



# Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification Report of Somerville Elementary School (Bergen), a Sustainable Jersey for Schools bronze certified applicant.

Somerville Elementary School (Bergen) was certified on August 05, 2020 with 190 points. Listed below is information regarding Somerville Elementary School (Bergen)'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 Somerville Elementary School (Bergen) is:**

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## Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Somerville Elementary School (Bergen) was approved for in 2020 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.

### Board Leadership & Planning

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#### District Sustainability Policy

**10 Points**

🏅 Bronze Priority 🏅 Silver Priority District

**Program Summary:** The Ridgewood Public School District has been promoting sustainability for

many years, prior to issuing the official policy. Subsequent to installing solar panels on a majority of school buildings in 2012, a consulting firm was hired in 2013 to study each building and create a program for energy efficiency. This resulted in the district formally creating the position of Energy Specialist, whose role is to promote energy conservation and sustainability throughout the district. This effort is supported by frequent reminders to all building occupants in the form of flyers, emails, personal notes, building energy audit reports. Moreover, during multiple school years, the Energy Specialist attended Principals' monthly staff meetings at each of our 10 schools to explain the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program and encourage active participation. Additionally, many schools have very active Environmental Clubs and teachers who have been recognized for their sustainable contributions. The district culture has been influenced in a positive direction to a higher level of mindfulness about energy conservation, which has become the norm. The District Sustainability Policy was presented at an open Board of Education meeting on Feb. 26, 2018 and approved/adopted by the School Board on March 5, 2018. Policy #7461 is and posted on the district website.

PDF: [DISTRICT SUSTAINABILITY POLICY DOCUMENTATION](#)

WORD: [DISTRICT SUSTAINABILITY POLICY DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [DISTRICT SUSTAINABILITY POLICY DOCUMENTATION](#)

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## Professional Development for Sustainability

5 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority School District

**Program Summary:** Our district leadership encourages staff to take advantage of sustainability education on many levels at various forums. On Sept. 25, 2019, the District Business Administrator, Antoinette Kelly, and the District Energy Specialist, Christine Amundsen, attended the Sustainable Practices Working Session held at the NJSBA Headquarters in Trenton from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This led to increased enthusiasm for sustainable actions already undertaken to be documented and sustainable actions still to be initiated. The goal would lead to SJFS sustainable certification. Official SJFS Green Teams began to organize and plan for actions to be taken during the current school year. On Feb. 20, 2020, three members of our staff, namely, Manager of Maintenance Services, Craig Kelsey; High School Facilities Manager, Daimian Smith; and our HVAC Technician, Luis Cunillrta, attended the Sustainable Practices Working Session from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 pm at ACUA in Egg Harbor. This training advanced key personnel's knowledge of specific sustainable actions, some of which they were already practicing; some were slated for further research and would be also used to educate custodial staff.

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## School District Foundation

10 Points

School District

**Program Summary:** Since 1989, the Ridgewood Education Foundation has distributed over \$1,000,000 in grants to the Ridgewood Public Schools, funding over 300 educational programs in the schools. The Trustees of The Foundation are civically engaged Ridgewood residents who are inspired by the vision of the original founders and generously volunteer their energy and talents to The Foundation. Trustees include the Superintendent of Schools, the Mayor of Ridgewood, members of the Ridgewood Board of Education and members of the Ridgewood Federated Home & School Association. Recent grants from The Foundation have supported a great range of initiatives—from a leadership grant to fund the new Learning Commons at RHS and the district's

first phases of foundational infrastructure to prepare for the new STEM curriculum to a gift to help the district provide an innovative yoga program for our students on the autism spectrum and our support of the RHS 1:1 Chromebooks for all RHS students. The Ridgewood Education Foundation is an IRC § 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. All contributions are deductible to the fullest extent of the law. The foundation's website is : [www.ridgewoodfoundation.org](http://www.ridgewoodfoundation.org)

**PDF:** [SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION DOCUMENTATION](#)

## Climate Mitigation & Renewable Energy

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### Onsite Renewable Generation System - Solar

