



# APPLYING FOR CERTIFICATION IN 2024?

## Countdown to Certification

December 13, 2023

JoAnna Contarino, Program Coordinator

### Submission Deadlines:

#1

January 12

#2

March 22

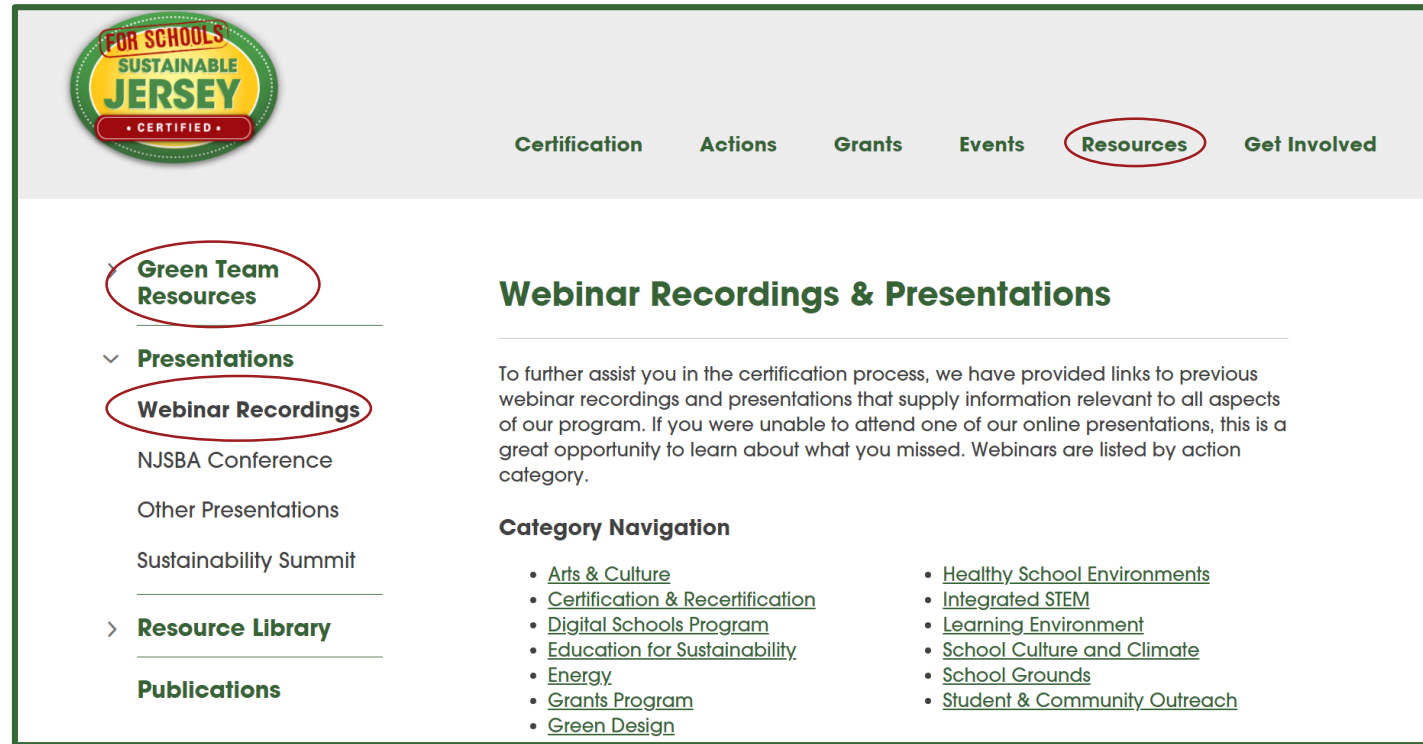
#3

June 13



# Webinar Housekeeping

- All attendees are muted.
- Questions? Enter them into the Questions box or “raise your hand” and we will answer them at the end of the presentation.
- The recording and slides will be posted on the [Webinar Recordings page](#) within a few days.



