



Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification Report

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

Seth Boyden Elementary School (Essex) was certified on August 08, 2016 with 195 points. Listed below is information regarding Seth Boyden Elementary School (Essex)'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 Seth Boyden Elementary School (Essex) is:

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Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Seth Boyden Elementary School (Essex) was approved for in 2016 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.

Diversity & Equity

Diversity on District Task Forces & Committees

10 Points

District

Program Summary: South Orange Maplewood prides itself on its diverse community and has taken initiatives to improve representation on committees and specifically with involvement with

district strategic planning efforts. Annual surveys to the community included information regarding involvement and communication, and responses were identified by race as well as where participants live to be sure that we have diversity in representing various areas of the two towns that make up the school district. Outreach efforts have been made, with specific attention from the Outreach and Communications Committee of the Board of Education, to groups not proportionately represented at school district meetings and events. Efforts have included communications about events through different mediums or channels, hosting events in schools in the areas often underrepresented, and targeted outreach to increase participation, to name a few.

PDF: [DIVERSITY ON DISTRICT TASK FORCES & COMMITTEES DOCUMENTATION](#)

Energy Efficiency

Energy Audit

20 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority School

Program Summary: In 2013 the South Orange-Maplewood School District completed a number of audits and energy-saving initiatives. Earlier in the school year, audits were done of all of the district buildings by PSE&G as part of the Direct Install Program. Resulting from these audits the district received upgrades costing over \$1.1 million, with the district paying only 20% of the costs paid for through the savings resulting from the energy savings. Lighting upgrades were received throughout the buildings including motion-activated sensors to assist with conservation in addition to efficiencies. Later in 2013, an energy audit an ASHREA level II energy audit was completed by CDM Smith through the NJ Board of Public Utilities' Local Government Energy Audit Program. Many of the items identified for attention were larger ticket items such as boiler replacements that are being considered in long term planning. Our largest school, Columbia High School, is in the process of a multi-year mechanical project converting the main heating system from a steam system to a hot-water system. This should help improve efficiency while allowing us to better control heating in individual areas. Similar measures will be considered at Seth Boyden Elementary School in the future.

PDF: [ENERGY AUDIT DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [SETH BOYDEN ENERGY AUDIT](#)

Food & Nutrition

Promote Locally Grown Foods

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: Seth Boyden Elementary School is focused on increasing student access to healthy foods in the school environment and promoting educational activities that engage

children and families in learning about and developing healthy eating habits. These efforts also teach core content areas such as science, math and language arts through lessons on food and the food system. This school initiative is also important to our school because our community is by far the least affluent in the South Orange-Maplewood School District; Seth Boyden Elementary School has a Free and Reduced Lunch Rate of 43 percent. Seth Boyden Elementary School has many on-going programs that promote locally grown foods, here are a few examples (see supporting documentation uploaded): CENTENNIAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL (JUNE) Seth Boyden Elementary School had an event to celebrate the school's centennial and promote the goodness of growing and eating local home-grown strawberries. Each attendee was given a strawberry plant that was cultivated in the Seth Boyden school garden to take home and grow. SETH BOYDEN APPLESAUCE DAY (September 17) The students harvested apples from the school garden and supplemented with apples from NY State orchards via Farmigo. The students made raw applesauce in a blender. The applesauce was served to the school community. FARM TO SCHOOL WEEK (September 25) Students visited tables staffed by PTA members where they sampled foods which were either purchased "Jersey Fresh" at local farmers markets or grown in Strawberry Fields by the students. Students tasted yellow squash, green cauliflower, yellow and red bell peppers, broccoli, cucumbers and more. They sniffed and identified herbs. They made rubbings of leaves. Notably, they lined up in droves to taste some Swiss chard sautéed in a pan with garlic. BREAKFAST IN THE GARDEN (October 12) The multi-age classrooms participated in a school garden harvest and breakfast in the garden. SETH BOYDEN HARVEST FEST (Yearly Event: October 2014/2015) Seth Boyden Elementary School hosts a yearly event for the whole community to celebrate the school and the harvest time. In addition to many harvest related and garden focused activities, at this event we give locally-grown apples to children who finish the obstacle course, which is free. SETH BOYDEN COMMUNITY SOUP (November 21) Delicious smells and a great sense of community filled the halls at Seth Boyden Elementary School on November 21. Students harvested, chopped and cooked. Teachers and students picked fall vegetables from the school garden that had been planted as seeds in September. Students sharpened their culinary skills by chopping kale, potato and pumpkin in their classrooms and then added the ingredients to a crock pot with fresh rosemary and broth. The soup cooked all day in the classrooms. A warm, delicious soup was shared with the school community. FAMILY FUN NIGHT- BOOKFAIR (December 3) At this year's family fun night and book fair, we served micro-greens from the Seth Boyden Garden in a salad with the dinner that was served to the students, staff and parents attending the event. The origin and nutritional value of the greens was promoted and discussed at the dinner. WHEEL BARREL FARM STAND (December 8) Seth Boyden students harvested and bundled kale from the school garden. They created a Farm Stand in a wheel barrel. After school, students distributed the vegetables to families picking up their children along with a copy of an easy and healthy way to prepare the food.

