



Leveling Up: Going for Silver & National Recognition

October 30, 2019

@SJ_Schools • SustainableJerseySchools.com



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Grant Funding Opportunities

New Jersey Education Association Grants / Deadline: Oct 31

Ten \$10,000 and forty \$2,000 grants for any initiative that would earn points towards Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification

Gardinier Environmental Fund Grants / Deadline: Oct 31

Two \$30,000 grants and nine \$10,000 grants for projects focused on energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.

Roots for Rivers Reforestation Grant Technical Assistance Program / Deadline: Dec 13

Technical assistance to design floodplain restoration projects and funding to cover between \$1,000 and \$20,000 of the material costs of tree/shrubs, tree protection tubes, and stakes.

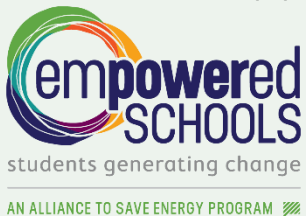
PSEG Grants / Deadline: Mar 1, 2020

Four \$10,000 and thirty \$2,000 grants for any initiative that would earn points towards Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification

For more details, visit www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/grants-resources



Sustainable Jersey is partnering with [South Jersey Gas](#) (SJG) and the [Alliance to Save Energy](#) (The Alliance) to bring the PowerSave Schools program to 40 schools within the [SJG service territory](#). SJG will fund the direct program costs for the 40 schools, while The Alliance will provide training, tools and resources to schools to implement the program, including access to the new empowered web platform. Go to the [Grants & Resources page](#) of our website to learn more about the program and apply.





The New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), in collaboration with Sustainable Jersey for Schools, is offering one-day Sustainable Practices Working Sessions. Participants will review a Sustainability Wellness Check, that aligns with the [Sustainable Jersey for Schools](#) certification program. Board members will receive four board member academy credits and four Green Leader credits for participating in a working session. Pre-registration is required and seats are limited. Learn more on the [Events & Training page](#) of our website

- [REGISTER](#)- November 21, Hackettstown, NJ
- [REGISTER](#)- February, 20, Egg Harbor Township, NJ

FREE!

FALL WEBINARS

WITH SUSTAINABLE JERSEY FOR SCHOOLS



Go to [Events & Training page](#) of our website to register

- **Planning for Recertification / November 20, 3-4pm**

If your certification is expiring in August 2020, or has already expired you will want to attend this webinar. Learn how to update expired actions and build your application for re-certification

- **Funding and Incentives from New Jersey's Clean Energy Program / November 6, 1-2pm**

Get an overview of the energy efficiency actions in the school and municipal certification programs and a review of updates and available incentives updates from New Jersey's Clean Energy Program. Case studies presented will include details of cost and energy savings.

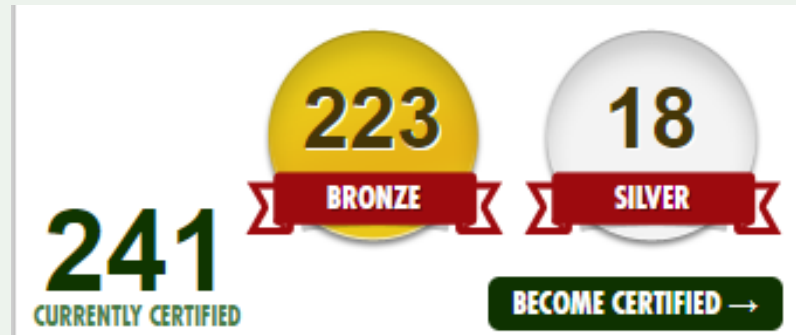
- **Building Bridges to Curriculum / December 11, 3-4pm**

Webinar Agenda

- Why Go for Silver?
- Certification Requirements & 2020 Cycle
- Strategizing with your Online Application
- Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet
- Action Updates
- Green Team Resources
- Action Strategy / Tips for Success
- Green Ribbon Schools
- Technical Assistance/Questions

Why Go For Silver?

