabernacle Elementary School (Burlington) is:


Name:	Gerald Paterson
Title/Position:	Principal / Principal
Address:	141 New Road Tabernacle, New Jersey 08088
Phone:	6092680150 Ext. 2003

Sustainability Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Tabernacle Elementary School (Burlington) was approved for in 2018 appears below. Note: Standards for the actions changed and the documentation listed may no longer satisfy requirements for that action points associated with actions prior to 2013 certifications may not be accurate.

Example of certification report; scroll down report to find submission information for searched action.

BOARD LEADERSHIP & PLANNING

District Sustainability Policy 10 Points  District

Program Summary:





The Tabernacle Township Board of Education recognizes its role as a responsible steward of the environment. Embracing the sustainable schools concept and building healthy and sustainable schools positively impacts not only our students' learning experience but the health of the entire community. To this end, it supports sustainable planning and operations, as well as sustainability education and shall therefore endeavor to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The District's goal is to not only incorporate sustainability into our operational and business practices to the extent of economic and practical feasibility, but to make it an integral part of the students' educational experience. We seek to preserve our natural environment while balancing social, economic and environmental issues. The District believes that it is both possible and desirable to:

- Protect the environment and preserve natural resources;
- Improve the learning environment and student health;
- Enhance sustainability leadership in our schools and community;
- Strive to create green and healthy spaces within and outside our schools;
- Create a culture of Environmental Stewardship.

• Save General Fund dollars that can be used towards education and jobs. The District further believes that public education can provide leadership in sustainable development and operations. Therefore, it shall implement this policy in a manner that will involve those who attend, visit, and work in support of the District. The extent of this policy is far-reaching. It will include, but not be limited to:

- Facility operations, functionality, design and construction;
- Purchasing;
- Curriculum development;
- Health and Wellness.

The Superintendent, in consultations with the Business Administrator shall establish administrative procedures and guidelines to implement this policy. Our district continues to recognize the importance of sustainable practices. There is on going support for the SJ4S actions as we strive towards a more responsible & sustainable school.

-  [BOE Approval Documentation](#)
-  [District Sustainability BOE minutes 2017](#)
-  [District Sustainability Policy Documentation/BOE](#)
-  [District Sustainability Policy Documentation/screen shot](#)



Moving Forward to Certification!

Make a plan!

- Focus on completing your Green Team Action
- Two Priority Actions
- Then review remaining actions to determine which actions you could complete by the final application deadline.
- Low-hanging fruit – Look for actions that your school/district is already doing or could easily complete.
- Add additional contributors to your dashboard to help with the online application.



