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## Maple Shade learns about sustainability

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by **Chrissy Dagnelli**  
Journal Register News

MAPLE SHADE—For something to be considered sustainable, simply means it can endure. In a broader sense, humans view something sustainable based on environmental and socio-economic factors.

It has always been this way — the creation of all systems are based on the idea that it will continue into the future. Which is why the aqueduct system was created that we all benefit from today.

Had no one thought about sustainability then, people would still continue to go out and get water through a bucket system. This isn't sustainable considering the amount of energy used by people, and the fact someone may not come back with the water due to various obstacles. Modern sustainability continues based on this very simple principal.

Sustainable New Jersey is a certificate program based on the idea of "going green" and encouraging communities to not only cut down on their carbon footprint and save money, but to also provide a healthy future.

The program helps municipalities apply for available grants, teaches workshops such as rain water barrel collection, and according to their mission statement, provides how-to guidance on how to implement these initiatives.

Once a municipality has decided to venture into sustainability, the next steps are to make a declaration as such, and register on the sustainability website. There is a checklist to follow based on a point scale. Once the township begins an initiative of change, then the points are totaled to determine if the town is either bronze or silver.

The advantage — besides the benefits of being more sustainable or the fancy title of being a bronze or silver

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sustainable town — is the access to grants before other towns.

On Thursday, March 22, at the Maple Shade Town Council meeting, Lori Braunstein of Sustainable New Jersey will make a presentation about sustainability in Maple Shade. The meeting is at 7 p.m., and anyone curious or interested in being involved, joining a

committee or just learning more is encouraged to attend this free presentation.

There will also be a presentation on sustainability and health in regards to the suburban lawn from 7 to 9 p.m., on Wednesday, March 28 at the Cherry Hill library. This is also a free presentation, but registration is required. See the website [conta.cc/healthylawn](http://conta.cc/healthylawn) for registration and more information.

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