The screenshot shows the 'Resources' page of the Sustainable Jersey website. The logo 'FOR SCHOOLS SUSTAINABLE JERSEY • CERTIFIED •' is in the top left. The navigation menu includes 'Certification', 'Actions', 'Grants', 'Events', 'Resources' (circled in red), and 'Get Involved'. The left sidebar has a dropdown menu with 'Green Team Resources' (circled in red), 'Presentations', 'Webinar Recordings' (circled in red), 'Resource Library', and 'Publications'. The main content area is titled 'Webinar Recordings & Presentations' and contains a paragraph explaining the purpose of the recordings. Below this is a 'Category Navigation' section with two columns of links: Arts & Culture, Certification & Recertification, Digital Schools Program, Education for Sustainability, Energy, Grants Program, Green Design, Healthy School Environments, Integrated STEM, Learning Environment, School Culture and Climate, School Grounds, and Student & Community Outreach.

<https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/resources/presentations/webinar-recordings/>

# Agenda

1. Certification Overview
2. Digital Schools Star Recognition
3. Application Demo
4. Resources
5. Submission Tips



# Sustainable Jersey for Schools

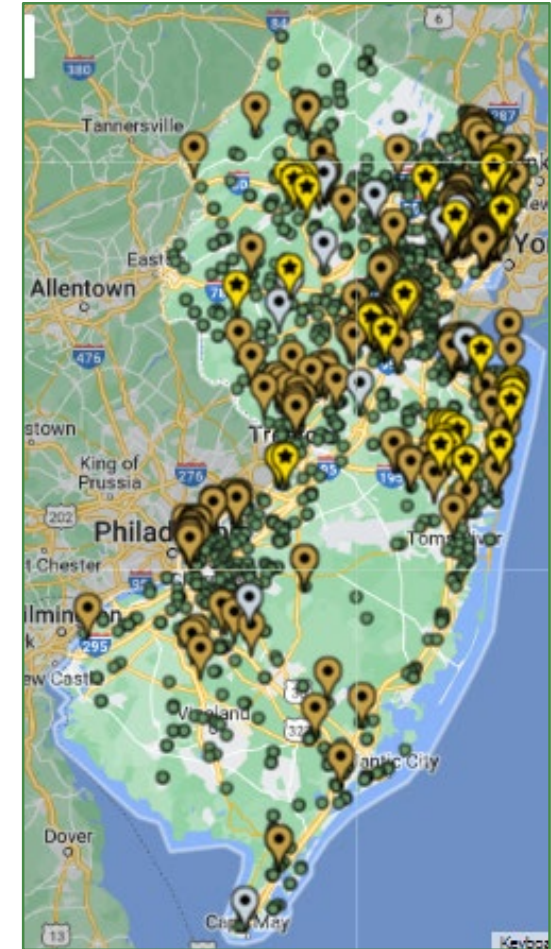
A free, voluntary program that provides tools, training, and grants to New Jersey public schools to help them implement sustainability initiatives and achieve certification.



- 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**
- Awards certification to individual schools but requires School Board and district level support