- Prestige, pride, recognition for being silver certified
- Serve as leader and model in the statewide movement – 241 schools certified; 18 schools at silver level



- Reap rewards of greater sustainability action in your school
 - e.g. Saving thousands of dollars on energy costs
- Gain priority access and notification on incentives and grants (Sustainable Jersey Grants Program)

Levels of Certification



The bronze level of certification requires:

- The establishment of a mandatory green team
- Implementation of **2 OUT OF 10** ★ priority actions
- Actions must be completed in **6 OF 19** categories
- A total of **150** points



The silver level of certification requires:

- The establishment of a mandatory green team
- Implementation of **3 OUT OF 10** ★ priority actions
- Actions must be completed in **8 OF 19** categories
- A total of **350** points

If you re-certify before all points in the application expire you can build on existing approved points for Silver Certification instead of starting from zero!

2020 Certification Cycle

- **January 17** – Initial Application Deadline
- Late February – Reviewer Comments
- **March 27** – Second Submission
- Early May – Reviewer Comments
- **June 22** – Final Application Submission
- Early August – Certified Schools Notified
- **October** – Certified Schools Celebration



**Brimm Medical Arts High School
2019 Silver &
High School Champion**

Strategizing with your Online Application

1. First, determine the number of approved points, and check their expiration dates

SEARCH ACTIONS

Type in a word(s) to identify all actions with that word(s) in the title

Planned Completed Must Revise Not Approved Approved Expired

ACTION TOTALS (Approved)	
Mandatory	0/1
Priority	0/5
Total	10/405
Categories	1/19
Actions	1/39

Board Leadership & Planning

Green Enhancement of District Strategic Plans Status: Approved

10 Points District Only

- Expires on 08/31/19
- Last updated 10/04/18
- This submission is currently locked

Actions that expire **after** the January submission deadline (1/1/2020) **do not** need to be updated.

2. Next, focus on updating actions that have expired

Diversity & Equity

Breakfast After the Bell Status: Expired

20 Points

- Last updated 08/07/18
- Expired on 08/07/18

Diversity on District Task Forces & Committees Status: Expired

10 Points District Only

- Last updated 08/07/18
- Expired on 08/07/18

Strategizing with your Online Application

3. Look at the **not approved** actions and read the reviewer feedback to determine what was missing

Application Overview		Reviewer Feedback
View details and history Help		
Current Status This application is IN PROGRESS	IN PROGRESS	
Application History This applicant has applied one time	Certified December 6, 201	
Reviewer Feedback	2 published comments 1 archived comments	

Click here →

REVIEWER FEEDBACK

No feedback has been published.

[SHOW ARCHIVED COMMENTS](#)

Why Actions Are Not Approved

Pitfall	How to Overcome
Action documentation completion date is outside the shelf life of the action	Review the Introduction and “What to Submit” sections of the action to find the shelf life of eligible activity and documentation (i.e. how old can they be and still qualify to earn points). Only submit documentation that falls within this period.
Proper documentation not submitted	Ensure that the documentation uploaded fulfills the requirements outlined in “What to submit”
Misinterpretation of Action Goals	Closely read the “What to Do” and “What to Submit” portion of the action to ensure that what you plan to submit is in line with the intent of the action
Seeking credit for same initiative under two different actions	Any initiative may only be submitted under one action, even if it fulfills the requirements of more than one action. Review the entire application to spot duplication
Failure to conduct outreach/education component required for many actions	Read beyond the action’s title, paying close attention to the “What to Do” and “What to Submit” sections
Failure to complete the prerequisite action	Check the Introduction and the “What to Submit” section for prerequisites, and make sure that any required are completed by the final application deadline.

Strategizing with your Online Application

- 4. Input information about **approved**, **expired** and **not approved** actions into the Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet so that your team can develop a plan to begin working toward silver certification
 - Spreadsheet is found on the [Green Team Resources Page](#) under the “Grants & Resources” tab of www.sustainablejerseyschools.com
 - It includes the action name, submission requirements, shelf-life, resubmission requirements, and points for each action
- 5. Examine the actions which you have not previously submitted
- 6. Assign actions to your team by identifying those with an interest in a particular area or those with access to information (e.g. policy actions to board members, Breakfast After the Bell action to food service director, IAQ and IPM actions to Facilities staff, iSTEAM actions to curriculum and teaching staff, School District Foundation to PTO, etc.)