30 Points

School

**Program Summary:** The Ridgewood Public School District has installed photovoltaic (PV) solar systems on rooftops of nine school buildings; one was Somerville School. Multiple benefits have resulted from offsetting electric generation from the grid. Solar generation provides a cleaner source of energy, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Also, solar power provides energy cost savings because the price of solar generated electricity is lower than PSE&G's combined electric supply and delivery charges; there are no delivery charges with solar power. In 2012 an agreement was executed with the Ridgewood Public School District as the Subordinated Lienholder and PSE&G as the Priority Lienholder. Verterra Solar Fund, LLC was chosen to construct and install the solar panel equipment. The Solar Power Purchase Agreement is for a fifteen-year term. The District pays Verterra monthly for the electricity produced by the System. We proudly report that the solar panels on Somerville Elementary School have been able to offset/displace electric purchases from PSE&G since October 2012. We track/monitor the percentage offset monthly. Somerville's offset range averages between 30-38%. Live Deck Monitoring enables viewing solar production in real time; a link to the program is on the District's web page. Our school population is cognizant of the use and benefits of solar generation. Students regularly are given the opportunity to learn about and view their school's ongoing solar production, as well as noting specific details about the total energy savings generated and it's equivalent to a certain number of gallons of gas saved (for example, 49,778 gal. as of Jan 14, 2020) or trees planted. Also, our annual Super Science Saturday event includes a classroom hands-on display of solar panels and demonstration of live, real-time solar monitoring. Next event: Feb 29, 2020 at Ridgewood High School.

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

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

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

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

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

## Energy Efficiency

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### Energy Efficiency for School Facilities

30 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority School District

**Program Summary:** The Ridgewood Public School district participated in the Local Government Energy Audit sponsored by the NJ BPU Clean Energy Program. Fourteen consecutive months of historic utility bills for all eleven buildings were provided to Clough Harbour & Associates (CHA). The Kick-off meeting was held on May 26, 2015. The audit began on June 1; CHA presented the audit analysis results in August 2015. Subsequently, based on the audit reports, the district issued an RFP for an ESCO to undertake the ESIP process. Johnson Controls Inc. was awarded the bid and they began their intensive audit of our eleven buildings. Multiple meetings followed with a final presentation identifying every recommended energy conservation measure. Cost and savings estimates for each project were included. JCI issued their Energy Savings Plan (219 pages) on June 27, 2016. District Administration studied the proposed energy efficiency measures and approved multiple projects to be undertaken. These included boiler replacements, lighting upgrades, installation of a CHP system for Ridgewood High School and certain other energy conservation projects. The estimated annual energy cost savings was \$468,307. The JCI guaranteed savings was \$322,813/yr. JCI proceeded to outsource the work to various qualified contractors. The construction phase took approx. 18 months; meetings took place every two weeks including the district's Business Administrator, Facilities & Maintenance Managers, Energy Specialist, Aramark General Mgr. as well as all contractors' representatives, and JCI's project managers and engineers. Completion date was June 2018. The Year One Measurement and Verification Report was issued by JCI on Feb. 18, 2020. A copy of the key pages of the report will be uploaded. ESIP results for Year 1: Total benefit: \$973,871.

**PDF: [ANNOUNCEMENT OF JCI'S ESIP PRESENTATION](#)**

**EXCEL: [EUI % CHANGE FROM USAGE DATA FOR ALL BUILDINGS IN RIDGEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT-2 PAGES.XLSX](#)**

**PDF: [B.O.E MEETING - ESIP DETAILS BEING PRESENTED BY DISTRICT ENERGY SPECIALIST](#)**

**PDF: [NJ CLEAN ENERGY LGEA ASSESSMENT](#)**

**PDF: [COMPARISON OF ENERGY USE 2016 VS 2019](#)**

**PDF: [YR. 1 ESIP SAVINGS REPORT FROM JCI](#)**

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## Energy Tracking & Management

20 Points

School District

**Program Summary:** Ridgewood Public Schools have promoted sustainability for many years. In 2012, solar panels were installed on many buildings, including Somerville School. It is a source of pride to acknowledge the benefits of renewable energy, both environmental and financial. In 2014, a consulting firm was hired to study each building and create a program for energy efficiency. This resulted in the district formally creating the position of Energy Specialist, whose role is to promote energy conservation and sustainability. One important ongoing task is to track /analyze and manage energy usage and cost. Meetings are held monthly so that key personnel (including the District Business Administrator, Board of Education, Principals, District Facilities Manager, and District Maintenance Manager) can be kept advised/updated on progress in reducing energy usage. Moving forward, a culture of mindfulness about energy has become the norm. Audits of each building take place regularly and notices/reminders/tips concerning energy conservation are shared with school staff, including custodians. Whenever there is an opportunity to take advantage of energy reduction (for instance during weekends, school breaks, holidays) flyers are posted in the buildings and emails sent to the staff to remind everyone to do their part in helping to conserve energy. Spreadsheets of monthly usage and cost are updated monthly by the Energy Specialist. Moreover, this data is loaded into Energy Star Portfolio Mgr. for the purpose

of benchmarking the energy conservation and savings goals. We are very proud of our recent Energy Star Progress & Goals Report (attached documentation) giving us an Energy Star score of 85, when the national median score is 50. We will continue with energy tracking and benchmarking to maintain our goal of building energy efficiency.

