



February Sustainability Hero: Deborah Goodman, Camden High School



The February 2020 Sustainability Hero is Deborah Goodman from the Camden City School District. Read about how Deborah led the Brimm Medical Arts High School to achieve silver-level certification and the 2019 Sustainability Champion award from Sustainable Jersey for Schools. In the top ten most populous cities in New Jersey, only one high school besides Brimm Medical Arts High School has achieved certification at this level. See how a tower garden system, the Girl Scouts of America, school lunch trays, Chow Hound House and gymnastics fit into the story on the [Sustainable Jersey Heroes page](#).

New Program Action: Outdoor Classroom

An outdoor classroom allows educators to move their teaching curriculum outdoors, incorporating the study of nature. Schools can now earn points towards certification with an outdoor classroom that is located on school grounds, includes natural elements/features, and has been used for instruction on a regular basis during the school year. Schools also need to demonstrate that they have provided professional development to teaching staff to support effective use of the outdoor classroom. The [Outdoor Classroom action description](#) provides guidance and links to resources for implementation.



Contribute to a Complete Census Count and Earn Sustainable Jersey for Schools Points!

Did you know \$23 billion in federal funding for New Jersey depends on Census counts, including support for school programs and services such as special education, free and reduced lunch, class size reduction, classroom technology, after-school programs, Head Start and more? Updated information from the 2020 Census could have a significant impact on New Jersey's share of the pie.

As a teacher, principal, superintendent, school board member and education advocate, you are already engaged in school outreach efforts, you can help contribute to a complete count by sending

information to students' homes, already available on the US Census Bureau's Statistics in Schools (SIS) [website](#) that explains how and why to complete the 2020 Census and the importance of counting all children, especially those under age 5 or those living in complex households. An improved and complete count across all populations in the state will enable schools to receive appropriate funding and program support over the next ten years. Get started with the resources below.

- [Become a US Census Bureau SIS Partner](#)
- [SIS Partner Toolkit](#)
- [Resources for Counting Young Children](#)

Earn Sustainable Jersey for Schools Points

There are two ways schools and districts engaged in Census efforts can earn certification points in Sustainable Jersey for Schools. One is through outreach to the school community, which qualifies for points in the **Community Education and Outreach** action. The other is the integration of SIS activities into student learning which qualifies for points in the **Student Learning** suite of actions. Sample classroom activities are available on the [SIS website](#). These activities bring school subjects to life using real-world Census Bureau statistics to create materials for use year after year at all grade levels. Activities were developed by teachers, are easy to use, customizable, and supportive of existing lesson plans, enhance learning, boost statistical literacy and prepare students for a data-driven world. Classroom activities are available for numerous subjects including math, English, history, geography, and sociology. Get started with the resources below.

- [Classroom Activities by Subject Area](#)
- [Classroom Activities by Grade Level](#)

For more information about how your green team can get involved in 2020 Census education and outreach efforts, download the [flyer](#).

Informational Webinar

An informational webinar was held to further explain strategies in completing the 2020 Census, the variety of resources and tools you can use to educate your community, how your efforts will pay off with certification points today, and the equitable distribution of federal funding and political representation for the next decade. To view the webinar recording and presentation, click [here](#).

Roots for River Reforestation Grant and Technical Assistance Program Re-Opened!

In order to help The Nature Conservancy reach its goal of planting 100,000 trees by 2020, a second application period has been opened for the 2020 Roots for Rivers Reforestation and Technical Assistance Program. Learn more [here](#). Applications will be accepted until **March 2, 2020**. We recommend interested applicants submit their applications as soon as possible. The project requirements and application guidelines remain the same for this extended application.

All applicants **must** apply through The Watershed Institute's application portal available [here](#). There will be two fields that are not applicable to all applicants applying as a school district: upload a W-9 form and evidence from the IRS that your organization is a non-profit. Please upload a PDF stating "school district applicant" instead of these forms so that you can submit an application. If you require more assistance, you can download the Application Information Packet [here](#) and watch the webinar [here](#).



For questions regarding the application and online portal, please contact Priscilla Oliveira at poliveira@thewatershed.org or 609-737-3735 x 27. For project-related questions, please contact

Application Deadline: Monday, March 2, 2020

Funding Available for Schools



PSEG
Foundation

The PSEG Foundation is contributing \$100,000 to support a schools grants program cycle which will award four (4) \$10,000 grants for school or school district projects, and thirty (30) \$2,000 grants to support school sustainability efforts. For more information, click [here](#).

Application Deadline: Friday, March 13, 2020 at 11:59pm

Informational Webinar

Click [here](#) for a recorded webinar that reviews the application process, eligibility requirements and eligible projects, describes the online submission procedures, and shares tips for how to create a successful Sustainable Jersey for Schools grant application.