Actions with Long Approval Durations (1 of 2)

Action	Approval Expiration**	Points
District Sustainability Policy	Application Year + 2	10
School Community Asset Mapping	3 years	10
School Carbon Footprint	3 years from date of most recent data used in analysis	10
Onsite Renewable Generation System - Geothermal	5 years	10
Onsite Renewable Generation System - Solar	5 years	Variable: 5,10,20,30,40
Energy Efficiency for School Facilities	For 5 and 10 points, 5 years from the baseline year provided for data . For 15, 20, 30, 40 and 50 points, 5 years from the completion of energy upgrades.	Variable: 5,10,15,20, 30, 40, 50
Green Cleaning Plan & Policy	Application Year + 2	10
Green Cleaning Equipment	3 years (if school district owns equipment) Application Year + 1 (if equipment is owned by contracted service provider)	10
Green Building Policy	Application Year + 2	10
Prerequisite for Design, Build or Certify to Green Standards		

Actions with Long Approval Durations (2 of 2)

Action	Approval Expiration**	Points
Green Purchasing Policy	Application Year + 2	10
Classroom Chemical Purchase, Storage & Disposal Policy	Application Year + 2	15
Radon Testing and Mitigation	5 years from testing date	Variable: 10, 20
Innovative Project #1	Up to 5 years	10
Innovative Project #2	Up to 5 years	10
iSTEAM Strategic Plan Indicators/iSTEAM Policy	Application Year + 2	10
Biodiversity Audit & Management Plan	3 years	10
Biodiversity Project	3 years	10
Green Infrastructure Assessment & Plan	3 years	10
Green Infrastructure Installation	3 years	10
School Culture and Climate Needs Assessment	3 years from completion of action plan	20
Policies to Promote Physical Activity	Application Year + 2	10
Safe Routes to School District Policy	Application Year + 2	10
School Travel Plan for Walking and Biking	3 years from the date the plan was completed	10

Action Updates for 2020

Approval Extensions – Actions that used to expire Aug 31st of certification year will now stay approved for a full year (except “Green Team” & “Strategic Plan Implementation”)

New Priority action – Sustainability Policy (10 pts)

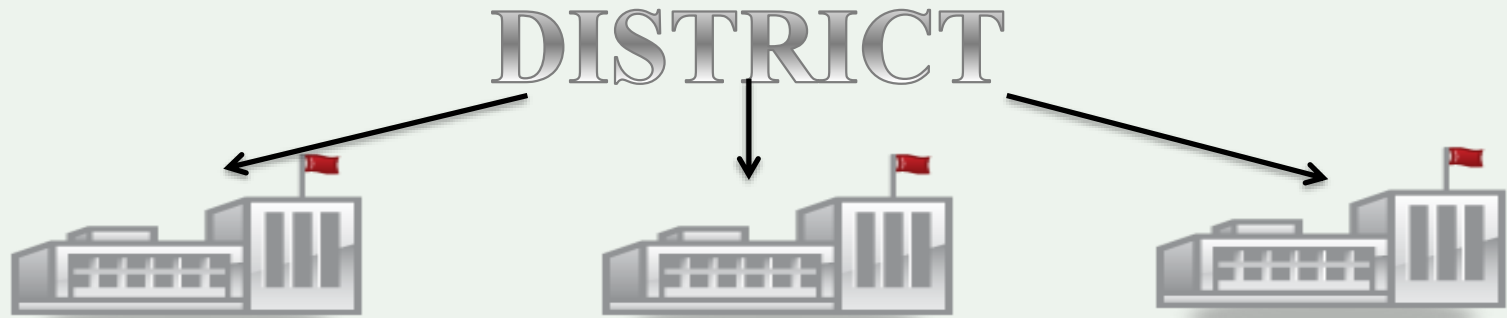
Change in Points:

- Green Team now variable points 10-15 points – earn additional 5 points by promoting your certification to school community
- School Gardens now variable point 10-30 points – earn 10 points for each distinct type of food-producing garden
- Non-Mandated Materials Recycling now variable points 5-20 points – earn 5 points for each ongoing recycling initiative

New Actions:

- Future Ready Schools 10 points for bronze and 15 points for silver FRS certification
- Outdoor Classroom 10 points
- Sustainable Fleets 5-15 points for alternative-fuel fleet vehicles
- EPEAT 10 points for I.T. green purchasing

