



**352 Districts**

**969 Schools**

**Participating**

## September Sustainability Hero

The September 2020 Sustainability Hero is Robert Becker of the Readington Township Environmental Commission. For the past 13 years, Robert has been actively engaged in sustainability efforts in Hunterdon County. Growing up in Duluth, Minnesota, Robert developed a connection to the lakes, streams and woods around him; it is a passion he has not outgrown. See how farmland preservation, the emerald ash borer, community well testing, a deer population study and the Western Jersey Wheelmen 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 that's a sustainability hero, complete the [submission form](#).

## Remote Digital Learning Roadmap

The Remote Digital Learning Roadmap is a primer and a practical guide for New Jersey schools, districts, and teachers to help them implement remote learning programs that provide every student with the best education possible, with as little disruption as possible, when schools are forced to limit in-person instruction. It uses research and gathers what many districts have learned to characterize the current state of the field and provide guidance and examples for schools implementing remote digital learning.

The roadmap is the first product to come out of the new [Sustainable Jersey Digital Schools program](#), a multi-agency partnership formed to help schools and their students prepare for a future of new challenges, during and beyond the pandemic. As we learn from the successful efforts of teachers and administrators on the ground, and as we work together to develop new resources, the Roadmap will



be updated. The Roadmap was created with the input and guidance of teachers, administrators, and academics. We invite your feedback and contributions to this critical effort. To provide feedback on this document, or to discuss the Sustainable Jersey Digital Schools Program, please contact Larry Cocco at [coccol@tcnj.edu](mailto:coccol@tcnj.edu).

**Download Remote Digital Learning Roadmap**

## **Sustainable Jersey for Schools Funding for Sustainability Projects**



The New Jersey Education Association (NJEA), a Sustainable Jersey for Schools program Underwriter, is contributing \$180,000 to support a Sustainable Jersey for Schools Grants Program cycle. The cycle offers ten \$10,000 district or school project grants and forty \$2,000 school green team grants. With this contribution, NJEA has provided \$1,500,000 to support a sustainable future for children and communities across the state. The funding supports efforts to implement projects that help participating schools make progress toward a sustainable future and gain points needed for Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification. To see if you are eligible for this grant, click [here](#).

In recognition of the radically altered environment schools face due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the national movement for racial justice, project proposals that support teaching and learning in a virtual or hybrid environment and those that address equity and anti-bias initiatives are encouraged. Additionally, Sustainable Jersey will be flexible with all grant recipient requests to modify their project scope, timeline, and budget due to changing circumstances.

### **Informational Webinar**

An informational webinar was held to learn more about this opportunity and walk-through of the online grant application process. To view a recording of the webinar, click [here](#). To view the slideshow presentation, click [here](#).

### **Application Deadline: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 11:59pm**

Applications must be completed using the online form available [here](#). To learn more about the requirements, view the grant's [Application Information Package](#). Visit our [website](#) for more information or download a [flyer](#) to share with others in your school community.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Kaitlyn Vollmer, Grants Program Coordinator, at [grants@sustainablejersey.com](mailto:grants@sustainablejersey.com) or at 609-771-3189.



## **Need Funding? Grants Cycle for Energy Projects Announced**



The Gardinier Environmental Fund is contributing \$100,000 to support a Sustainable Jersey Grants Program cycle for [schools](#) and [municipalities](#) to fund projects focused on energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. The cycle will award two \$20,000 grants and six \$10,000 grants. These grants support energy projects that help participating schools and municipalities gain points toward the Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification. To view the promotional flyer, click [here](#). For more information and details on the cycle, visit our website [here](#).

## Informational Webinar

An informational webinar will be held to review eligible projects, available energy incentive and grant programs, application process and online submission procedures. The recording and presentation will be posted on the municipal and school's program websites following the webinar event.