To learn more about this opportunity and to access the online grant applications, click [here](#). If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Kaitlyn Vollmer, Grants Program Coordinator, at grants@sustainablejersey.com or at 609-771-3189.

Sustainable Practices Working Session

New Jersey School Boards Association, in collaboration with Sustainable Jersey for Schools, is offering members and school district personnel opportunities to attend a one-day Sustainable Practices Working Session as part of its commitment to helping schools across New Jersey reach their sustainability goals. Pre-registration is required and seats are limited. For more information click [here](#).

Participants will review a Sustainability Wellness Check, which will be in alignment with the [Sustainable Jersey for Schools](#) certification program. Board members will receive and four [Board Member Academy credits](#) and four [Green Leader credits](#) for participating in a working session.



Thursday, February 20, 9:00am - 3:30pm

Atlantic County Utilities Authority

6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

[REGISTER](#)

Making a Difference Award Nominations Now Open

Since 1997 the Russ Berrie Making a Difference Award has honored 366 individuals whose extraordinary service to others has made New Jersey a better place. These unsung New Jersey heroes help others in need, solve problems and transform neighborhoods, bring hope to those who

feel forgotten, stand up for the rights of others, create opportunities for young people to succeed, and protect the environment. Up to ten awards will be given: a top award of \$50,000, two \$25,000 awards and seven \$7,500 awards. For more information, visit the [website](#).

Nomination Deadline: February 21, 2020

Species on the Edge 2.0 Social Media Contest

The Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey is inviting high school students to submit a series of original social media posts focusing on a vulnerable NJ species. The contest helps to develop students' experience in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) and apply critical thinking and project management skills. Entry is free and gives students the chance to win a cash prize and be eligible to win a day in the field with a wildlife biologist. Entry deadline is February 28 and social media posts must run between March 1 and March 8, 2020 at midnight. For more information, click [here](#).

Entry Deadline: February 28, 2020

Other Upcoming Events and Training

Indoor Air Quality Training

The Pediatric/Adult Asthma Coalition of New Jersey has arranged to provide assistance to public employers in meeting the Designated Persons Training requirements contained in the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) Indoor Air Quality Standard (IAQ) by arranging training sessions throughout New Jersey. There will be one training each month until June. This program will address any questions/changes about the IAQ Standard as well as the roles of the school nurse in these standards. This training supports the [Asthma Friendly Schools and Indoor Air Quality Review](#) Sustainable Jersey for Schools actions. For more information and registration, click [here](#).

Friday, February 21, 2020 Mahwah, NJ	Friday, April 24, 2020 Newark, NJ
Friday, March 6, 2020 Westampton, NJ	Friday, May 22, 2020 Washington, NJ
Friday April 3, 2020 Bridgewater, NJ	Friday, June 5, 2020 Neptune, NJ

Integrated Pest Management Training

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) training sessions are offered for school IPM Coordinators and other school personnel with administrative responsibilities in accordance with the new IPM laws. IPM Coordinators receive certification of attendance to fulfill the mandatory training requirement as stated in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Pesticide Control Program regulations. These sessions help IPM Coordinators implement the new IPM law with regards to such things as: non-pesticide pest management, parental notification, the 72 hour notification rule, low-impact pest management; record keeping, and dealing with pest emergencies. Participants will receive 4 Continuing Education Units (CEUs). This training support the [Integrated Pest Management action](#) toward Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification. For more information and registration, click [here](#).

Friday, March 13, 2020 Metuchen, NJ	Friday, May 8, 2020 Paterson, NJ
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Environmental Sustainability Education Teacher Summit

This second-annual event, hosted by the College of New Jersey, will bring together p-12 educators, school administrators, preservice teachers, and college faculty for a day of collaboration and networking. Featured workshop topics include Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), inquiry-based teaching, hydroponic gardens, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), Exceptional Student Education (ESE) curriculum, integrating sustainability with STEAM, and urban/suburban Farm to School programs. This event supports a number of [Sustainable Jersey for Schools actions](#) including Education for Sustainability, School Gardens, iSTEAM, Curriculum Mapping, and Social Emotional Learning Integrated Unit. For more information, click [here](#) or email esesummittcnj@gmail.com.

Saturday, March 7, 2020, 8:30am - 1:00pm

School of Education at The College of New Jersey
2000 Pennington Road
Ewing Township, NJ 08618
[REGISTER](#)

Green Infrastructure Champions Program

Green Infrastructure Champions are key players in implementing green infrastructure as a stormwater management approach town by town. Through this program, offered by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, participants can attend one or more of the ten low-cost classes from January to May to learn how to identify green infrastructure locations, perform installations and maintenance, and more. A session will be held on March 27 on green infrastructure projects for schools. For more information, including all training topics, days, and times, visit the [website](#).

