



350 Districts

948 Schools

Participating

Staying Green During Quarantine

Resources for Remote Learning & School Building Closures

Sustainable Jersey has posted a compilation of resources on our newly-developed [Remote Learning & Building Closure Resources page](#) to assist staff, students and families across our school communities during the current crisis. We will add to and revise this list as we become aware of additional resources.

April Sustainability Hero



The April 2020 Sustainability Hero is Michael Winka of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. Serving under ten New Jersey governors, Mike has worked for the state of New Jersey for nearly four decades, first at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and then for the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJPBPU). Read about how Mike drafted and adopted NJDEP's solid waste disposal engineering and environmental impact regulations, including the recycling regulations that helped to establish the first statewide mandatory curbside recycling program nationwide. He was part of an interstate agency team that developed the first statewide Sustainability and Greenhouse Gas Action Plan in the United States and the initial New Jersey team that developed the Regional

Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) CO2 cap and trade program among the ten northeast states. See how Sustainable Lawrence, microgrids, Guttenberg and pork roll fit into the story on the [Sustainable Jersey Heroes page](#).

To celebrate the stories of our local leaders, we recognize a monthly Sustainability Hero. If you have recommendations for someone on your green team, municipal staff, school staff or task force who is a sustainability hero, complete the [submission form](#).

Second Application Deadline is April 30

The second application submission deadline has been extended to **Thursday, April 30**. Submitting your application before the final deadline gives the advantage of additional feedback and a

higher likelihood for success.

Remaining Application Submission Dates:

- **Thursday, April 30, 2020** - Second certification application deadline
- **Friday, June 22, 2020** - Final certification application deadline

For additional details about adjustments to the 2020 certification cycle and other accommodations for 2020 applicants due to COVID-19 disruptions, click [here](#).



If you need help with the application process, check out our [Green Team Resources page](#), which includes our [Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet template](#) to help you keep track of your points, [Application User Guide](#) and [recorded certification webinars](#). If you have any further questions feel free to reach out to us at schools@sustainablejersey.com.

Sustainable Jersey Upcoming Webinars

Webinar: How to Close Out Your \$2,000 Grant

Congratulations! You have just completed your grant project. So, what's next? Before you can move on from your current project and apply for other Sustainable Jersey grant opportunities, the final report for this grant must be completed. Previous grant recipients are ineligible to apply for additional funding until open grants have been closed out. This webinar will walk you through the final report requirements, provide tips on how to write a comprehensive final report (especially in relation to the final report expenditures), and allow ample time for Q&A so that you can submit a complete final report by the deadline.

Tuesday, April 7, 2020, 1:00pm – 2:00pm

[REGISTER](#)

Webinar: Running Effective Virtual Public Meetings

The current COVID-19 crisis has forced local governments to adapt the way they interact with their residents. Public meetings are a perfect example of such technological adaptations. This webinar will feature large and small municipalities across New Jersey that are using virtual technologies to host online public meetings, handle public participation, and more.

Friday, April 17 2020, 1:00pm – 2:00pm

[REGISTER](#)

FREE Technical Assistance This Summer for Energy Initiatives

Sustainable Jersey is pleased to offer New Jersey municipalities and school districts a unique opportunity to participate in the [Environmental Defense Fund's \(EDF\) Climate Corps program](#). The program will provide an EDF Climate Corps Fellow, typically a Master's student, (MBA or similar background), with in-depth training in energy project assessment and development, to work with municipalities and school districts during the summer of 2020 for approximately 9-10 weeks. To accommodate COVID-19 restrictions, the Fellows will work remotely. Participating municipalities and schools should be prepared to support collaborative work in an on-line work environment, including providing key information such as utility data.

EDF Fellows provide expertise to help municipalities and school districts take advantage of incentives

for energy efficiency audits and facility and/or equipment upgrades offered by the utility company and [New Jersey's Clean Energy Program \(NJCEP\)](#). The incentives can save significant amounts of energy and money.

EDF Fellows will be made available as follows:

- Thanks to support from [New Jersey Natural Gas](#) (NJNG), three Fellows will be available to work with Sustainable Jersey municipalities and school districts located within their utility service territory. To learn more about this opportunity, click [here](#).
- EDF and Sustainable Jersey are directly supporting two Fellows to work with distressed municipalities and school districts participating in Sustainable Jersey located throughout New Jersey. The NJ Municipal Revitalization Index (MRI) will be used to identify community distress levels when considering applications. To learn more about this opportunity, click [here](#).