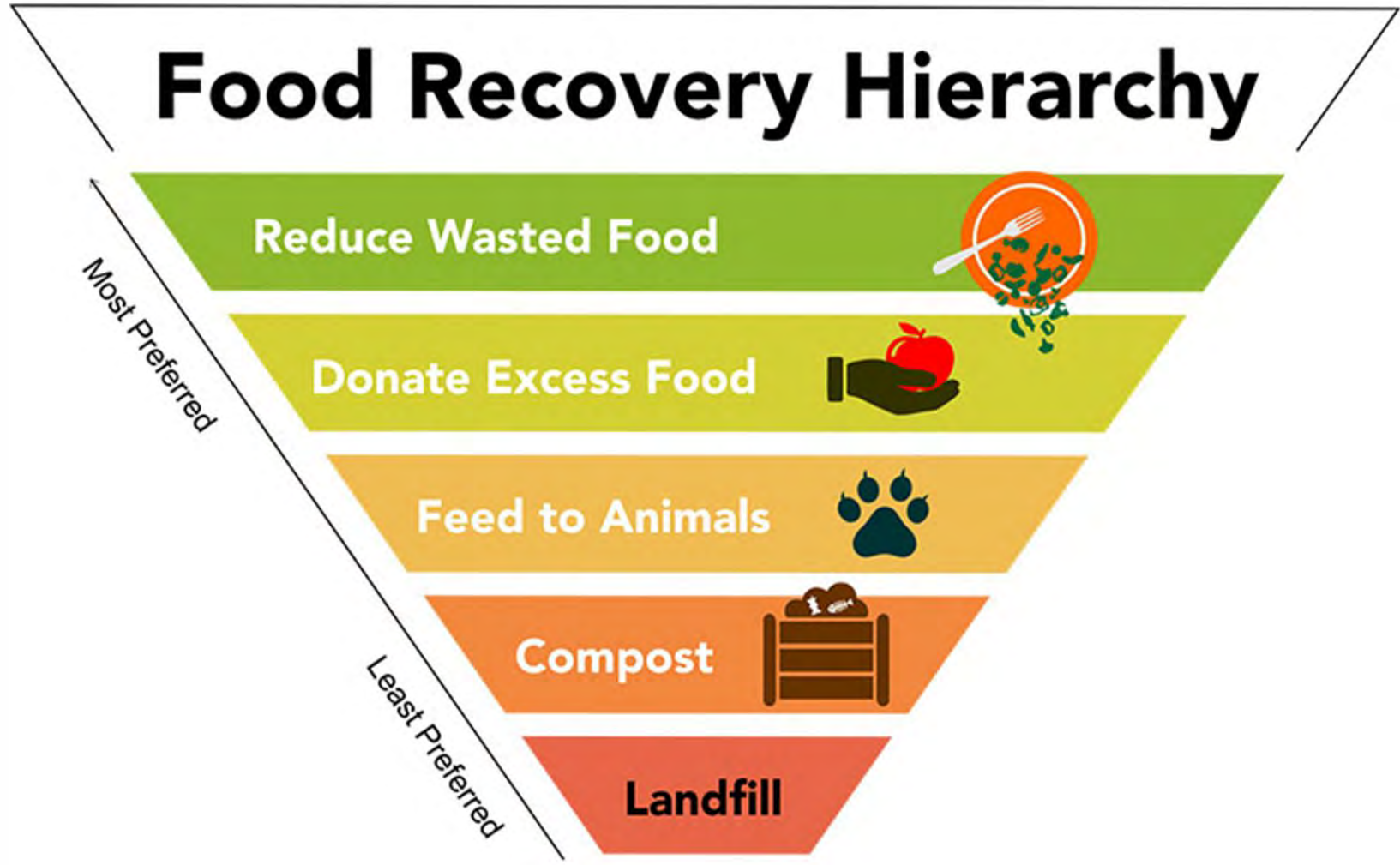
Resources On Our Website

www.SustainableJerseySchools.com

- [Participating Districts & Schools](#): Check list of participating schools and search certification reports
- [Actions page](#): Review actions to see where your district and schools can earn points. Link to *Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet* - lists all actions and brief summary of their requirements
- [Grants and Technical Assistance page](#): Participating districts and schools may apply for **SJS Grants and technical assistance** to support sustainability initiatives.
- [Events page](#): Find out about upcoming webinars or view recordings of past webinars



New Initiatives: Food Waste Pilot Project





Food Waste Pilot Project

Reduce Food Waste



Recover Uneaten Food



Recycle (compost)





New Initiatives: Climate Change Education

Climate Change Education Learning Standards

With the adoption of the 2020 New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS), New Jersey became the first state in the nation to include climate change across content areas. These standards are designed to prepare students to understand how and why climate change happens, the impact it has on our local and global communities and to act in informed and sustainable ways.

Districts are encouraged to utilize the NJSLS to develop interdisciplinary units focused on climate change that include authentic learning experiences, integrate a range of perspectives and are action oriented.