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

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

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

School Gardens

10 Points

School

Program Summary: Strawberry Fields is the name of the school gardens at Seth Boyden Elementary School which is located directly behind the school building. Strawberry Fields honors the legacy of creativity and discovery of school namesake Seth Boyden who experimented with strawberry breeding on these very grounds. Environment Based Education (EBE) activities in Strawberry Fields provide a hands-on, multidisciplinary, real-life approach to our students' required studies. Strawberry Fields includes natural habitats, teaching gardens, a music garden, a stage, a storytelling circle, fitness equipment, running track, climbing wall, and a community

picnic area. The two areas essential to EBE are the Teaching Gardens and Habitat Gardens. The Teaching Gardens Every Seth Boyden class has a garden bed to plan, plant, and maintain. Students experience the life cycle from germination through harvest, from garden waste to re-use, using their own hands and resources to complete the cycle. They learn to properly nurture plants and develop an understanding of the inter-relationship between wildlife and plant life. Vegetable, flower and herb gardens teach about processes, cause and effect, and healthy nutrition. Through garden design and management, students learn about ratios, perimeters, area, survey design, graphing, measurement, and calendar skills. Counting, measuring, and weighing reinforce math skills. Students visit the garden daily to observe and note changes, and keep individual and classroom garden journals. New Jersey Habitat Gardens Seth Boyden students and staff study birds, animals, insects, plants and microorganisms in the New Jersey Habitat Gardens. Second grade students use the Habitat Garden to learn about butterflies and habitats. Fourth Grade students use the Habitat Garden to learn about mapping and coordinates, plant and animal classification, food chains and food webs and ecosystems. Much of the vision for Strawberry Fields has come from the students. The children were taken on a "site safari" where they toured the space carryings of the grounds. They later worked in small groups to determine what they liked and disliked about the space and what they would like to change and add. Similar brainstorming was also done with the teachers, parents and the community residents. There has been an ongoing dialogue between the school, neighborhood and community.

PDF: [SCHOOL GARDENS DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [SCHOOL GARDENS DOCUMENTATION](#)

Green Cleaning

Green Cleaning Supplies

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: The South Orange Maplewood School District contracts with Temco Facility Services to provide custodial services. The contract requires green cleaning supplies, and a list of the green products used by Temco is included in the documents provided. Temco has also been working with the school district on the Sustainable Jersey for Schools efforts in many areas but specifically with Green Cleaning has been providing Green Cleaning training for employees and is working with us on developing a Healthy High Performance Cleaning (HHPC) green cleaning program for the District. The provide corporate direction and consultation including team members with Cleaning Industry Management Standard (CIMS) Certification.

PDF: [GREEN CLEANING SUPPLIES DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [GREEN CLEANING SUPPLIES DOCUMENTATION](#)

Green Cleaning Training & Education Programs

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: Custodial services are provided by Temco Facility Services and they provide

green cleaning training as part of their program. Attached is the cover for their green cleaning manual. The manual is proprietary and so we could not upload the contents. Included however is a schedule of training for the current school year including Healthy High Performance Cleaning (HHPC) Program for Green Cleaning. All cleaning is done using green cleaning products. As part of the regular custodial training throughout the year, all custodians are trained on the proper use of these products. In addition, the Temco Supervisor and at least one of the Lead Custodians have obtained their Certified Educational Facilities Managers (CEFM) certifications. This certification requires coursework that covers environmental code compliance and sustainability. Our Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, the Assistant Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, and a member of the maintenance staff also all hold CEFM certifications and have recently attended additional workshops on sustainability. In addition, our Business Administrator has attended various workshops on sustainability and green cleaning while attending state association meetings.

