



DONS\* and a total of 350 points. Actions must

ome certified, schools must complete and document

# Planning for Recertification

November 20, 2019



STUDENT & STAFF WELLNESS
School Wellness Council \*
Policies to Promote Physical Activity

Programs to Promote Physical Activity



Heather McCall, Program Director Sustainable Jersey for Schools <a href="mailto:mccallh@tcnj.edu">mccallh@tcnj.edu</a>
609-771-2469



Véronique Lambert, Program Coordinator Sustainable Jersey for Schools <a href="mailto:lambertv@tcnj.edu">lambertv@tcnj.edu</a> 609-771-3427

#### **Grant Funding Opportunities**

#### 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 <u>www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/grants-resources</u>





Sustainable Jersey is partnering with <u>South Jersey</u> <u>Gas</u> (SJG) and the <u>Alliance to Save Energy</u> (The Alliance) to bring the PowerSave Schools program to 40 schools within the <u>SJG service territory</u>. 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 <u>Grants & Resources page</u> 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 <u>Sustainable Jersey for Schools</u> certification program. Board members will receive four board member academy credits and four Green Leader credits for participating in a working session. Preregistration is required and seats are limited. Learn more on the <u>Events & Training page</u> of our website

- REGISTER- November 21, Hackettstown, NJ
- <u>REGISTER</u>- February, 20, Egg Harbor Township, NJ



Go to **Events & Training page** of our website to register

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

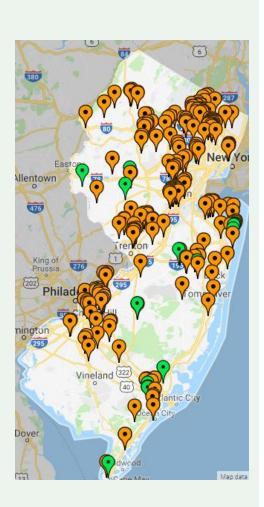
Wondering how to increase student involvement in your sustainability actions? Join Allison Mulch from Eco-Schools, and John Henry from NJSBA's Sustainability & iSTEAM Services team to learn how you can connect more of your Sustainable Jersey for Schools actions to student learning.

#### Webinar Agenda

- Why Get Recertified?
- Certification Requirements & 2020 Cycle
- Online Recertification Process
- Strategizing with your Online Application
- Action Updates
- Resources & Tips for Success
- Technical Assistance/Questions

### Why Get Recertified?

- Keep districts and schools focused on making progress
- Tap into extensive support and training
  - Sustainable Jersey training and events
  - Connections to partner organizations willing to help
- Priority access on incentives and Sustainable Jersey grants
- Continue to gain recognition
- Fuels the statewide movement 241 schools certified



#### **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 0F 19 categories
- A total of 350 points

If you recertify before all points in the application expire you can build on existing approved points for 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



Egg Harbor Township School District - all 8 schools recertified bronze in 2019

### **Applying for Recertification**

**GET CERTIFIED** 

#### **Accessing the Dashboard**

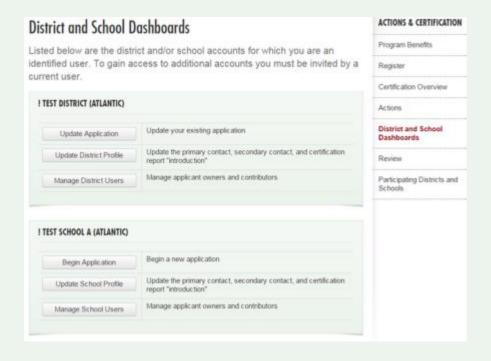
Click Sign in or sign up.