By September 2022

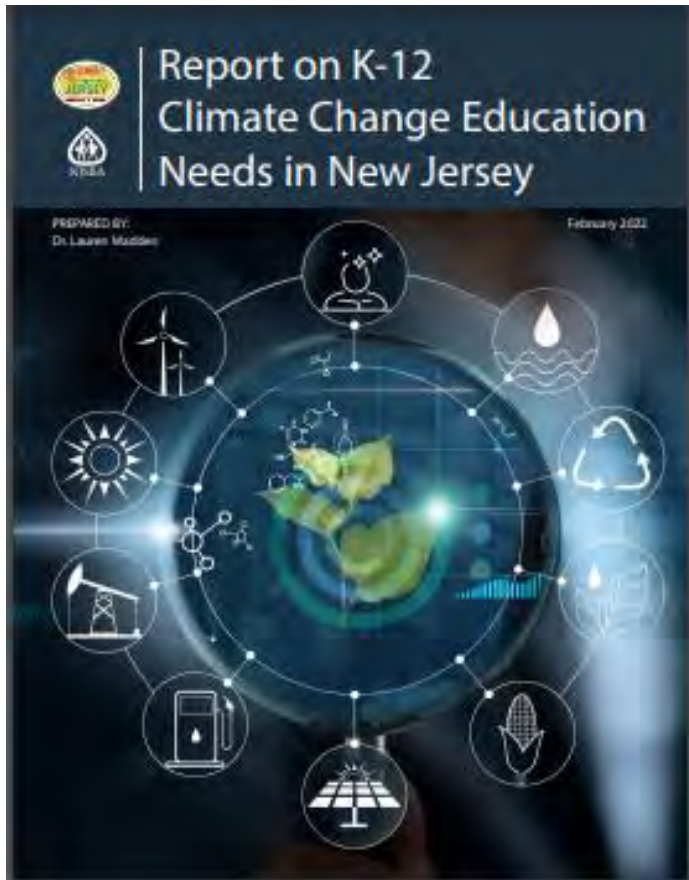
Visual and Performing Arts
Comprehensive Health and Physical Ed .
Science

Social Studies
World Languages
Computer Science & Design Thinking
Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills

Future Updates

English Language Arts
Mathematics

Implementation



Documents findings of a Thought Leader Committee

Key Needs & Recommendation

- Professional Learning
- Curricular Resources
- Community-Based Climate Education
- Support from Boards of Education

[https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/fileadmin/media/Grants and Resources/Resources/climate-change-ed-online-Final.pdf](https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/fileadmin/media/Grants_and_Resources/Resources/climate-change-ed-online-Final.pdf)

Climate Change Education Resources

OFFICIAL SITE OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Department of Education

<https://www.nj.gov/education/standards/climate/>

New Jersey Student Learning Standards

NJSLS Home | Content Areas


Home / New Jersey Student Learning Standards Instructional Supports / NJ Climate Change Education Resources

NJ Climate Change Education Resources

The New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) are designed to prepare students to understand how and why climate change happens, the impact it has on our local and global communities and to act in informed and sustainable ways. The website is designed to foster an interdisciplinary approach to climate change education that is evidence-based, action-oriented and inclusive.


Message From First Lady Tammy S. Murphy

Dear New Jersey Educators,



Year after year, New Jersey's public education system is ranked one of – if not the best – in the nation. This achievement is a point of pride for our state and would not be possible without the dedication, creativity, and skillfulness of our educational professionals. Your work is not simply job preparation. You teach each generation to communicate, to think critically, and to be curious about the world around them. As we face the reality of the climate crisis as a state, we must also help the next generation of leaders prepare for the environmental challenges of the future. Through the incorporation of climate change education across our New Jersey Student Learning Standards, your classrooms and communities can become even greater incubators for cutting-edge ideas, critical and creative thinking, and practical problem-solving, to best cultivate a generation of solutions and plans that are sustainable. The challenge ahead of us is great. But, with the Governor's commitment to reaching 100 percent clean energy by 2050 and a host of other green initiatives, New Jersey is positioned to be a leader of the climate movement – now and in the future. Together, we can ensure that our students are equipped with the knowledge and resources needed to combat the climate crisis, no matter what career they choose. I know our students couldn't possibly be in better hands, and I thank you all!

My very best,



First Lady Tammy Murphy

Climate Change Education: New Jersey Student Learning Standards

Responding to Climate Change: What's Happening in NJ Schools

First Lady Tammy Murphy & Climate Change Education

SUBJECT TO CLIMATE


<https://subjecttoclimate.org/>

Log In

Your Connector to **FREE** Climate Resources for **ALL** Subjects

Start here if you don't know what you're looking for. We have lesson plans for Art, English, Math, and more!