PDF: [GREEN CLEANING TRAINING & EDUCATION PROGRAMS DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [GREEN CLEANING TRAINING & EDUCATION PROGRAMS DOCUMENTATION](#)

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PDF: [GREEN CLEANING TRAINING & EDUCATION PROGRAMS DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [GREEN CLEANING TRAINING & EDUCATION PROGRAMS DOCUMENTATION](#)

Healthy School Environments

Classroom Chemical Purchase, Storage & Disposal Policy

15 Points

School District

Program Summary: Purchase and storage classroom chemicals is handled through the science supervisor. Inventory is replaced as necessary. Periodically, a district-side disposal takes place to make sure that older inventory is not kept on hand. The disposal involves the Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds who is also the District's Right to Know agent. All disposals of any hazardous materials is closely monitored. In the case of classroom chemicals, the Supervisor first works with the Science Supervisor to confirm which items are being disposed, and then works with outside vendors certified for dealing with hazardous waste and specifically disposal of chemicals. A copy of the estimate for disposal of chemicals from February 2015 indicates that all chemicals will be disposed of per regulations. Also included is a bill of lading referencing the disposal of mercury containing light bulbs. As indicated, all hazardous materials are disposed of by certified contractors.

PDF: [CLASSROOM CHEMICAL PURCHASE, STORAGE & DISPOSAL POLICY DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [CLASSROOM CHEMICAL PURCHASE, STORAGE & DISPOSAL POLICY DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [CLASSROOM CHEMICAL PURCHASE, STORAGE & DISPOSAL POLICY DOCUMENTATION](#)

Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: The South Orange Maplewood School District has been active in idling prevention. In the recent past, we have -Worked with the municipal governments to have signage placed in the "High Idling Zones" around the schools in the district. -We have had Meadowlink, our Safe Routes to School Service Provider, speak at the Municipal Green Teams "Green Drinks Event Series" -We partnered with Meadowlink to pilot a "walking school bus" in a district elementary school. Unfortunately, we need to rethink this program as the background check requirement for the volunteers made the program too cumbersome and expensive to be sustainable in the long term. -Individual schools have created a highly successful "Drop Off Zone" that allows parent to drop off students above the third grade level without idling. -We continue to work with the towns to reduce traffic around schools and find ways to reduce any idling. - Anti-idling training is presented to the district bus drivers and is included in the drivers handbook (handbook reference is included in the documents). - Different reminders have gone out to parents. A sample of an anti-idling flyer will be made available to the schools for future distribution. And with regards to emissions reduction, the district participated in a Diesel School Bus Retrofit Program. The objective of the program was to reduce emissions of diesel particulate matter (PM) from school-district-owned school buses. This will be done by applying emission-reduction devices to all eligible school-district-owned school buses, where appropriate. And older buses are retired when possible. New buses are scheduled for the longer routes and more frequent routes with remaining older buses reserved for back-up.

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

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

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

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

Outdoor Air Quality Awareness Program

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: The Business Administrator participated in an EPA webinar, promoted through Sustainable Jersey, regarding outdoor air quality and learned about the EPA's School Flag Program. In November 2015, the school district registered with the EPA's School Flag Program to begin a community-wide initiative on air quality awareness. A set of flags for each school building in the district was obtained and distributed to each principal for implementation of the program. Information was also sent to the supervisors who oversee the science curriculum and to the supervisor of physical education who assists with recess activities in addition to outside physical education classes, and also is the supervisor of health education. Links to airnow.gov were shared with all for reference materials, implementation guidance, and access to daily air quality readings. While we are still working towards a district set of protocols, individual schools have begun implementation. On a district level, the green team has begun developing protocols for the schools including students checking the airnow.gov readings for the day and reporting the flag color for the day on the morning announcements. We are hoping to have high school students from the environmental club and tv studio develop a type of "infomercial" on the air flag program that can be used at the lower level schools and shown on the community cable station to help spread the word about outdoor air quality and about the EPA school flag program. One of our schools recently reported that since receiving the flags they have been using them and updating the flags daily. The custodial staff is involved in flying the correct flag based on the information obtained from the students reporting each day.

