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Teaneck receives Sustainable Jersey Small Grant for \$9,000

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 4, 2012, 2:40 PM

BY HOWARD PROSNITZ

STAFF WRITER

TEANECK SUBURBANITE

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TEANECK - The township has received a Sustainable Jersey Small Grant for \$9,000 making it one of only eight municipalities the state to receive the grant under the program in 2011.

The grant will be used in Green Schools Program, an educational program that provides students with opportunities to apply classroom learning in sustainability to real world situations.

"Going green, particularly in energy conservation, is as much about behavior change as it is technology," said Michael Rogovin, chair of the Township's Sustainability Advisory Board. "Behavior changes in adults are often driven by their children, so school programs that teach kids about how to save energy and money have the potential to broadly influence behavior by parents and others at home."

Founded in 2009, Sustainable New Jersey is a statewide voluntary certification program. Municipalities qualify for certification through a point system. In May, [Teaneck](#) became the seventh town in [Bergen County](#) to receive Bronze Certification, the basic certification level, and gave the township the opportunity to apply for grants. The Small Grant program has been funded by Wal-Mart since 2008. In 2011 it provided \$175,000 in grants to local communities for sustainability projects. Teaneck earned points for such initiatives as expanded recycling, solar panels on municipal buildings, use of green cleaning supplies and recycling food oil as a component in the township's bio diesel fuel, said Rogovin.

Currently 351 towns and cities in all 21 counties have registered to become Sustainable New Jersey certified, according to Pam Mount, chair of the Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees. "Funding green initiatives at the community level will have a ripple effect that will benefit us all," Mount said.

[Teaneck's](#) project will implement the Green Schools Program in its seven school buildings and summarize its achievements in a brochure to be distributed to community members, according to Sustainable Jersey's website, which describes the Green Schools Program as a "a comprehensive educational initiative that encourages physical and behavioral changes within the school and, as a result

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of student actions, in the community as a whole."

The website describes project objectives as improving the knowledge, behaviors, and attitudes of students and their families in the areas of energy conservation and other pro-environmental behaviors, documenting improved student knowledge, behaviors, and attitudes about energy conservation and other pro-environmental behaviors and achieving measurable impact (5-25 percent savings) on energy consumption in participating schools.

The township is "honored and privileged to have received Wal-Mart's charitable donation to further educate our youth about the importance of sustainability," said Mayor Mohammed Hameeduddin. "Teaching the importance of sustainability early on is crucial for the welfare of our environment. The Township of Teaneck strives to become a benchmark sustainable municipality and this grant is an excellent start."

Email: prosnitz@northjersey.com

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