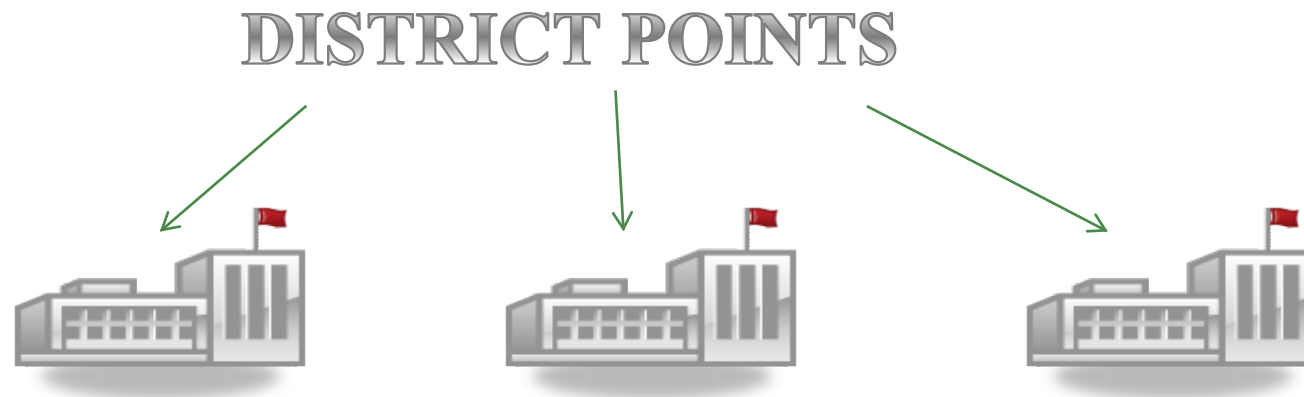
# Why Get Certified?

- Provides a roadmap to sustainability in your district and schools
- Tap into extensive support and training
- Save money with new efficient practices
- Priority access to our grants
- Gain recognition
- Fuel the statewide movement – 337 schools certified
- Empower the next generation



# Certification Overview

- There is one certification application cycle per year
- The online application is a guided process with 3 rounds of submissions and feedbacks
- Certification lasts 3 years
- Districts and schools submit applications, **but only schools are certified**
- Points earned in the district application flow to each school in the district



# Levels of Certification



- At Least 150 points
- Green team
- 2 out of 13 priority actions
- Actions completed in 6 of 22 categories



- At least 350 points
- Green team
- 3 out of 13 priority actions
- Actions completed in 8 of 22 categories



# Digital Schools Star Recognition



- Recognizes schools that embrace effective digital learning and communication tools, resources, and practices
- Builds on legacy of Future Ready Schools – NJ
- Districts and schools complete requirements as part of the certification application
- Schools submit their own Digital Schools Star application (single action with checklist)

2023 Digital Schools Star Recipients



<https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/actions/digital-schools-program/digital-schools-star-recognition/>





# Digital Schools Star Requirements



- A minimum of 8 of the 13 actions found in the 3 Digital Schools action categories approved. *Some of these actions are District Only and would be completed in the District application.*
- At least one action from each category approved.
- **4 Foundational Actions** approved.
- Digital Innovative Classroom at the 15-point level approved.

<https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/actions/digital-schools-program/digital-schools-star-recognition/>

# 2024 Application Cycle

- **January 12** – Initial Application Deadline
- Late February – Reviewer Comments
- **March 22** – Second Submission
- Early May – Reviewer Comments
- **June 13** – Final Application Submission
- Late August – Certified Schools Notified
- **October** – Certified Schools Celebration

## 2023 Awards



**Jersey City Public Schools**  
*All schools Bronze Certified*



**Franklin Township Public Schools**  
*5 schools Bronze Certified, 1 Silver Certified, 1 Digital Schools Star*



# Application Demonstration

**[Access Application User Guide](#)**

# Resources

[Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet](#)

[Application User Guide](#)

[Past Certification Webinars](#)

[Grants](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Actions Page](#)

- Resources
- Spotlight

The screenshot displays the Sustainable Jersey website interface. At the top, a yellow navigation bar contains social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube) on the left and links for 'ABOUT', 'NEWS', 'SUPPORT US', 'CONTACT US', 'HOME', a search icon, a 'Review' button, and a 'Sign Out' button. Below the navigation bar is the 'FOR SCHOOLS SUSTAINABLE JERSEY CERTIFIED' logo. A horizontal menu features several links: 'Certification', 'Actions', 'Grants', 'Events', 'Resources' (circled in red), and 'Get Involved'. The main content area is split into two sections. The left section is a featured article titled 'CONNECTING CLIMATE CHANGE TO CURRICULUM PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY' with a sub-headline 'January 10 or 18 for Middle & High School Staff'. It includes two images: a woman pointing at a whiteboard and a group of people in a meeting. The text below the images reads: 'Unpack the new Student Learning Standards, brainstorm how to integrate climate change education into your content area, and earn 7 PD credit hours'. The right section is a map titled 'View Districts, Schools and Approved Actions' showing a map of New Jersey with numerous yellow location pins indicating schools and approved actions.