PDF: [OUTDOOR AIR QUALITY AWARENESS PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

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PDF: [OUTDOOR AIR QUALITY AWARENESS PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

IMAGE: [OUTDOOR AIR QUALITY AWARENESS PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [OUTDOOR AIR QUALITY AWARENESS PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

Innovation Projects

Innovative Project #1

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: The South Orange Maplewood School District has created an electronic waste management program for the schools. As electronic waste continues to pose a major threat to our environment, electronic waste recycling programs were introduced into our schools to educate children and help the environment at the same time. Hundreds of millions of electronic products are discarded each year, and when electronic waste ends up in landfills, it leaches harmful toxins into the ground, polluting water sources and destroying eco-systems. The goal of the program is to make it easier for our schools to dispose of old electronics in a responsible way, while simultaneously teaching children about the importance of protecting our environment. Twice a year, the school librarians collect from the school faculty and staff, electronics that are being retired from use. All of the collected items are brought to the Information Technology Department where they are evaluated. A list of the equipment is created and the school board approves a resolution for disposal or auction on govdeals.com. Items that are still in working order are auctioned off and unusable items are picked-up by an New Jersey state authorized recycling company. The program began November 21, 2005 and it does not incur a cost. This program has an excellent level of participation from all the District's schools and has been very successful at keeping electronics out of the regular trash stream at all the schools in the district. As a result of the e-waste recycling program we have found that recyclables are being diverted from the waste stream and we are helping to keep valuable natural resources from ending up in a landfill.

PDF: [INNOVATIVE PROJECT #1 DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [INNOVATIVE PROJECT #1 DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [INNOVATIVE PROJECT #1 DOCUMENTATION](#)

Innovative Project #2

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: Seth Boyden Outdoor Learning Center In the spring of 2016, Seth Boyden Elementary School's back yard was transformed into an outdoor learning space. A wealth of studies point to the positive effects of outdoor learning on academic achievement and classroom behavior. Better performances in reading, writing, math, science and social studies and reduced discipline problems and increased enthusiasm for learning are all noted benefits. Over the years, the PTA sought professional expertise and facilitated a collaborative process to create a vision, goals and strategies that incorporated input from parents, district staff, teachers and community members. The Outdoor Learning Center went through several development stages and was realized under the leadership of many PTA presidents and Outdoor Learning Center Committee Chairs. Parents and teachers first met with planners from the Natural Learning Initiative of North

Carolina University and developed a Master Plan to transform the school yard. Continual and creative fundraising was necessary to keep the project alive; everything from a buy-a-brick campaign and a spare change fundraiser to auctions, parties and a Seth Boyden Speaker series that included a sold-out event with "This American Life" star Ira Glass and company, as well as one with Project Runway's Tim Gunn. In 2015, the PTA had raised nearly \$100,000 for the largest and most expensive piece of the plan: the Outdoor Classroom. With the help of the South Orange and Maplewood School District an RFP for construction bids was released. Unfortunately, the bids came back with proposed budgets that were double and triple the amount of funds available. The planning committee was at a loss. Seth Boyden parent, Matthias Ebinger engaged William Scerbo, a renowned local landscape architect and former Rutgers University professor, to move the project forward. Bill went back to the plans and took the complexity out of the project. He replaced built structure with natural landscaping features that achieved the same goals. The next bid process resulted in a contract award to Evergreen Landscaping, a NJ-based landscaping firm, which is currently in the process of turning the project into a reality. Construction is now complete on the classroom and the habitat garden, as well as a native arboretum. The classroom was built with sustainable materials and designed for multiple uses. It has three intersecting circles: there is a classroom circle for teaching and learning complete with tables, chairs and blackboard, an improvisation nook or breakout area for students to work on their own in small groups or in performances and a third circle which is an art nook with a floor for chalk drawings surrounded by bird, bat and butterfly houses and instructional panels. A large sundial will cast shadows throughout the day, helping children understand the relationship of the position of the sun to the passing of time. The classroom will have electricity and a PA system. A misting system for kids to get cool on hot days was added at the principal's suggestion. In order to keep costs down, all of the work that does not require specific technical skill has been done by volunteers. Over 200 volunteers who include students, faculty, parents and local residents have planted 300 plants. Everything from blueberry bushes to hollies and perennial ferns have been put in the ground. Forty-one trees were planted to create a natural canopy including scarlet oak, sycamore, tulip and pink dogwood. The students have been busy painting butterfly, bird, bat and insect houses for the area. In addition to many donations from the larger school community, the project received grants from the Open Space Trusts of Maplewood/South Orange Townships. The local business community also contributed generously: Glenn's Landscaping donated one day of their crew and equipment to plant trees. Woolley Home Solution sponsored the sundial. Home Depot contributed some of the construction material and Lowes stepped up with a "tool box" grant, to just name a few. Extensive community outreach has been done to promote the Outdoor Learning Center to the school and community. Everything from having booths at local fairs, to an active social media page: <https://www.facebook.com/SethBoydenOutdoorLearningCenter>.