District and School Collaboration Required



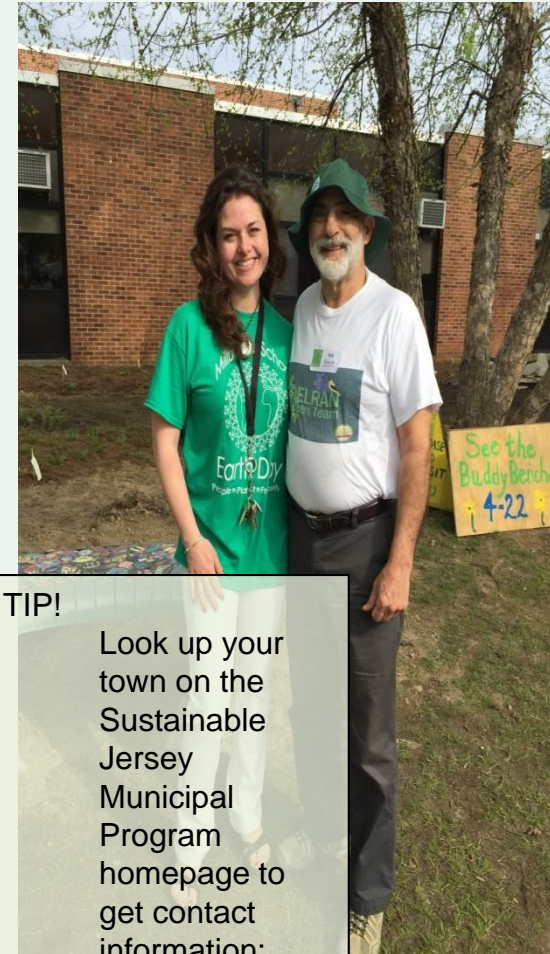
- District actions **flow down to all** participating schools in the district
- Certification is awarded at the **school level**
- Need to determine at what level “Both” actions will be completed (If an action status is changed from “Unplanned” in the district application, then schools cannot complete it in their applications)
- District application needs to be completed in same time frame as school applications

There are **>400 points** that districts can earn to support school applications

Partner With Your Municipal Green Team

Look for Collaboration actions:

- Community Education & Outreach
- Green Fair
- Green Your Green Fair/School Event
- Civic & Stewardship Activities
- Recycling Non-Mandated Materials
- Energy Education- GEA
- School Gardens
- Community Asset Mapping
- Safe Routes to School



TIP!

Look up your town on the Sustainable Jersey Municipal Program homepage to get contact information:

<http://www.sustainablejersey.com/actions-certification/participating-communities/>

Green Team Resources

The screenshot shows the Sustainable Jersey for Schools website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with an RSS icon, a "Sign in or sign up." button, and social media icons for Facebook and Twitter. The main header features the text "A BRIGHTER FUTURE" with a globe icon, a circular logo for "FOR SCHOOLS SUSTAINABLE JERSEY CERTIFIED", and the slogan "one school at a time". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "ABOUT", "ACTIONS & CERTIFICATION", "EVENTS & TRAININGS", "GRANTS & RESOURCES", "MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS", "SUPPORT US", and a "REGISTER" button. The breadcrumb trail reads "Home > Grants & Resources > Green Team Resources". The main content area is titled "Green Team Resources" and includes a section for "Ready, Set, Go! Quick Start Resources to Get You Moving" with a list of links and an icon of a clipboard. Below this are sections for "Program Overview", "Green Team Strengthening", and "Certification", each with a list of links. A right-hand sidebar contains a "GRANTS & RESOURCES" section with links to "Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program" and "Grants Portal", and a "Green Team Resources" section.

Sign in or sign up.

RSS

FOR SCHOOLS SUSTAINABLE JERSEY CERTIFIED

A BRIGHTER FUTURE

one school at a time

REGISTER

ABOUT ACTIONS & CERTIFICATION EVENTS & TRAININGS GRANTS & RESOURCES MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT US

Home > Grants & Resources > Green Team Resources

Green Team Resources

Ready, Set, Go! Quick Start Resources to Get You Moving

- [Certification Overview](#)
- [Application User Guide](#): Detailed guide providing guidance on how to manage users, navigate, and submit your application
- [Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet](#) (Updated April 2015)



GRANTS & RESOURCES

- [Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program](#)
- [Grants Portal](#)

Green Team Resources

Program Overview

- [Certification Overview](#): Including steps and application cycle
- [Ready, Set Go! Getting Started with Sustainable Jersey for Schools webinar and presentation](#)

Green Team Strengthening

- [Create Your Green Team Action](#): Read through this action to understand what the purpose of the Green Team is, why it is important, and how to get it started.
- [Secrets to a Successful Green Team](#)
- [Rubric for Assessing your Green Team](#)
 - [Description and Directions](#)
 - [Example Rubric Results – Stratford, NJ](#)

Certification

- [Action Description & Submission Requirements](#)

TIP!