# Participants Map Search

Use the [Participating Districts & Schools](https://sustainablejerseyschools.com/certification/search-participating-districts-schools-approved-actions/) (*sustainablejerseyschools.com/certification/search-participating-districts-schools-approved-actions/*) page to find examples of documentation from certified schools and connect with school green teams

## Search by action

**By Certified Action**

**Board Leadership & Planning**

- District Sustainability Policy
- Professional Development for Sustainability
- Green Enhancement of District Strategic Plans
- Strategic Plan Implementation of Green Initiatives
- School Community Asset Mapping
- School District Foundation

## View certified schools approved for that action

APPLICANT	COUNTY	CERTIFICATION
<a href="#">Alexandria Middle School (Hunterdon)</a>	Hunterdon	BRONZE
<a href="#">Lester D. Wilson Elementary School (Hunterdon)</a>	Hunterdon	BRONZE
<a href="#">Florence M. Burd Elementary School (Sussex)</a>	Sussex	BRONZE
<a href="#">Long Pond School (Sussex)</a>	Sussex	BRONZE
<a href="#">Atlantic Highlands Elementary School (Monmouth)</a>	Monmouth	BRONZE
<a href="#">Bedminster Township Elementary School (Somerset)</a>	Somerset	BRONZE
<a href="#">Roy W. Brown Middle School (Bergen)</a>	Bergen	BRONZE
<a href="#">Berkeley Elementary School (Essex)</a>	Essex	BRONZE

## View certification report for example documentation

**East Brunswick Campus (Middlesex)**  
Certification Level: Bronze  
Certified On: August 25, 2021  
Total Points: 190  
Certification Report: [View Report](#)  
Applicant Profile: [View Profile](#)

# Submission Tips

- Draft the description of implementation in a word document, then copy and paste that information into the application text box.
- **Remove old documentation** that is no longer needed for your submission. Reviewers check to make sure that all documentation is current in relation to action requirements.
- Make sure documentation uploaded aligns with your description of implementation.
- Give uploaded files descriptive names.

# Submission Tips

- **Remove sensitive information** – once certified approved actions and supporting documentation are publicly available in your certification report on our website.
  - Ex. Student names & mailing addresses, phone numbers, etc. should be removed
- **Consider submitting one additional priority action** than needed for the certification level you apply for. If applying for bronze certification, submit for 3 priority actions instead of the required two.