PDF: [INNOVATIVE PROJECT #2 DESCRIPTION OF OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER WITH PHOTOS](#)

PDF: [INNOVATIVE PROJECT #2 DOCUMENTATION](#)

IMAGE: [INNOVATIVE PROJECT #2 DOCUMENTATION](#)

IMAGE: [INNOVATIVE PROJECT #2 DOCUMENTATION](#)

Learning Environment

Student Participation in the Arts

10 Points

District

Program Summary: The Arts are an essential part of every student's education in the South Orange Maplewood School District. Each school in the district has at least one certified music

teacher and at least one certified visual arts teacher. Each of the seven elementary schools have certified music and visual art teachers, who teach Music and Art to all elementary students at least once a week. Elementary students also have the opportunity to play a string or band instrument in the 5th grade, and both String and Band teachers are certified music teachers. Both middle schools offer Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Art 2D and Art 3D, all of which are taught by certified music and visual art teachers. 100% of the middle school students are enrolled in either music or visual arts each year of middle school, with many students choosing to enroll in both. All 6th graders are required to take both a music and visual arts course. Columbia High School provides a variety of course offerings in both music and visual arts, offering 12 different courses in music and 21 different courses in visual arts, all taught by certified music and visual arts teachers. All high school students are required to take at least one music or visual arts course during high school, however, many students choose to take more than one throughout their four years.

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

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

Student & Community Outreach

Green Team

10 Points

 Bronze Required School District

Program Summary: Sustainability projects are taking place throughout the school district and therefore it was decided to create a District Green Team to help support all of these initiatives. Individual committees are working on specific projects at each school and representatives act as liaisons by attending the monthly District Green Team meetings. The mission statement for the Green Team states that: "Recognizing that creating sustainable schools require leadership, vision, and a long-term commitment, the mission of the Green Team is to coordinate and plan sustainability activities across the school district and to educate students and the community about the benefits of sustainability. The role of the district-wide green team is to coordinate and support efforts of individual school green initiatives and to facilitate communications within the school community." The Green Team includes representation from each school in the District, representation from the two collective bargaining units in the District (South Orange Maplewood Education Association and the Association of Supervisors, Coordinators and Administrators), Board of Education representation, and representation from the Maplewood Green Team and from the South Orange Environmental Commission. The Green Team was created in March 2015 and meets monthly during the school year. In order to help launch a number of school-based projects, the green team has had multiple working meetings in December and January, meeting with smaller groups and then sharing the information with the committee at large. As a result of these meetings, many district-wide efforts are taking place as a result of the shared information and to help develop consistency across buildings. The District Green Team has given individuals a place to turn to when they ideas or questions about sustainability. The number of people receiving green team communications has increased significantly over the past few months as staff begin initiatives and reach out to the green team for support. The goal is to eventually have a "green" page on the district website to allow access to information.