Friday, March 27, 2020, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Duke Farms
1112 Dukes Parkway West, Hillsborough, NJ 08844
[REGISTER](#) – Fee applies

Other Funding Opportunities

Grant Funding for School Gardens

The Gro More Good Grassroots Grant, funded by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation and administered by KidsGardening, is awarding a total of \$100,000 for the development of new and expansion of existing youth garden programs and greenspaces which serve 15 or more youth. Winners will be selected based on their commitment to the sustainability of their garden program. This grant program supports the School Gardens [Sustainable Jersey for Schools action](#). To learn more, click [here](#).

[Application Deadline](#): February 14, 2020

Funding Available for Field Trips

Field Trip New Jersey, established by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and the Community Foundation of New Jersey, will provide up to \$700 in transportation costs for field trips to districts serving a majority of low-income students. Eligible trips include arts and culture sites, historical landmarks, nature preserves, science institutions in New Jersey, and college campuses throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. For more information, click [here](#).

[Application Deadline](#): February 28, 2020

NJBPU Clean Fleet Electric Vehicle Incentive Program

The [New Jersey Board of Public Utilities](#) (NJBPU) is offering grant funding to support the purchase of up to two (2) eligible electric vehicles (EVs) and one (1) dual-port Level 2 electric vehicle charging station for local government authorities in New Jersey. Eligible applicants are local government authorities, which includes school districts, counties, municipalities, and local utility authorities in New Jersey.

Local governments can apply for:

- A \$4,000 grant toward the purchase of a battery electric vehicle;
- \$1,500 toward the purchase of a dual-port Level 2 charging station

The primary goal of the grant is to improve New Jersey's air quality and assist local government authorities' transition to electrically fueled fleets. The application deadline for the program is **April 15, 2020**, or until all of the funding is awarded. To learn more, click [here](#).

To make it easier for local governments to add electric vehicles to their fleets, EVs were recently adding to the State Purchasing Contract. Please review Sustainable Jersey's [Alternative Fuel Vehicle Procurement Guide](#) for further details. Sustainable Jersey for Schools points can be earned for the new [Sustainable Fleets](#) action in the Green Purchasing category.

More information can be found [here](#) and the application can be accessed [here](#). If you have questions about the incentive program, please send an email to EV.programs@bpu.nj.gov.

Green Team Resources

Energy Tracking and Management

The [New Jersey Clean Energy Learning Center](#) has added a new section on Sustainable Jersey which will feature videos on how to successfully complete energy actions. The first video in the series is on [Energy Tracking & Management](#). This video series explains how to earn 10 to 20 points for completing the Sustainable Jersey for Schools [Energy Tracking and Management action](#).

It Pay\$ to Plug In: New Jersey's Electric Vehicle Charging Grants Program

It Pay\$ to Plug In provides grants to offset the cost of purchasing and installing electric vehicle charging stations. The program is designed to expand New Jersey's growing network of electric vehicle infrastructure, allowing residents, businesses, and government agencies to purchase and drive electric vehicles. EVs dramatically reduce vehicle emissions and improve air quality for everyone.

It Pay\$ to Plug In has expanded its eligibility criteria to include workplaces, public places, and multi-unit dwellings (apartments, condominiums, and townhouses). The program is open to businesses, governments, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions. Private residential dwellings other than multi-unit dwellings are not eligible for grants.

Upon completion of work in accordance with the eligibility criteria, DEP will reimburse each applicant for a percentage of eligible costs up to a maximum of:

- \$750 per Level 1 charging station
- \$5,000 per single-port Level 2 charging station
- \$6,000 per dual-port Level 2 charging station

All application forms can be found on [DriveGreen NJ](#). Please direct questions to the Bureau of Mobile Sources at DriveGreen@dep.nj.gov.

Mark Your Calendars!

- **Feb. 20:** Sustainable Practices Working Session
- **March 2:** Roots for Rivers Reforestation Grant Deadline
- **March 14:** Sustainable Jersey for Schools PSEG Grant Application Deadline
- **March 27:** Second Application Deadline for 2020 Certification Cycle
- **June 22:** Final Application Deadline for 2020 Certification Cycle

Download Program Resources

- [Brochure](#)
- [Fact Sheet](#)
- [District Registration Instruction](#)
- [School Registration Instruction](#)

We hope you will join us to take steps to create a brighter future, one school at a time! If you have questions, email us at schools@sustainablejersey.com or visit www.SustainableJerseySchools.com

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