Click on right hand side →

 You will go to a page that lists the districts and/or schools that you are linked to Login 

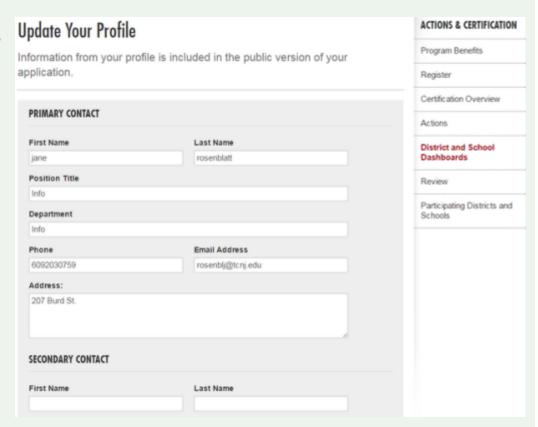
You are signed in.
[sammc29@comcast.net]

District and School Dashboards



### **Update District/School Profile**

- Use this primarily to update contact information
  - Please keep this information up to date since these contacts will receive important emails regarding the program and the application process & status
  - Click Update Profile to save changes

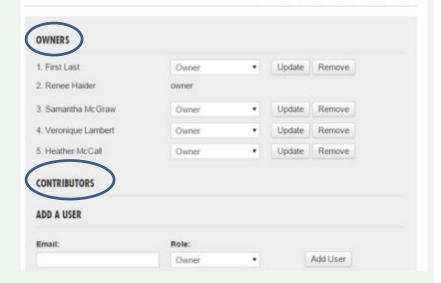


#### **Manage Users**

- Allows you to add or remove users to the district/school dashboard
- Users can be designated as owner (limit 5) or contributor
  - Both can work on application (edit, upload, submit for review, etc.)
  - Owners can add/remove other owners & contributors
  - Contributors can add other contributors

#### Manage Users

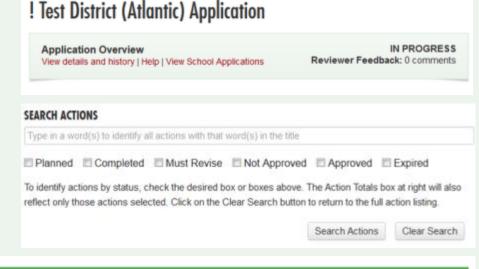
Multiple users may contribute to an application for certification. There are two types of users: owners and contributors. Owners may add and remove other owners and contributors. Contributors may add other contributors, but may not remove users from the application. Both owners and contributors can contribute to the school or district's application for certification by adding action submissions, uploading documentation, and submitting the application for review.



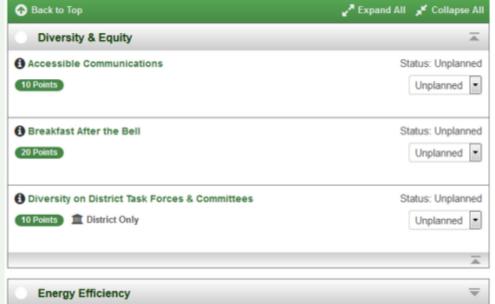
### Application – "Living Document"

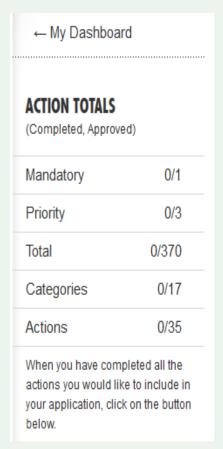
## **Application Overview**

## Search Features



## **Action Listing**

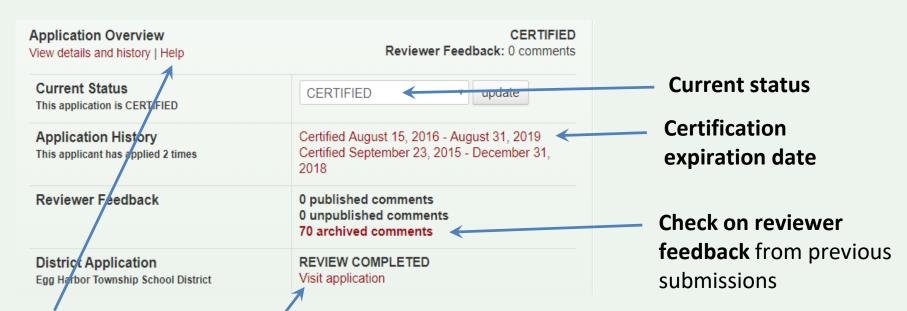




## Point Calculations and Submission

### **Application Overview**

At the top of the application, click "View details and history" to see:

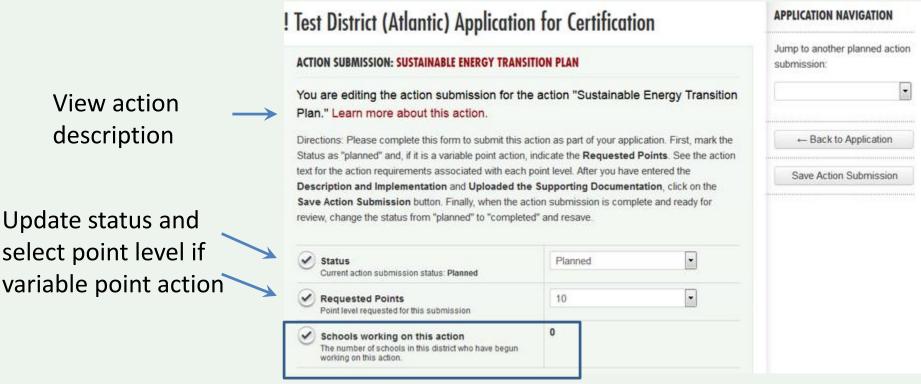


**Get help:** Access more detailed instructions on navigating the application

View other applications: School users can view district application and district users can view the applications of registered schools in the district

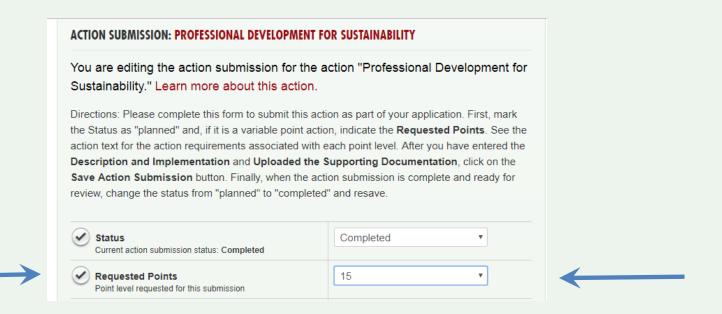
@SJ\_Schools • SustainableJerseySchools.com

#### **Action Information**



If **district application** and a "**both**" action, you will see how many schools in the district are working on the action. Districts should **not change the status** of an action if schools are working on it without consulting the schools first. The district submission will override the schools.

### **Variable Point Actions**



- User selects point value supported by the documentation as part of the submission from the drop down menu
- Reviewer confirms point value selected or changes based on review of the documentation

### **Description of Implementation**

Input a short summary of what was accomplished and the impact it had or will have on the district and/or school.

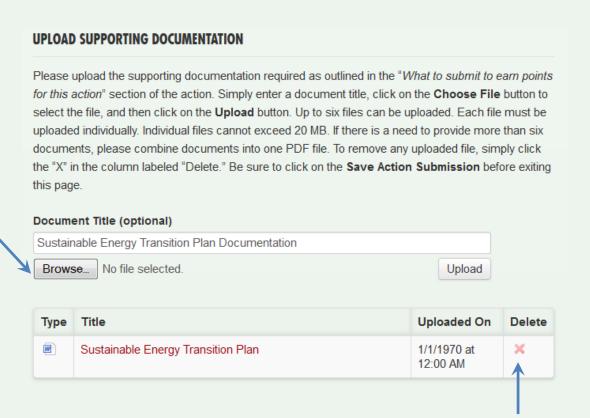
#### DESCRIPTION OF IMPLEMENTATION:

In the text box below, please provide a short summary (300 word maximum) of what was accomplished and the impact it had or will have on the school community. Include relevant references to the uploaded materials. If you are pasting information into the text box, please be sure to check the content and format of the entry.