PDF: [GREEN TEAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [GREEN TEAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

Community Education & Outreach

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority School

Program Summary: COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH – SETH BOYDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Seth Boyden Elementary School has an active community education and outreach program focused on promoting the school's sustainability initiatives and the overall benefits of sustainability to the community. For this action, we will report on two community education and outreach programs. The school did these projects in partnership with Tuscan Elementary School, the South Orange Maplewood School District and the Municipal Green Teams of Maplewood and South Orange. The collaboration allowed for more widespread outreach and promotion across the community. The two projects are: 1) Hands-On Drip Irrigation Event on April 2, 2016 and 2) Greener Grass Demonstration Project in Spring 2016. HANDS-ON DRIP IRRIGATION EVENT On April 2, 2016 from 9-11 am, a Hands-on Drip Irrigation Event was held at Seth Boyden Elementary School. The event was free and open to the entire South Orange and Maplewood community. Drip Irrigation is a great way to reduce water usage while increasing garden yield. The event began with a speaker that provided an overview of the sustainable benefits of the school garden and the use of a drip-irrigation system for every backyard gardener. Experienced drip irrigation installers guided volunteers, including students, install a drip irrigation system into Seth Boyden's magnificent school garden called Strawberry Fields. The event participants learned how to install a drip irrigation system. As we have experienced in past events, the process of hands-on learning shows participants that drip irrigation is a doable eco-option for the average backyard food garden. In addition to participating in the installation of the system, the students were also engaged in monitoring the benefits of the drip irrigation system in their garden plots and reported out in the class room and for posts on the community's re:Yard website (www.reyard.org). Informational hand-outs promoted the sustainability of drip irrigation and its affordability. The event included assistance from the municipal green teams of Maplewood and South Orange who held a successful drip-irrigation event at a similar garden in South Orange called the Rent Party Food Pantry Garden. Outreach was distributed through the school communication channels, the municipal communication links, by media-release to news outlets and through the extensive social media of the Maplewood and South Orange Green Teams. The event was a tremendous success with over 50 people working in the garden together. GREENER GRASS DEMONSTRATION Greener Grass is a school yard demonstration project that incorporated sustainable techniques that benefit the Earth and the children who use the school yard. Using the Tuscan Elementary School yard as the base of the demonstration project, problems with the yard were sustainability diagnosed and remedied and then shared out to the community through a community blog. On February 29, 2016, the first event included members of the Tuscan Green Team who met with Claudia Thornton, a local landscape architect who specializes in sustainable landscaping. The group did a walk-through to assess the problem and suggest sustainable solutions. On March 17, 2016, the soil test results came back and were shared with the community. On April 4, an event was held for volunteers to remove the surface gravel and the area was top dressed with fresh soil. Progress reports on this project were promoted to the school communities and chronicled on the re:Yard website (www.reyard.org). Students and their families were involved in the project at every step of diagnosis and implementation of strategies. Students assisted in the work of the project, for example spreading seeds and collecting soil for a soil test. By demonstrating that solutions to common yard problems can be done without chemicals, we helped to encourage district families to try eco-solutions in their own yards. Outreach was distributed through the school communication channels, the municipal communication links, and through the extensive social media of the Maplewood and South Orange Green Teams

PDF: [DRIP IRRIGATION MEDIA RELEASE](#)

IMAGE: [FLYERFORFACEBOOK](#)

PDF: [FACEBOOK DRIP IRRIGATION](#)

PDF: [GREENERGRASSWEBPAGE](#)

PDF: [COMMUNITY EDUCATION & OUTREACH DOCUMENTATION](#)

IMAGE: [PHOTO STUDENT MAKING OUTREACH POSTER_SETH BOYDEN](#)

