



Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification Report of Hopewell Valley Central High School (Mercer), a Sustainable Jersey for Schools bronze certified applicant.

Hopewell Valley Central High School (Mercer) was certified on August 13, 2018 with 150 points. Listed below is information regarding Hopewell Valley Central High School (Mercer)'s Sustainable Jersey for Schools efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Jersey for Schools contact for Hopewell Valley Central High School (Mercer) is:

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Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Hopewell Valley Central High School (Mercer) was approved for in 2018 appears below. Note: Standards for the actions below may have changed and the documentation listed may no longer satisfy requirements for that action. Additionally, points associated with actions prior to 2013 certifications may not be accurate.

Climate Mitigation & Renewable Energy

Onsite Renewable Generation System - Solar

15 Points

School

Program Summary: The Hopewell Valley Central High School solar project was implemented in

2015 as a part of PSE&G's Solar 4 All program using integrated technologies to reduce solar impact on the grid and demonstrate reliability and grid resiliency. The project features an 876 kilowatt-dc grid connected solar system with lithium ion battery storage, comprised of a rooftop system on the school and canopy system over the school parking lot. The system is metered from SREC sale, and provides community benefits in the form of lease payments to the school and by providing a shelter and warming station during extended power outages and natural disasters

PDF: [ONSITE RENEWABLE GENERATION SYSTEM - SOLAR DOCUMENTATION](#)

IMAGE: [ONSITE RENEWABLE GENERATION SYSTEM - SOLAR DOCUMENTATION](#)

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PDF: [ONSITE RENEWABLE GENERATION SYSTEM - SOLAR DOCUMENTATION](#)

Energy Efficiency

Energy Audit

20 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority School

Program Summary: In 2014 The Hopewell Valley Regional School District worked with CHA in connection with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) Local Government Energy Audit (LGEA) covering the Central High School. Central High School's energy use was bench-marked utilizing the EPA's Portfolio Manager Benchmarking Tool. The audit looked at building occupancy, size, construction and equipment in use. The audit also evaluated the use of renewable energy as a viable option. The audit identified energy conservation measures that had the potential to reduce the building's costs by 11% and natural gas use by 2% and electricity by 13%. Recommended projects for CHS totaled \$702,869 with an annual savings of \$43,752 and a payback of 15 years. The cost to implement all of the suggestions was over \$6,129,169.

PDF: [ENERGY AUDIT DOCUMENTATION](#)

Food & Nutrition

Promote Locally Grown Foods

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: The Hopewell Valley Regional School District values its rural character and proudly partners with many local providers including Terhune Orchards to provide fruit and produce to our students. The district hosts many fundraisers that give away Terhune products including pies. The Central High School cafeteria provides and promotes locally grown Terhune apples as part their student and staff lunches. The Central High School and Brick Farm Market, Gravity Hill farms routinely host special food events. A recent administrative retreat was held at

the Gravity Hill Farm where the Central High School administration sampled and learned about local foods and how we can better use them to educate our students.

WORD: [PROMOTE LOCALLY GROWN FOODS DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [PROMOTE LOCALLY GROWN FOODS DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [PROMOTE LOCALLY GROWN FOODS DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [PROMOTE LOCALLY GROWN FOODS DOCUMENTATION](#)

IMAGE: [PROMOTE LOCALLY GROWN FOODS DOCUMENTATION](#)

Green Cleaning

Green Cleaning Policy & Plan

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: The goal of this Green Cleaning Plan and policy is to reduce the exposure of building occupants to potentially hazardous, chemical, biological and particle contaminants, which adversely impact air quality, health, building finishes, building systems and the environment. HVRSD is committed to reducing our impact on the environment and we feel the implementation of this green policy and plan are a major step in doing so.

PDF: [GREEN CLEANING POLICY & PLAN DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [GREEN CLEANING POLICY & PLAN DOCUMENTATION](#)

Green Cleaning Supplies

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: All chemicals, with the exception of our limited-use disinfectant, are Green Seal certified. All paper products purchased by the district are now Green Seal certified. The entire cleaning process from start to finish is now Green Seal certified.