This is where you tell us what you did and the impact it had on the district and/or school.

### **Upload Supporting Documentation**

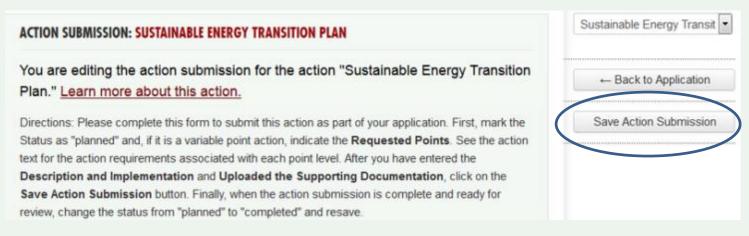
- Select the file from your computer to upload
- Many types of files can be uploaded, up to 20MB.
- You can rename it to be whatever you like.
- Once successfully uploaded it will appear in the box below



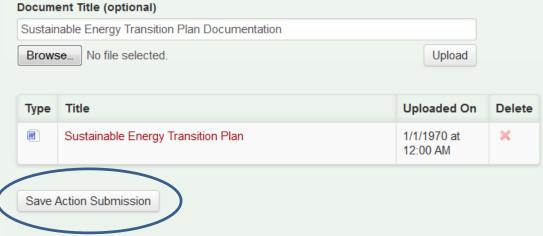
Easily remove files by clicking "X" under Delete

#### Be Sure to Save Action Submission

#### At Top of Page



- OR
- At Bottom of Page



### **Tips for Action Updates & Submissions**

1

 Read the action descriptions to know what the action requires – do this even for actions you've done before; the requirements may have been revised

2

 In the Description of Implementation box provide a summary of recent accomplishments. Be sure to remove outdated information. The description should align with the supporting documentation

3

 Delete old documents and upload new ones that support the information contained in the summary

4

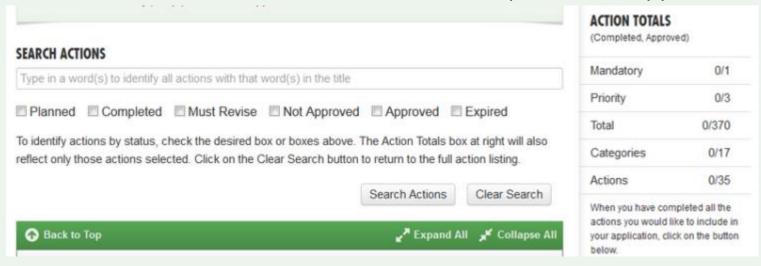
 Type in descriptive document titles for all uploaded files (i.e. Green Purchasing Policy or Outreach Materials)

### **More Tips for Action Submission**

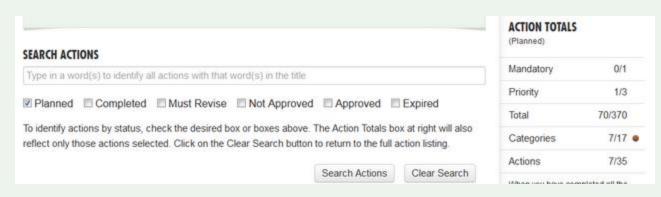
- Do not mark an action as "Completed" if it has not been updated (unless it is needed to get the submit button to turn yellow)
- Be aware of your 6 document limit!
- Combine multiple documents into one to reduce number of documents to upload
- Save online documents (e.g. news articles) as PDFs and upload them to ensure access by reviewer
- Remove sensitive information before uploading your documentation – Once you are certified your information becomes publicly accessible on the website
- Inspire others! Tell a story in your narrative

### **Calculating Points**

- Use the ACTION TOTALS chart in left column to track your point totals.
- The default values will be a combination of Completed and Approved actions.