Green Fair

10 Points

School

Program Summary: Seth Boyden Elementary School partnered with the municipal Maplewood Green Team and Tuscan Elementary School to have a green fair. The Seth Boyden Elementary School fair was held Wednesday, April 20th, 2016, right after school. The green fair was held right after school in order to make sure that the whole school community attended, rather than just those already interested in sustainability. By partnering with Tuscan Elementary School, the schools maximized resources and volunteer hours by using the same materials and signage at both events. The Maplewood Municipal Green Team provided significant public relations, and the Eco-Obstacle course and other materials were reused in the children's section of municipal Maplewood Green Day. The Seth Boyden student Green Team made posters to advertise the event and they helped staff the different booths. The Green Fair was also advertised on the morning announcements and to the parents through the Seth Boyden News e-blast and on the Seth Boyden Facebook page. Green Fair Activities: • Eco-Obstacle Course: this included education obstacles like climbing through a maze of plastic bags to demonstrate the negative impact of shopping bags in the ocean and a sort the garbage and composting section. • Green Challenge Pledge Board: To launch the green challenge, the kids were asked to fill out pledges for the Earth. • Volunteer Opportunities Station with all of the options for environmental volunteering in the community. • Guess How Long it Takes to Decompose: Board with different common items like a sock, a tin can and Styrofoam. Each item had a pull out envelope that provided the amount of time that the object takes to decompose. • Seth Boyden Garden Seeds: The students sold seed packets for different plants and flowers that were taken from the Seth Boyden school garden. The Green Fair was well received by faculty, staff, parents and especially the students. (see documentation for photos).

PDF: [GREEN FAIR DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [FACEBOOK POST PROMOTION OF GREEN FAIR](#)

PDF: [QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT](#)

"Green" Your Green Fair or School Event

10 Points

School

Program Summary: Green Your Green Fair: SETH BOYDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Seth Boyden Elementary School partnered with the municipal Maplewood Green Team and Tuscan Elementary School to create and implement a green fair. This fair was held before the municipal green fair, called Maplewood Green Day, which was held on June 18, 2016. The events were cross-promoted and integrated. The goal was to make sure that the students that may not attend the municipal green fair had exposure to the sustainability message and activities. Through a partnership with

Tuscan Elementary School, we maximized resources and volunteer hours by using the same exhibits and signage at both events. We used green communications and marketing strategies such as e-blasts, e-newsletters through school district, township and the Maplewood Green Team. The Maplewood Municipal Green Team provided significant public relations and media outreach. In addition to reusing the exhibits at the school fairs, the Eco-Obstacle course was reused in the children's section of municipal Maplewood Green Day. The event was a carbon-neutral event as it was hosted outside to minimize the use of electricity and maximize the use of natural lighting. The activities were set up on grass to eliminate any disruption of nearby natural resources. The different stations incorporated the help of students from the Seth Boyden Green Team. The event was publicized to call-out the fact that we were having a carbon-neutral, waste free event that was in line with the sustainability goals that the green team used. Working with the school green teams we developed sustainability goals and actions for the Seth Boyden Green Fair.

Sustainability Goals & Actions for Seth Boyden Green Fair: Working towards a zero-waste event: • If we have food vendors, we will encourage food vendors to offer paper or compostable packaging. Student volunteers will be trained as “waste monitors” to assist fair guests in proper disposal techniques. • We will discourage vendors from using excessive packaging, plastic bags, water bottles, giveaways and generators. • We provided water and encouraged attendees to bring their own re-usable water bottles for refills. • We will incorporate green communications and marketing strategies using online outreach techniques, such as e-blasts, e-newsletters through school district, township and Maplewood Green Team, use of community calendars, etc. Working towards a carbon-neutral event: • The event will be hosted outside to minimize the use of electricity and maximize the use of natural lighting. The activities will be set up on grass or cement to eliminate any disruption of nearby natural resources. Supporting local economies: • We will incorporate local volunteers and vendors for the event. Encouraging healthy lifestyles: • If we have food, we will offer healthy, nutritious food choices Educating the community about sustainable living: • By partnering with Tuscan Elementary School, we will maximize resources and volunteer hours by using the same materials and signage at both events. • The fair will educate about the environment and sustainable living. • Our student volunteer “waste monitors” will educate attendees about proper recycling and composting techniques.

