

Holmdel Township's *Green Team* awarded sustainability grant

Holmdel Township was awarded a \$2,000 Sustainable Jersey capacity-building grant funded by the PSEG Foundation. Four \$20,000 grants, eight \$10,000 grants and twenty \$2,000 grants were distributed to fund a variety of projects including turtle habitat protection, environmental resource inventories, an electric vehicle charging station, single use plastic reduction campaigns, pond restoration, composting and food waste diversion, creative placemaking in a business district, raingardens, composting and food waste reduction, green team capacity building and more.

“Nothing beats seeing a great idea turned into a reality, especially when that dream realizes benefits for communities and the environment. These grants support green teams and municipalities working at the local level to create vibrant and sustainable communities,” said Randall Solomon, executive director for Sustainable Jersey. He extended his congratulations to all of the towns that received grants. “The grants we awarded today will build capacity as municipalities move sustainability programs forward and work toward the goal of a more sustainable New Jersey,” Solomon said.

The PSEG Foundation has contributed 1.5 million dollars in funding to the Sustainable Jersey grants program for municipalities and schools. “PSEG is committed to supporting communities in their efforts to provide sustainable neighborhoods and economic development,” said Barb Short, president of the PSEG Foundation. “Our ongoing partnership with Sustainable Jersey helps bring real change and has a lasting impact to neighborhoods throughout New Jersey.”

Proposals were evaluated by an independent Blue-Ribbon Selection Committee. The Sustainable Jersey grants are intended to help municipalities make progress toward a sustainable future in general, and specifically toward Sustainable Jersey certification. Currently, 79 percent, or 446 of New Jersey's 565 municipalities are participating in the municipal certification program.

ABOUT SUSTAINABLE JERSEY

Sustainable Jersey is a non-profit that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support communities as they pursue sustainability programs. Currently, 446 of New Jersey's 565 municipalities (79%) are participating in the municipal certification program, and 300 school districts and 747 schools are participating in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification program.

Sustainable Jersey's partners include the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, Sustainability Institute at The College of New Jersey, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Clean Energy Program. Program underwriters include the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Clean Energy Program and the Surdna Foundation. The Sustainable Jersey Grants program for municipalities is funded by PSEG Foundation and the Gardiner Environmental Fund. Platinum sponsors are South Jersey Gas, New Jersey Natural Gas and PSEG. Silver Sponsors are NJM Insurance Group and Bayshore Recycling. The Bronze Sponsors are Covanta, Elizabethtown Gas, Greener by Design, Jersey Central Power and Light, New Jersey American Water, Powur, Good Energy and AT&T.

Website: www.SustainableJersey.com; www.SustainableJerseySchools.com

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