**PDF:** [SOMERVILLE SCHOOL ENERGY BENCHMARKING WITH ENERGY STAR PORTFOLIO MGR.](#)

**PDF:** [THREE YEARS ENERGY USAGE AND COST TRACKING -PLUS FLYERS PROMOTING ENERGY CONSERVATION - SOMERVILLE SCHOOL.PDF](#)

**PDF:** [TWO ADDITIONAL YEARS ENERGY USAGE AND COST TRACKING](#)

**PDF:** [SOMERVILLE SCHOOL - SPECIFIC DETAILS FOR ENERGY TRACKING AND MANAGEMENT](#)

## Food & Nutrition

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### Healthy Food Choices Beyond the Cafeteria

10 Points

School District

**Program Summary:** Somerville Elementary School has many policies and initiatives in place to discourage the distribution of unhealthy foods and beverages and promote healthy options. Somerville Elementary School Parent Handbook contains specific policies pertaining to school snacks, birthday celebrations in the classroom, as well as other class celebrations (Valentine's Day, Holiday Parties, etc.) Students must bring healthy snacks to schools, no sugary treats or candy. The teachers support this policy by making class rules that encourage healthy choices and discourage unhealthy snacks. The Home and School Association and school staff also send regular reminders to parents about food policies and the benefits of healthy eating for the kids.

**PDF:** [HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES DOCUMENTATION](#)

**PDF:** [FOOD POLICIES](#)

**PDF:** [PARENT NEWSLETTERS FOR HEALTHY FOOD POLICIES AND INITIATIVES](#)

**IMAGE:** [PICTURE OF HEALTHY SNACK VALENTINE'S DAY](#)

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### School Gardens

10 Points

School

**Program Summary:** Somerville Elementary School currently operates an Ecology Center with an outdoor classroom, water feature, natural vegetation and fenced garden area. The funds for the Ecology Center were raised during an Auction Night event for the parents of the Somerville community because there was interest in promoting green initiatives within the school. The money raised during the event was used to install a fence and weed barrier for the garden area. Additional funds were provided by one of the school's families, who built 6 raised garden beds (8' x 4') with the intention of using them for environmental and nutrition education, as well as vegetable gardening.

**PDF:** [SCHOOL GARDENS DOCUMENTATION](#)

**PDF:** [GREEN THUMBS PROSPECTUS](#)

**PDF:** [SCHOOL GARDEN REPORT](#)

WORD: [UPDATED WEBSITE LINK FOR GARDEN CLUB](#)

WORD: [PLAN FOR HYDROPONIC GARDEN](#)

## Healthy School Environments

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### Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement

10 Points

School District

**Program Summary:** We observed and documented vehicle idling and movement during school drop-off and pickup on Wednesday 3/11/2020 and Friday 3/13/2020. This observation was along two streets, Pleasant, right in front of the school, and Kenilworth, a block west of the school. We created an online idle-free pledge and have 'Idle-Free' bookmarks which includes facts about idling in New Jersey. The bookmarks and pledges are planned to be distributed once we return to school. The principal, Dr. Oates, will send out a Friday Feature email about being idle free and will include a link to the online pledge. There are currently 5 metal signs posted by the school that state its an idle-free zone. We plan make this an annual spring initiative in hopes of improving the air quality around Somerville Elementary for our students, their families and surrounding communities.