PDF: [GREEN CLEANING SUPPLIES DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [GREEN CLEANING SUPPLIES DOCUMENTATION](#)

Green Cleaning Equipment

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: Central High staff has employed the CPI cleaning system that uses flat pad microfiber mops that has reduced our water usage from an eight gallon bucket to 1.5 quarts. Individual pads are used on only one space (e.g. classroom) to avoid cross contamination and are

laundered using high efficiency units and air dried. We have begun using the Hillyard EP-22 Green Seal certified floor finish on tile floors in Central High School. All custodial staff use Pro-Team backpack vacuums that use ultra filtration with HEPA filters that are treated with “intercept” anti microbial. Entrance walk-off mats have been expanded to capture more steps thereby reducing the chance of airborne particulates. The district purchased the Tennent EC-H2O Nano Auto Scrubbers which do not use any chemicals to clean floors. They use water that is ionized to attract dirt and is vacuumed into a sealed container and removed. This has significantly reduced or eliminated our chemical and water usage. These machines require only ten gallons of water to clean 30,000sq ft. In addition, the Central High maintenance staff use walk-behind battery-powered burnishers on tile floors that polishes the floors without chemicals. We have employed a “team cleaning” method in Central High that improved efficiency by allowing staff members to specialize in their various tasks. This reduces the need for duplicate equipment (e.g. from seven vacuums to only two), eliminates task redundancy by staff and reduces the need for multiple supplies.

IMAGE: [GREEN CLEANING EQUIPMENT DOCUMENTATION](#)

IMAGE: [GREEN CLEANING EQUIPMENT DOCUMENTATION](#)

IMAGE: [GREEN CLEANING EQUIPMENT DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [GREEN CLEANING EQUIPMENT DOCUMENTATION](#)

Healthy School Environments

Access to Healthy Water in Schools

20 Points

School

Program Summary: In addition to testing every faucet and water fountain prior to the State mandates, the Central High School has recently replaced all water fountains with the Elkay® EZH2O™. In addition to being a traditional water fountain, these units also contain a bottle filling station that encourage students and staff to refill bottles rather than using or purchasing plastic water bottles that will likely end up in a landfill. The Elkay® EZH2O™ Water Bottle Refilling Station are a complete filtered cooler and water bottle filling station in a consolidated, space-saving design that is ADA compliant. No-touch electronic sensor activation on water bottle filling stations helps prevent the spread of germs. Filling station includes automatic 30-second shut-off timer. The bottle station includes a water filter monitor to indicate when replacement is necessary, as well as a ticker to show the number of plastic water bottles saved from landfills by being refilled. The unit also houses a special drainage system eliminating standing water as well as antimicrobial protection to prevent mold and mildew. In response to the recent lead issues across the nation, this lead-free design complies with the Safe Drinking Water Act and is certified to NSF/ANSI 61 and California AB1953.

IMAGE: [ACCESS TO HEALTHY WATER IN SCHOOLS DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [ACCESS TO HEALTHY WATER IN SCHOOLS DOCUMENTATION](#)

WORD: [CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DRINKING WATER ASSESSMENT](#)

WORD: [CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL WATER ACCESS PLAN](#)

Asthma Friendly Schools

10 Points

School

Program Summary: With ten percent of our high school population with a diagnosis of asthma, Hopewell Valley Central High School determined the need to be designated an “Asthma Friendly School”. In the health office, we were able to secure the resources to have a nebulizer, peak flow meter and air chamber on the school premises, as well as purchase three stock inhalers in the health office for asthma emergencies. After-school sports participants with asthma are identified to the coaches as a precaution. Asthma Action Plans are collected as treatment plans and personal inhalers are stored in the health office for easy access if students are not permitted to self administer. Nebulizer medications are kept in the health office for use in emergencies. Each year, staff is offered asthma education annually through inservices and online training. As a community we take all precautions to prevent asthma symptoms from occurring, and we diligently monitor students whose symptoms appear to increase in frequency with specific triggers. It is our goal in the CHS health office to maintain proper control of symptoms if they are exacerbated and counsel parents if we believe further treatment is necessary. Staff was trained at a Faculty Meeting on the Asthma Friendly school information.