To learn more about the program, click [here](#). **Applications are due by Friday, April 17, 2020.**



Earth Month Activities & Opportunities

30 Days of Eco Learning

Turning Green has launched a 30-day lesson plan for the month of April to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Month. These lesson plans are designed to lead students and families alike through simple, fun, and impactful eco-activities. To learn more, click [here](#).

Earth Day Poster Contest

The Rutgers Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute (EOHSI) is inviting artists to create and submit a poster commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day with a prize of up to \$500. The theme of the contest is Climate Action, which can be focused on topics such as clean air, sustainability and resiliency, sea level rise, environmental and occupational health, plastic pollution and more. Eligible participants are students grades 3-12, undergraduate and graduate students, and other adults. For more information, click [here](#). For questions, contact earthdaycontest@eohsi.rutgers.edu.

[Application Entry Deadline: Wednesday, April 15, 2020](#)

Solve Climate by 2030: Virtual Teach-In on Climate and Social Justice

Hosted by the Center for Sustainability at Ramapo College, this free online event explores realistic and practical solutions for climate change and energy justice with a one-hour webinar followed by 90-minute breakout discussions. Breakout discussion topics include integrating climate change education throughout K-12 and higher education curricula; fossil fuel infrastructure; and the transformation of energy policy at the municipal, county, and state levels. To learn more, click [here](#).

Tuesday, April 7, 2020, 6:00pm - 8:30pm

[REGISTER](#)

Other Funding Opportunities

ANJEC Scholarship Available for Students

The Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) has a scholarship available for \$1,200 through the Hermia Lechner Scholarship Fund. Students would have to fulfill ANJEC criteria, entering either their Junior/Senior year at a New Jersey college in Fall 2020, majoring in an environmental-related field, and should have done work and/or has completed an internship in this field of study.

Application Deadline: Friday, May 1, 2020

Classroom Technology Grants

Frontier Internet will award three \$1,000 grants to K-12 teachers to be used toward technology in the classroom. Grants will be awarded to teachers who create unique lesson plans on how to use technology in the classroom to teach social responsibility. To learn more, click [here](#).

Application Deadline: Friday, May 15, 2020, 11:59pm

Federal Funding for Transportation Projects

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) is now accepting applications for the Competitive Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program. This program seeks to fund transportation projects that will improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion in the New Jersey DVRPC region (Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Mercer Counties). School districts are eligible to apply as the designated "Local Public Agency" (LPA), so long as they meet the requirements of the federal CMAQ program. For more information, click [here](#). **Eligible applicants MUST schedule a meeting with DCRPC staff by Friday, May 22, 2020** before submitting an application. To schedule a call or meeting, email Kwan Hui at khui@dvrpc.org.

Application Deadline: Friday, May 29, 2020, 5:00pm

NJBPU Announces New Incentives to Expand Local Government Electric Vehicle Fleets

To jump-start the electrification of local government vehicle fleets, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) has created the "Clean Fleet Electric Vehicle Incentive" program, which offers local governments \$4,000 per battery electric vehicle and \$1,500 for one dual-port Level 2 EV charging station. The application window opened on December 1, 2019, and the program will award grants on a rolling basis until April 15, 2020 or until the funding is fully committed. Eligible applicants are local government authorities, which includes school districts, counties, municipalities, and local utility authorities in New Jersey.

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.

Energy Resources

New Jersey Clean Energy Conference Postponed

The 2020 New Jersey Clean Energy Conference, previously scheduled for April 6-7 in Atlantic City has been postponed. The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities plans to reschedule the conference and is currently identifying new conference dates. To register for email updates, [sign up for NJBPU updates](#). For more details, visit the [website](#).

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!

2020 Sustainable Jersey for Schools events, trainings, funding opportunities, and more!

- **April 7:** How to Close Out Your \$2,000 Grant Webinar
- **April 17:** Energy Technical Assistance Application Deadline
- **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

Sponsors

Program Underwriters



Grants Program Underwriters



Corporate Sponsors

Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsor

Bronze Sponsors



Follow us to stay up to date with all SJS news!



[Join Our Mailing List](#)

www.SustainableJerseySchools.com