PDF: [ANTI-IDLING EDUCATION & ENFORCEMENT DOCUMENTATION](#)

WORD: [ANTI-IDLING EDUCATION & ENFORCEMENT DOCUMENTATION - STREET SIGNS](#)

PDF: [ANTI-IDLING EDUCATION & ENFORCEMENT DOCUMENTATION - OBSERVATION](#)

PDF: [ANTI-IDLING EDUCATION & ENFORCEMENT DOCUMENTATION - BOOKMARK](#)

WORD: [ANTI-IDLING EDUCATION & ENFORCEMENT DOCUMENTATION - ONLINE PLEDGE](#)

## Learning Environment

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### Curriculum Mapping

15 Points

School District

**Program Summary:** Sustainable Curricular Maps Gr 3 ELA 19-20 Ridgewood Public Schools brought together a team of professionals to represent each grade level, and each of our six elementary schools throughout the district. ELA writers were guided in their efforts by the Assistant Superintendent for C&I, Supervisor of Elementary Education, District Principals, and the District Staff Developer. Prior to summer curriculum writing, a separate District Focus Group Team gathered to supply necessary information, critique and input regarding our ELA units of study. K-5 ELA Team Members: Gr K - Rebecca Dodd: Willard, Wendy Carroll: Ridge Gr 1 - Christa Valentine: Willard, Nanci Catalano: Ridge Gr 2 - Amy Schaefer: Orchard, Susan Enright: Hawes Gr 3 - Tracee Kimbell: Ridge, Lauren Carr: Somerville Gr 4 - Jill Marmo: Ridge, Ellen Raupp: Hawes Gr 5 - Leah Porod: Willard, Andrea Petrone: Ridge, Kate O'Rourke: Somerville, Dawn Fleming: Travell, Danielle Connor and Lindsay Tamuzza: Willard The ELA Revision Team created a new Rubicon Atlas

Curriculum Template that provided a more clear path to information and resources. ELA goals were streamlined, WALTs were made more clear and the teaching points more succinct. Unit assessments were updated and rubrics were simplified and more purely aligned. The District Map in Rubicon Atlas is extremely useful in updating and revising our existing curriculum. Reports and analysis on NJSLs and assessments were highly beneficial in identifying any curricular gaps. Writers were allowed to write independently within Rubicon Atlas after our initial team gathering. All work was reviewed, analyzed and revised by the Assist Supt. and Supervisor of Elementary Education.

PDF: [CURRICULUM MAPPING DOCUMENTATION](#)

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## Student Participation in the Arts

10 Points

District

**Program Summary:** The Arts in Ridgewood Public Schools has a long history of success as a result of a strong teaching staff, a robust K-12 curriculum, diverse course offerings, dedicated facilities, significant student participation, and steadfast community support. With certified arts teachers in every Ridgewood school and specific arts programming in grades K-12, the arts play a critical role in the school culture and our community. Students in all schools are provided with performance opportunities throughout the year, participate in school-wide art shows, and experience arts specific field trips. We believe that the Arts not only foster and develop creativity and artistic skills but also provide cognitive, academic, behavioral, and social benefits that go far beyond the classroom. Established and traditional K-12 programming, and development of new course offerings at the high school and middle schools, such as Music Technology, Stagecraft, Advanced Dance, Design Thinking, and Creating by Design are examples of continued district support and representative of our expanding student interests. Ridgewood Public Schools continues to explore opportunities to integrate, develop, and enhance our arts curriculum and programs of study in the belief that an arts education is a critical and vital component of a comprehensive education. With over 88% of our students involved in arts classes, as well as a significant population of students involved in our extensive co-curricular programming, it is clear that our community values these experiences as well.

EXCEL: [STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN THE ARTS DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN THE ARTS DOCUMENTATION](#)

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## Student & Community Outreach

Green Team

10 Points

 Bronze Required School District

**Program Summary:** Somerville's Green Team is a dedicated group of people passionate about sustainability. The members include the Principal, six teachers (two union appointed reps) and seven parent volunteers. The Ridgewood Public School District's Energy Specialist is also included in meetings and correspondence so that planned/completed actions on both school and district levels can be sufficiently documented/verified. Discussions with Administrators about forming both a District and School Green teams began in October 2019. While there had been many teacher and parent activities in environmental education projects during prior school years at Somerville, the idea of formally forming a team to plan and execute green initiatives with the goal of achieving sustainable certification from SJFS was well received. Plans for bringing the Green Teams together were discussed in November and December; the first official Somerville Green Team meeting was held on Jan 3, 2020. A mission statement was formulated on Jan. 5th and members chose the short term and longer term actions on which they wanted to focus. The Green team coordinator, Joanna Hanrahan, published an Action Tracking Points List and immediately planning began for action implementation. There is enthusiasm among the school staff as well as the parents; the students are learning the importance of sustainability from many sources as more actions are planned and great ideas set in motion. A second meeting was held on Feb 5th and all items on a busy agenda were addressed. The third meeting took place on March 3rd and plans were set for the Anti-Idling campaign, which included documenting the existing idling status and a Pledge form to be sent home with the students. All in all, the program is very rewarding and the dedication of the Green Team will continue as the pursuit of sustainable goals are reached and acknowledged.