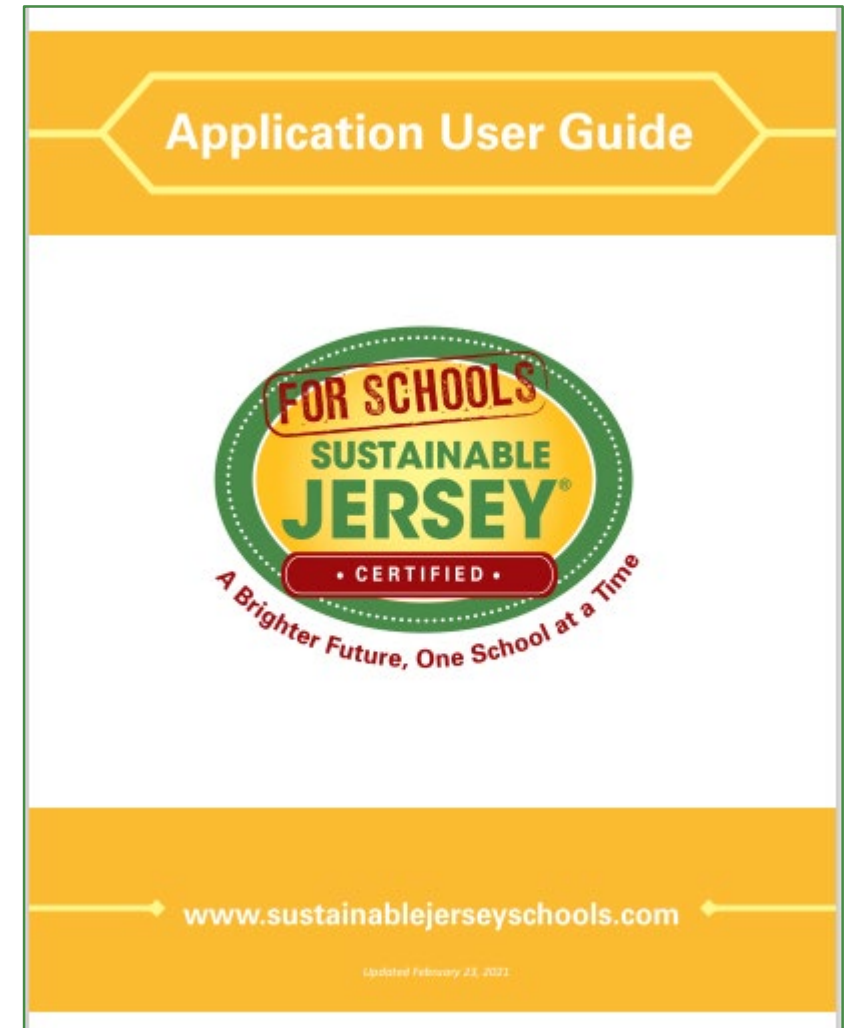
# Reviewer Feedback

- While under review, the status of actions will change but you will **not be able to view comments** associated with the actions until the application is unlocked and the status changed to **Awaiting Updates**.
- Feedback is available at the bottom of the action submission page or top of the application.



# Confirm Contacts on School or District Dashboard

- Check and update primary and secondary contact information.
- Add anyone who should receive the automatic system emails regarding application status updates as owners/contributors.
- Review [Application User Guide](#) for instructions on making these updates



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# SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GRANTS PROGRAM



**PSEG**  
*Foundation*

## 2024 Funding Cycle

- \$100,000 in grants are available to New Jersey public schools and school districts participating in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program
- \$2k and \$10k grants for sustainability projects and green team support

### Informational Webinar

3-4:30pm on  
Tuesday,  
December 12,  
2023

### Application Deadline

By 11:59pm  
on Friday,  
March 8,  
2024

### Award Notifications

By late April  
2024 with an  
event in late  
May 2024

### Performance Period

10k Grants:  
18 months  
  
2k Grants:  
12 months

Learn More & Apply





NEW JERSEY

# STUDENT CLIMATE CHALLENGE

## FREE OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE TO NEW JERSEY PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS IN GRADES 6 TO 12

### TEACHER REGISTRATION OPENS

**OCTOBER 10**

Teacher registers student team who will complete a school or community project that addresses a cause or impact of climate change



### STUDENT ENTRIES DUE

**APRIL 10**

Teams create a digital story video about the project and submits it by April 10, 2024



### AWARDS CEREMONY

**EARLY JUNE**

Winners are recognized at an Awards Ceremony hosted by First Lady Tammy Murphy and receive grants to advance their climate education initiatives ranging from \$3,500 to \$500

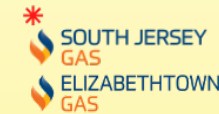
[bit.ly/NJStudentClimateChallenge](https://bit.ly/NJStudentClimateChallenge)

# Sustainable Jersey for Schools Underwriters and Sponsors

## Program Underwriters



## Corporate Sponsors



\*Digital Schools Underwriters and Sponsors



# Thank You

JoAnna Contarino  
Program Coordinator

[schools@sustainablejersey.com](mailto:schools@sustainablejersey.com)

609-771-3427