**Wednesday, September 16, 2020, 1:00pm - 2:00pm**

[REGISTER](#)

## Application Deadline: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 11:59pm

Applications must be completed using the online form available [here](#). To learn more about the requirements, view the grant's [Application Information Package](#) or visit our [website](#).

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Kaitlyn Vollmer, Grants Program Coordinator, at [grants@sustainablejersey.com](mailto:grants@sustainablejersey.com) or 609-771-3189.

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## Have You Completed Your Census Yet? Earn Points Toward Certification with Census Outreach

The 2020 Census is almost over, but nearly **1 in 8 New Jersey households are not yet counted**. If they are not counted, our communities, especially communities of color, risk missing out on the federal and state funding and the political representation they deserve. Even a small under-count will leave our entire state without fair funding and political representation. At stake for New Jersey: more than \$45 billion a year in federal funding, 12 Congressional seats, and future funding for programs in your school system for the next 10 years.

Census takers are knocking on doors right now, but many communities may be unwilling or reluctant to open the door to a federal employee, especially during a pandemic. View these ideas from the US Census Bureau on [how to encourage response during COVID-19](#). Below are a few ways you can help your community complete its Census:



- **Use your school community outreach channels** (website, newsletter, emails, social media, virtual backpack, etc.) to remind them of the importance in completing the Census. Add Census web badges and banners available [here](#) to these communications to encourage



Census response. Sample informational flyers about completing the Census that can be distributed to the school community electronically are available [here](#).

- **Host a Mobile Questionnaire Assistance Site.** The Census Bureau will send its representatives to a physical site to help people complete the Census. Examples of events have included a parked ice cream or food truck, community meetings at apartment complexes, food distribution sites, or outdoor house of worship gatherings. Email [New.York.rcc.partnership@2020census.gov](mailto:New.York.rcc.partnership@2020census.gov) if you would like to host a questionnaire assistance site.
- **Already completed your Census?** Call or text five friends or family members to remind them to complete the Census as well.

## Earn points for 2021 Certification

View Sustainable Jersey for School's [Community Education and Outreach action](#) or any of the **Student Learning actions**, such as [Education for Sustainability 1<sup>st</sup> Grade](#) for information about Census resources and to learn how you can earn certification points for your efforts. Additionally, substantial district-wide efforts can be recognized as an Innovative Project in the district application.

**The Census response period will end on September 30** Complete the Census online, by phone or by mail. Learn more [here](#).

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## Upcoming Award Nomination Opportunities

### 2020 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award Application

For more information about the program and qualifications, click [here](#).

**Application Deadline:** Friday, October 2, 2020, 5:00pm

### 2020 ANJEE Educator Award Nominations

For more information or to nominate a talented environmental education professional, click [here](#).

**Application Deadline:** Saturday, October 31, 2020

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## Curriculum & Training Resources

### Climate Change Curriculum Resources

In June 2020, New Jersey became the first state in the nation to incorporate climate change education across its K-12 learning standards when the New Jersey State Board of Education updated the [New Jersey Student Learning Standards](#). Sustainable Jersey for Schools has compiled a list of curriculum resources to support educators seeking to incorporate climate change education into their pre-K - 12 lessons. To learn more, visit our [Climate Change Curriculum Resources](#) page.

### Remote Training Resources

Tap into virtual training resources to brush up on your sustainability knowledge! Sustainable Jersey for Schools has compiled a list of virtual resources available for professional development. Maximize your certification points in the [Professional Development for Sustainability action](#). Earn up to 20 points: 5 points for every 5 staff and/or board members who have each completed at least two hours of training. To learn more, visit our [Remote Training Resources page](#).

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## Mark Your Calendars!

- Sept. 16: [Gardinier Energy Grant Cycle Webinar](#)
- Oct. 30: [NJEA Grant Application Deadline](#)
- Oct. 30: [Gardinier Energy Grant Cycle Application Deadline](#)

## 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](mailto:schools@sustainablejersey.com) or visit [www.SustainableJerseySchools.com](http://www.SustainableJerseySchools.com)

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