PDF: [GREEN TEAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [GREEN TEAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [GREEN TEAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

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## Green Fair

10 Points

School

**Program Summary:** Due to Covid 19, Somerville's first ever first ever Green Fair was cancelled. Instead we worked with email and social media to mark Earth Day. Our objective was to educate the school community on how we can all make many small and realistic earth friendly changes at home, in the backyard and within our community. When homeschooling started Somerville Elementary began every morning with a morning announcement led by Somerville's 5th grade students. In the run up to Earth Day each morning announcement included one Green Challenge. A list of the Green Challenges is below #OneGreenChallenge. The principal's "Earth Day" Morning Message (screen shot attached) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HkLxLzFwLX4> Somerville HSA's "Earth Day" Message sent out on HSA FB page (210 members, parents and staff) (screen shot attached) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=doN4t5NKW-k> Somerville's Green Team posted on Somerville FB page (334 members parents and staff). (Screen shots attached). In addition to the above, the daily FB posts, in the run up to Earth Day included the theme "Pollinators". Links were posted to the Disney Movie "Wings of Life" trailer, [www.leafsnap.com](http://www.leafsnap.com) and [www.shadyoakbutterfly.com](http://www.shadyoakbutterfly.com). We also posted suggestions for weekend activities to hang hummingbird feeders, bat boxes and plant brightly colored flowers in the backyard to attract pollinators. (Additional screenshots available on request) #ONEGREENCHALLENGE A Plant based



meal once a week Walk and bike more Volunteer for cleanups in the community. Plogging (A Swedish craze. Jogging and picking up trash) Choose nontoxic chemicals in the home. Clean more with vinegar Compost Recycle Turn the tap off when you are brushing your teeth Use energy efficient light bulbs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Also flip the light switch when you leave the room Plant a tree. Trees provide food and oxygen. They help save energy, clean the air and help combat climate change Buy less plastic and bring a reusable shopping bag.

**PDF:** [GREEN FAIR DOCUMENTATION](#)

**PDF:** [GREEN FAIR DOCUMENTATION](#)

**PDF:** [GREEN FAIR DOCUMENTATION](#)

**PDF:** [GREEN FAIR DOCUMENTATION](#)

**IMAGE:** [GREEN FAIR DOCUMENTATION](#)

**PDF:** [GREEN FAIR DOCUMENTATION](#)

## Student Safety

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### Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety and Promotion Initiatives

10 Points

School

**Program Summary:** Somerville school has actively promoted pedestrian and bicycle safety initiatives including a school-wide assembly entitled, Stop, Look and Wave and dedicating two months of the school year, October and May, as Walk to School months. The Principal led a Walking School Bus on International Walk to School Day on Oct 2nd, 2019. She plans to do the same every Friday for the month of May. All of Somerville attended an Assembly entitled, Stop, Look and Wave: Be Safe Be Seen on 4/30/19. The children were taught how to safely walk or ride their bicycle. Every family was sent home with a magnet for their car. Also, The Ridgewood Police Department teamed up with a local ice cream parlor, Van Dykes, to issue "Hooray for Helmets" tickets good for a free ice cream cone to children who were found wearing helmets while cycling. Please see the attached flyer for details. Somerville promotes walking to school all year long; however, the months of October and May are set aside for the additional promotion of this initiative. There is a banner across from the school promoting this initiative. (Please see attached photo for documentation). Also, Dr. Oates, the Principal of Somerville held a Walking School Bus Event on October 2nd, International Walk to School Day. It was promoted in our e-Newsletter. (Please see attached for Documentation.) Bicycle Racks were installed at Somerville School in time for the 2016/2017 School Year. Please see the photo attached.

**PDF:** [PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY AND PROMOTION INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION](#)

**IMAGE:** [PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY AND PROMOTION INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION](#)

**PDF:** [PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY AND PROMOTION INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION](#)

**IMAGE:** [PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY AND PROMOTION INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION](#)

**PDF:** [PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY AND PROMOTION INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION](#)