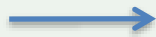
Download the Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet:

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

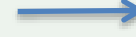
Check out Examples!

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

The screenshot displays the Participating Schools Map interface. At the top left, there are tabs for 'Map view' (selected) and 'List view'. Below these are 'Map' and 'Satellite' view options. The map shows a geographic area of Delaware with several orange location pins. A pop-up window for 'TABERNACLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL' is open, showing details: 'BURLINGTON COUNTY', 'Certification Level: Silver', 'Certified On: August 09, 2018', 'Total Points: 440', 'Certification Report: View Report', and 'Applicant Profile: View Profile'. On the right side, there are filter sections: 'BY TYPE' with radio buttons for 'District', 'School', and 'All' (selected); 'BY STATUS' with radio buttons for 'Registered' (selected), 'Bronze Certified', 'Silver Certified', 'Any Certified', and 'Any'; and 'BY CERTIFIED ACTION' with a scrollable list of actions, including 'Board Leadership & Planning' (selected) and 'Professional Development for Sustainability'. At the bottom left, there is a 'SEARCH FEATURES' section. The bottom right of the map area contains a person icon, a zoom-in (+) button, and a zoom-out (-) button. The Google logo and 'Map data ©2019 Google' are visible at the bottom of the map.

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 (Burlington) is:

Name:	Gerald
Title/Position:	Principal
Address:	141 Ne Tabernacle
Phone:	609261

Sustainability Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation (Burlington) was approved for in 2018 appears changed and the documentation listed may include points associated with actions prior to 2013.

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](#)

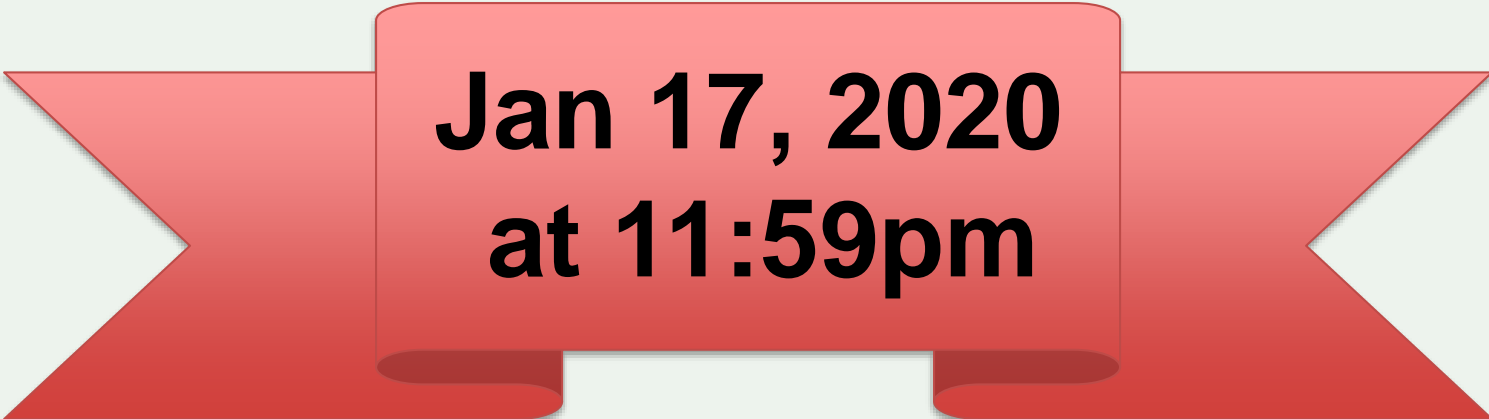
@SJ_Schools

Action Strategy

- Identify actions approved from bronze certification & those with which you're already involved; use the Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet and assign actions to green team members
- Identify actions with a long approval duration if building application over more than one year
- Pursue actions in which the school or district was interested
- Identify actions for which people have a passion
- Engage the help of Interns to help with collecting and uploading documentation – Administrative or High School / College students



First Certification Application Deadline:

A large red ribbon graphic with a white border, featuring a central rectangular box with rounded corners. The ribbon has a slight 3D effect with a shadow underneath.