Our Lesson Plans



Free

Teacher-approved

Subject-reviewed

Know What You're Looking For?


Enter Keywords

Search

Subject ▾ Grade ▾

Student-Friendly News Articles

News articles that can be adjusted to your students' grade levels and enrich their climate learning experience.



Explore the Collection | Teaching Climate and Energy | Get Involved



Committed to Climate and Energy Education

Teaching about Climate and Energy?

Our team of educators and scientists has reviewed and organized the best free teaching resources for K-12 through college.

Search the award-winning collection

Go

Entire Collection | Activities | Videos | Visualizations

Featured Resource



Carbonated Communities

This series of two lessons uses cutting-edge scientific research on the effects of climate change on communities in the ...

Activity

Get Started Teaching Climate and Energy

Easy-to-read explanations of science and policy, designed to step students through the key principles of climate and energy

- Suggested teaching approaches, selected for various grade levels
- Spanish-language versions
- Supporting materials from the CLEAN reviewed collection
- Culturally relevant climate teaching

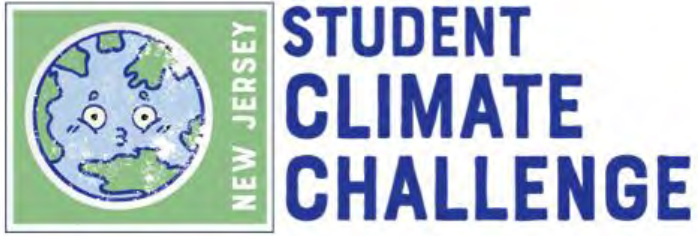
[Explore Teaching Climate and Energy »](#)





STUDENT CLIMATE CHALLENGE





- New Jersey public schools serving students in grades 6 -12
- Climate Challenge integrated into classroom or club activities
- Student teams complete a school or community-based project addressing a cause or impact climate change and create a short video
- Awards ceremony hosted by Governor and First Lady at Drumthwacket
- Recognized schools receive grants ranging from \$2,500 - \$500
- 2021 – 2022 school year submissions due April 20
- 2022 – 2023 Challenge will be announced in October 22



The Drumthwacket Foundation





Sustainable Jersey Grants

- Fund your projects and certification efforts with a Sustainable Jersey grant!
- All cycles are contingent upon annual funding received by sponsors
- Once funding is confirmed for a cycle, it will be announced via our website at: bit.ly/SJSgrants

Sponsor	Project Type	Funding Levels	Cycle Announced	Application Deadline	Funding Distributed
Gardinier Environmental Fund	Energy	\$10,000-\$50,000*	Late August	End of October	By January
NJEA	General	\$2,000 \$10,000	Late August	End of October	By March
PSEG Foundation	General	\$2,000 \$10,000	Mid-October	Mid-May	By June

**Subject to change*



EDF Climate Corps Fellows

Fellows help municipalities and school districts track and analyze energy usage and apply for New Jersey's Clean Energy Program and utility incentives!



Join us for “Drop-in” Sessions!

- March 24th @ 3PM
- March 25th @ 11:30AM

Register or apply at:
bit.ly/SJEDFClimateCorps

Questions?

Contact Brandon Rothrock at
rothrock@tcnj.edu





Sustainability Summit 2022

Save the date for the 2022 New Jersey Sustainability Summit:
Friday, June 24, 2022 at
@BellWorks in Holmdel, NJ.
#NJSustainabilitySummit





Program Partners



Sustainable Jersey for Schools Supporters & Sponsors

Program Underwriters



Grants Program



Corporate Sponsors

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



Sustainable Jersey Digital Schools Funders & Partners

Program Underwriters



Corporate Sponsors

GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



Interested in becoming a Corporate Sponsor?

Click [here](#) or our contact Development Director, Joe Grillo at 908-406-1901 or email grilloj@tcnj.edu.



Véronique Lambert
Sustainable Jersey

609-771-2469

lambertv@tcnj.edu