 You can view different combinations by checking the desired boxes under SEARCH ACTIONS



#### **Preparing to Submit District Application**

- Mark actions that you plan to complete for credit as "Completed"
- There are **no** minimum requirements districts must meet to submit an application
- When ready to submit application for review, press the yellow "Submit..." button:
  - Confirm submission, and you will receive a notification in green at the top of the page the application has been submitted
  - All users on the account will receive an automatic email that your application has been submitted for review
- You will be locked from editing your application until review is complete

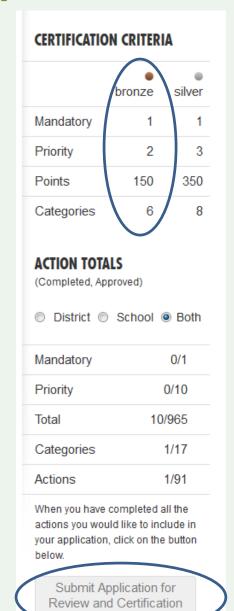
ACTION TOTALS (Completed, Approved)	
Mandatory	0/1
Priority	0/3
Total	20/370
Categories	1/16
Actions	1/34
When you have comp	

actions you would like to include in your application, click on the button below.

Submit Application for Review

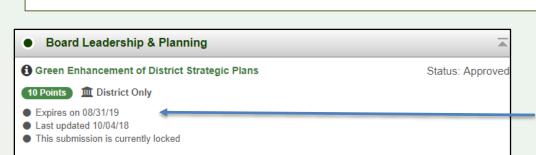
### **Preparing to Submit School Application**

- Certification Criteria visible on right hand side
- Action Totals In school application you can also view points by District, School or Both..
  - District points flow from the District Application
  - District and School points combined determine ability to Submit Application for Review and Certification
- Gray submit button turns yellow once actions marked "Completed" and/or "Approved" meet the minimum requirements for bronze certification.
- Once submitted, the application is locked from editing until the review is complete



### Strategizing with your Online Application

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



□ Planned □ Completed □ Must Revise □ Not Approved ☑ Approved □ Expired

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

**SEARCH ACTIONS** 



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

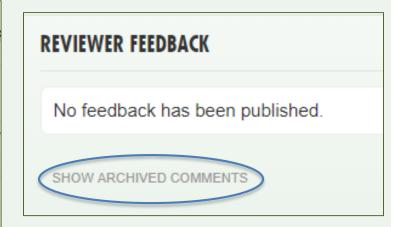
2. Next, focus on updating actions that have expired



### Strategizing with your Online Application

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

Application Overview  View details and history   Help	Reviewer
Current Status This application is IN PROGRESS	IN PROGRESS
Application History This applicant has applied one time	Certified December 6, 20
Reviewer Feedback Click here	2 published comments 1 archived comments



Feedback on Not Approved actions from a previous submission can be found by clicking "Show Archived Comments"

### 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 for recertification
  - Spreadsheet is found on the <u>Green Team Resources Page</u> 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. Invite those with an interest in a particular area or with access to information to work on related actions (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.)

### Why Actions Are Not Approved

Pitfall	How to Overcome
Action documentation completion	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

action

**Proper documentation not** 

submit documentation that falls within this period. Ensure that the documentation uploaded fulfills the

submitted **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

requirements outlined in "What to submit"

**Seeking credit for same initiative** under two different actions

Any initiative may only be submitted under one action, even if it

Failure to conduct outreach/education component fulfills the requirements of more than one action. Review the entire application to spot duplication Read beyond the action's title, paying close attention to the What

required for many actions Failure to complete the

to Do" and "What to Submit" sections Check the Introduction and the "What to Submit" section for prerequisites, and make sure that any required are completed by the final application deadline.

prerequisite action

#### **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

### **Action Updates for 2020**

**Approval Extensions** – Actions that used to expire Aug 31<sup>st</sup> of certification year will now stay approved for a full year (except "Green Team" & "Strategic Plan Implementation")

