



## SUSTAINABLE JERSEY FOR SCHOOLS:

- Advances and supports sustainable practices in schools and prepares the next generation of children to address sustainability issues
- Identifies actions that schools can implement to become certified
- Provides guidance and tools to enable schools to make progress on each action
- Provides access to grants and identifies funding opportunities for schools to make progress toward the actions

## SUSTAINABLE JERSEY FOR SCHOOLS AT-A-GLANCE

- New Jersey schools/districts apply for certification. Certification is achieved at individual school level.
- There is no fee for the certification, the use of the program tools or participation in the training workshops. The certification is valid for three years.
- The program is voluntary.
- There are two certification levels: bronze level requires a total of 150 points and silver level requires a total of 350 points.

## Sustainable Jersey for Schools

is a certification program for New Jersey public schools that want to go green, conserve resources and take steps to create a brighter future, one school at a time.

### CERTIFICATION BENEFITS

Sustainable Jersey certification is a prestigious designation. Registration is free and grants will be available. The program provides a framework for collaboration between schools and with the school district. Don't miss your chance to be part of the first schools to be certified and to:

#### Save money. Get money.

Schools will implement practices that lead to cost savings in energy, water and garbage bills. The program will help improve efficiency, cut waste and free up money for the classroom. Participating schools/districts will be alerted to available grant money.

#### Gain access to training, tools and expert guidance.

Participating schools will have access to clear guidance and NJ specific tools and resources for developing a comprehensive sustainable school program. Training workshops, webinars and leadership meetings will provide your school with the opportunity to connect with experts in important school sustainability issues.

#### Get recognized. Promote your school.

Participants in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program are promoted on our website, in our publications, in the media and at events. Schools that achieve certification are provided a customized logo that can be used on the school's promotional materials. Schools will be honored at an annual event and awards recognize those schools that excel in leadership, innovation and collaboration. Program participation will enhance your efforts to achieve U.S. Department of Energy Green Ribbon recognition and/or EcoSchools Green Flag status.

#### Improve your school and district.

Research shows that sustainable practices positively impact student academic performance. Kids learn best when there is good natural classroom light and excellent indoor air quality. Sustainable practices help create healthier learning environments that lower illness and absenteeism.

#### Conserve valuable resources. Protect the environment.

New Jersey is facing issues of climate change, energy crises, water shortages and environmental pollution. Schools need to be a part of the solution to these challenges and demonstrate their commitment to environmental stewardship. Participants in the program will provide an opportunity for students to connect with curricula in environmental and science technology engineering and mathematics (STEM) education which can also serve as a tool for interactive lessons. By becoming certified, you align your school/district with your community's values while saving your resources as well as nature's.



# CERTIFICATION STEPS

Get started today! The online certification program allows you to pursue a balanced sustainability program one policy, program or resource audit at a time. Your school can start slowly and see how each small step yields economic and community gains.

**Step 1:** School district adopts a resolution of participation and registers at the Sustainable Jersey for Schools website. (A sample resolution can be downloaded from the website.) The superintendent invites the district's school principals to participate.

**Step 2:** School principals register their individual school by uploading a letter of participation signed by the principal and superintendent.

**Step 3:** Green team is created at the district or school level depending upon how activities will be coordinated. The green team is the only mandatory action.

**Step 4:** School districts and schools complete actions on behalf of schools totaling at least 150 points; each action includes guidance about who should be involved, resources, what to do, submission requirements and other information related to completing the action successfully.

**Step 5:** School documents, associated with completed actions, are uploaded to meet submission requirements. Sustainable Jersey certification is awarded after review of application materials.

To promote a comprehensive and results oriented approach to sustainability, the certification application is based on a check list of 87 actions in 17 categories. The certification process is flexible, allowing your school to choose from a broad range of actions.

## 17 ACTION CATEGORIES

### PROSPERITY

- Board Leadership & Planning
- Energy Efficiency
- Innovation Projects
- Learning Environment
- Student Learning

### PLANET

- Climate Mitigation & Renewable Energy
- Green Cleaning
- Green Design
- Green Purchasing
- School Grounds
- Waste Management & Recycling

### PEOPLE

- Diversity & Equity
- Food & Nutrition
- Healthy School Environments
- Student Safety
- Student & Community Outreach
- Student & Staff Wellness

To learn more visit

[www.SustainableJerseySchools.com](http://www.SustainableJerseySchools.com)

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