**Jan 17, 2020
at 11:59pm**

For More Information

- Visit us at www.sustainablejerseyschools.com
- Email schools@sustainablejersey.com
- Call Sustainable Jersey Staff
 - Heather McCall 609-771-2469
 - Veronique Lambert 609-771-3427



Follow Sustainable Jersey on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn

The webinar and presentation will be posted on the [Webinar Recordings & Presentations](#) page of our website

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Sustainable Jersey for Schools Underwriters



Grants Program



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Gold Sponsor



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Bronze Sponsors



Program Partners



How to Apply in New Jersey

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

GreenRibbonSchools



PURPOSE

Schools compete for this national award program recognizing public and private K-12 schools, districts and Institutions of Higher Education that:

- I. Reduce environmental impact and costs;
- II. Improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff; and
- III. Provide environmental education, which teaches many disciplines, and is especially good at effectively incorporating STEM, civic skills, and green career pathways

FOCUS ON EDUCATION

- ▶ Developed by the U.S. Department of Education & the Environmental Protection Agency
- ▶ Open to any school (public or private)
- ▶ Educates students & staff on sustainability and reducing environmental impact
- ▶ Results in significant cost savings over time

8 Years of
Awards

22 NJ K-12
Schools

1 Higher Ed

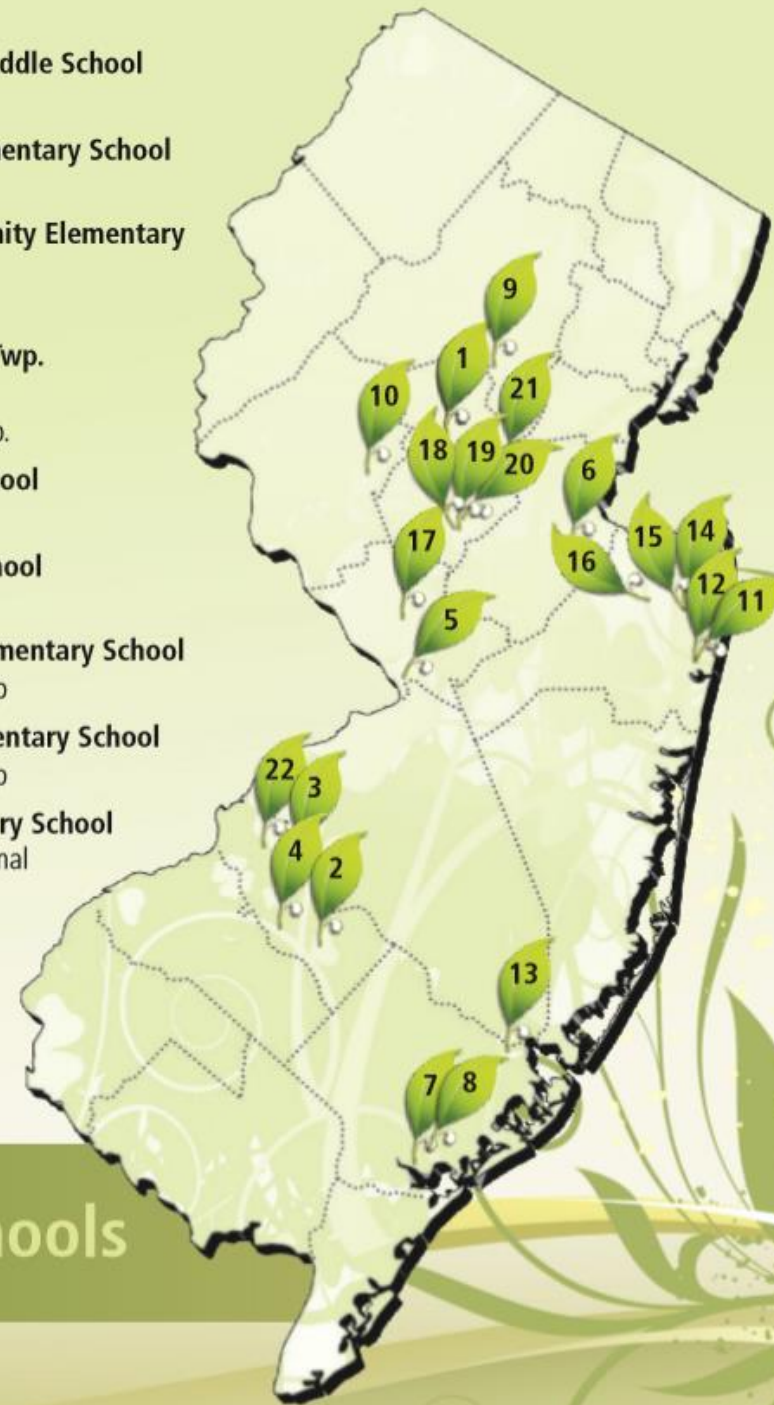
ED-GRS
Director's
Award

1. **Bernards High School**
Bernardsville
2. **Triton Regional High School**
Black Horse Pike Regional
3. **Highland Regional High School**
Black Horse Pike Regional
4. **Timber Creek Regional High School**
Black Horse Pike Regional
5. **Saint Leo the Great School**
Diocese of Trenton*
6. **East Brunswick Vocational and
Technical High School**
East Brunswick
7. **Alder Avenue Middle School**
Egg Harbor Township
8. **Egg Harbor Twp. High School**
Egg Harbor Township
9. **West Caldwell Tech**
Essex County Vocational Technical Schools
10. **The Willow School**
Gladstone
11. **Long Branch Middle School**
Long Branch
12. **George L. Catrambone Elem. School**
Long Branch

13. **William Davies Middle School**
Mays Landing
14. **Summerfield Elementary School**
Neptune Township
15. **Midtown Community Elementary
School**
Neptune Township
16. **North Brunswick Twp.
High School**
North Brunswick Twp.
17. **Princeton Day School**
Princeton