PDF: [ASTHMA FRIENDLY SCHOOL DOCUMENTATION](#)

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PDF: [ASTHMA FRIENDLY SCHOOL DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [ASTHMA FRIENDLY SCHOOL DOCUMENTATION](#)

Student & Community Outreach

Green Team

10 Points

 Bronze Required School District

Program Summary: The HVRSD district level Green Team was formed in November 2016. We developed our Green Team to be representative group of all the key stakeholders in our district including the Board of Education, district and building administration, teachers, paraprofessionals, parents, business and facilities departments. Each school in the district has a representative on the Green Team. The mission of this team is to support, drive and coordinate the efforts taking place at each our schools. Our mission is incorporate sustainability into our educational and facilities practices to the maximum extent possible, but to make it an integral part of the student’s educational experience. The district level Green Team will seek to preserve natural resources while balancing social, economic, and environmental issues.

PDF: [GREEN TEAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

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Student Learning

Education for Sustainability Grades 4-12 Science

10 Points

School

Program Summary: At Hopewell Valley Central High School, there is a well-established environmental study program. Areas of environmental science are covered in all core courses; however, we also offer two additional courses to juniors and seniors that are motivated to know more about environmental topics. These courses are: Advanced Placement Environmental Science (full year course), and Introduction to Ecology (half-year course). There are many lessons in both of these courses that fulfill the Sustainable NJ requirements, for example, the AP Environmental Science students complete a two week field study on the impact that invasive species have on our native forests. Through this activity, the students learn the importance of environmental stewardship by mechanically removing invasive species from the forest and by planting new trees where invasives once were. They learn the importance of trees in our community, as they are a natural resource to prevent soil erosion and they create clean air. Furthermore, the AP Environmental Science students complete a study on ground-level ozone in and around the school building. This year, the students will be creating public service announcements based on their findings for the school community to view. Finally, our Introduction to Ecology course does a two week long investigation on the water quality of area streams. The students analyze the chemistry and physical characteristics of the water to determine the factors that lead to greater biodiversity in the ecosystem. This activity gives the students a greater understanding of why clean water is important for both human health and the biodiversity of organisms. Full descriptions of these lessons have been attached to our application, along with assessment rubrics for each area of study.

PDF: [EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY GRADES 4-12 SCIENCE DOCUMENTATION](#)

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Student Safety

Safe Driving Awareness Programs for High School Students

10 Points

School

Program Summary: We offer a parent program for sophomore parents at the beginning of the school year. We discuss how important sharing the keys with students is. We discuss the GDL laws and how important following the GDL laws are. We share pamphlets and other information that is provided by NJM and NJ MVC. We participate in New Jersey Manufacturer's Teen Driver Safety Program. We have a speaker, Carsten Boethig, who comes yearly to meet with our

sophomore students for an hour long presentation. Our ongoing program is an initiative to put the phones away and sober driving. Students have the opportunity to learn the dangers of texting and driving with the Hopewell Township Police Dept. Students drive golf carts through a course with a member from the police department as the driver's partner texts them. They get firsthand experience of how dangerous it can be in a safe environment. We follow the program up with Capital Health pledge day. Students sign a pledge to not text and drive. The police department also follows up the texting and driving with tenth grade students driving golf carts with the Fatal Vision Goggles. Students learn how dangerous and difficult driving while intoxicated is. As Junior and Senior students, the police department brings the goggles to our annual health fair. Upperclassmen can re-visit putting the goggles on while taking a sobriety test.

PDF: [SAFE DRIVING AWARENESS PROGRAMS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS DOCUMENTATION](#)

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Waste Reduction & Recycling

Food Waste Recycling or Composting

15 Points

School

Program Summary: Food waste is collected separately from trash and recycling. Students are instructed at the beginning of each year and signs have been placed above each receptacle to remind our students. We use compostable food trays that are collected in a compostable bag. Food waste is collected weekly and delivered to a composting site in Pennsylvania through an agreement with Central Jersey Waste. The food waste program has been in place since 2013. Separation of food waste has helped us reduce our overall trash collection. The high school has a recycling club that is working hard to promote the compost program. They do morning reminders and show videos of proper compost, recycle, trash selections

IMAGE: [FOOD WASTE MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [FOOD WASTE MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTATION](#)