**Additional 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

#### **Green Team Resources**



#### TIP!

Download the Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet:

http://www.sustain ablejerseyschools. com/grants-

resources/green-

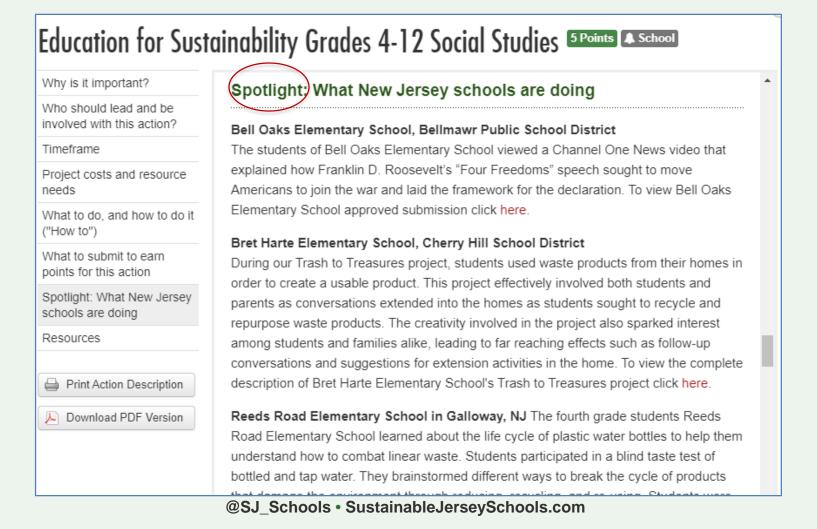
team-resources/

#### Certification

Action Description & Submission Requirements

### **Check out Examples - Action Spotlights**

Exemplar submissions from currently certified schools are "spotlighted" in the action descriptions:

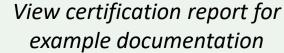


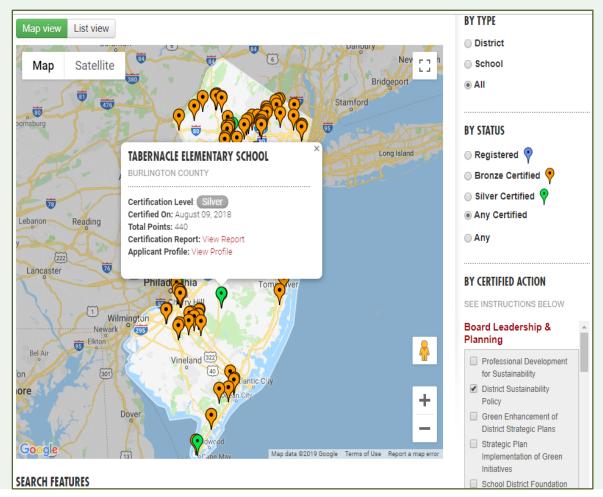
### **Check out Examples – Certification Reports**

Use the Participating Schools Map to find examples of documentation from certified schools

Search by action

View certified schools approved for that action





#### 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 So (Burlington) is:

Name:	Gerald
Title/Position:	Princip
Address:	141 N∈ Tabern
Phone:	609268

#### Sustainability Actions Implemen

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

#### **BOARD LEADERSHIP & PLANNING**

District Sustainability Policy 10 Points im 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

■ Dis

@SJ Schools

#### 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/



### **Strategy for Moving Forward!**

- -Focus on completing your Green Team Action
- -Two Priority Actions
- –Update expired actions
- Review 'Not Approved" action comments
- Identify actions that district and school are already doing or could readily do
- Determine the outstanding items needed for each action to meet the submission standard
- –Use the Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet to divvy up the actions and track progress
- Add contributors to your dashboard to help with the application; recruit admin or student interns to help with collecting and uploading documentation



# First Certification Application Deadline:

Jan 17, 2020 at 11:59pm

#### **For More Information**

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



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#### **Sustainable Jersey for Schools Underwriters**









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