18. **Holland Brook School**
Readington Twp.*
19. **Three Bridges Elementary School**
Readington Township
20. **Whitehouse Elementary School**
Readington Township
21. **Bedwell Elementary School**
Somerset Hills Regional
22. **Kellman Brown
Academy**
Voorhees

* 2019 Green Ribbon School Winners

New Jersey Green Ribbon Schools



TWO WAYS TO APPLY

▶ Standard Application Process:

- ▶ Complete the EDGRS Application
- ▶ 17 Page limit
- ▶ 800-word essay highlighting achievements

▶ SJ4S Silver Level Certified Schools Only:

- ▶ Submit your SJ4S Certification
- ▶ 17 Page limit
- ▶ 800-word essay highlighting achievements

How do I win?

- ▶ Only 5 schools can win per year
- ▶ Schools are selected based on submissions received and are scored according to a rubric by every member of the EDGRS committee which includes representatives from:
 - ▶ SJ4S
 - ▶ NJ Department of Education
 - ▶ NJ Department of Environmental Protections
 - ▶ NJ School Boards Association
 - ▶ NJ Schools Building and Grounds Association
 - ▶ NJ Designated Persons
 - ▶ Multiple NJ environmental & sustainability agencies
 - ▶ Past EDGRS winners

More: How do I win?

- ▶ Each Pillar has equal weight in scoring and requires substantial documentation
 - I. Reduce environmental impact and costs; **(REQUIRES 4 YEARS OF UTILITY DATA)**
 - II. Improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff; and
 - III. Provide environmental education, which teaches many disciplines, and is especially good at effectively incorporating STEM, civic skills, and green career pathways

Question:

I'm a SJ4S Silver Level Certified Schools but don't have 4 years of data in my application? Will that hurt my score?

- ▶ Yes, but you are allowed to edit your SJ4S Certification Silver Level Certification Report to include the data tables from the standard application.
- ▶ Same goes for any other area scored in the rubric. If you did not address that section within your SJ4S Certification, you may add it now before sending in your submission

HOW TO GET STARTED

Download application, rubric & instructions at
www.njaudubon.org/green-ribbon-schools/

Send the following to
allison.mulch@njaudubon.org by:

- ▶ Letter of Intent due November 15th
- ▶ Application due December 13th

Contact for more info:

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Director, Office of School Facilities

Division of Finance

New Jersey Department of Education

Bernie.Piaia@doe.nj.gov

(609) 376-3701

Allison Mulch

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NJ Audubon

Allison.mulch@njudubon.org

(609) 400-3817

Sustainability