PDF: ['GREEN' YOUR GREEN FAIR OR SCHOOL EVENT OVERVIEW](#)

IMAGE: [GREEN FAIR ADVERTISING WITH GREEN GOALS ON BOTTOM](#)

PDF: [LETTERTOSCHOOLCOMMUNITY WITH EVENT GREEN GOALS INCLUDED](#)

Green Challenges

10 Points

School

Program Summary: On Earth day 2016, Seth Boyden Elementary School launched a ‘Seth Boyden Green Challenge’ for the students and faculty to have them take part in making a pledge to the Earth. The green challenge was distributed to students on Earth Day, Friday, April 22, 2016 by each class room teacher. Each teacher was given the challenge in advance and asked to prepare a lesson around the challenge. Each student was then asked to bring the challenge home to have a discussion with their family. The students and their families, filled out the top half of the green challenge to report results and kept the bottom half home at home as a reminder of what they pledged to do. The student led green team made green challenge posters to encourage students to take the pledge and made regular pitches for the challenge during the morning announcements. The student green team collected the top-half of the pledges from each class. The pledges were submitted from April 22 through May 13, 2016. The winning class will have a special picnic lunch in the Strawberry Fields garden. The goal of the challenge was to ask families to reduce the amount of waste that they dispose of, walk to school, send their students in with reusable water bottles, and pack a trash less lunch, and more options. The Seth Boyden Green Team will continue to get more of the community to take the pledge, the students had a table at

the Maplewood Green Team Green Day event to have more people fill out the pledge. The initial results were tallied and these are the 293 actions that were taken: Pledge Choice 1: Use Less Electricity: 74 students/families Pledge Choice 2: Pack Waste-Free Lunch: 38 students/families Pledge Choice 3: Reduce Driving/Walk More: 47 students/families Pledge Choice 4: Recycle/Reduce: 61 students/families Pledge Choice 5: Use Less Water: 72 students/families Pledge Choice All: 27 students/families

PDF: [SETH BOYDEN GREEN CHALLENGE](#)

PDF: [GREEN CHALLENGE LETTER FOR THE TEACHERS](#)

PDF: [EMAIL TO THE TEACHERS](#)

PDF: [GREEN CHALLENGES INITIAL RESULTS](#)

IMAGE: [GREEN CHALLENGES POSTER PHOTO](#)

Student and Staff Wellness

Programs to Promote Physical Activity

10 Points

School

Program Summary: The South Orange-Maplewood School District Department of Health, Physical Education and Nursing Services has done exemplary work in the area of increasing physical activity during the school day and beyond. The following actions have been taken and have been documented as helping students achieve the recommended 60 minutes a day of physical activity for children: 1. POLAR ACTIVITY WATCHES: Seth Boyden uses Polar Activity Watches to track student steps and minutes of physical activity daily. We have tracked this data using PolarGoFit, a software that collects information on student achievement of 60 minutes daily. 2. THE 100 MILE CLUB: Seth Boyden Elementary School encourages students to participate in achieving 100 miles in a school year by walking/jogging at recess. This program is coordinated by the physical education staff. 3. SPARK PE- This is a curriculum used in the South Orange Maplewood School District K-12 schools to increase moderate-to-vigorous physical activity during physical education. These lessons are fitness and activity based, while incorporating skill development in a variety of elementary physical education national and state standards. 4. GO NOODLE PLUS is a website made available to K-5 classroom teachers that has successfully allowed for student physical activity in the classroom by offering 3-5 brain boosts. 5. YMCA PARTNERSHIP: The South Orange -Maplewood School District has partnered with the YMCA and Maplewood Recreation Department to offer after-school, weekend and summer opportunities for children to be physically active. The annual YMCA healthy kids' day attracts over 700 elementary students from the district alone! Seth Boyden Elementary School participates and promotes this partnership. 6. DANCING CLASSROOMS: Each year, the Seth Boyden Elementary School Physical Education Department coordinates a school-wide field day and participates in Dancing Classrooms through New Jersey Performing Arts Center. 7. CATCH PROGRAM: The elementary schools in the South Orange and Maplewood School District participate in the CATCH program, which includes physical activities in both physical education and after school that infuse messages about healthy eating habits.

PDF: [GONOODLELETTERTOTEACHERS](#)

PDF: [ACTIVITYWATCHLETTER](#)

PDF: [POLARGOFITREPORT](#)

PDF: [MONTHLYGONOODLEREPORT](#)

IMAGE: [CATCHPROGRAMSCHOOLBILLBOARD](#)

IMAGE: CATCHPROGRAMSCHOOLBILLBOARD2