



Sustainable Jersey for Schools Special Award Recipients

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Green Team Collaboration Award

This award recognizes municipal and school green teams working together to advance sustainability in their schools and communities.

2025: Metuchen Public School District & Metuchen Borough

Metuchen Public School District joined the town's Green Fair in August 2025, building on its strong partnerships with the Metuchen Environmental and Shade Tree Commissions. Through the High School Tree Ambassadors program, students have led lessons, community workshops, and tree plantings, while Commission members have guided planning for a Trees for Schools grant. The Trees for Schools grant was awarded earlier this year. Looking ahead, the district is also planning a food recovery program with the municipality and local nonprofit partners. These collaborations create meaningful opportunities for students and the community to learn and grow together.

2024: Westfield Public Schools & Town of Westfield

The Westfield Public Schools and Westfield Town green teams have developed joint educational programs, planned projects, and shared strategies for applying for Sustainable Jersey for Schools grants and certification. Key initiatives include planning a bike oasis at the high school, launching a food waste collection program at Jefferson Elementary, organizing a Stream School Day along the Rahway River, and supporting student-led activities through the Student Auxiliary/Environmental Club, such as a thrift fashion show, native plantings, community cleanups and adopt-a-storm drain.

2023: High Bridge School District & High Bridge Borough (Hunterdon County)

The green teams at High Bridge School District and High Bridge Borough have demonstrated a shared commitment to promoting environmental education and sustainability. The green teams worked together to clean up the Raritan River, reduce the use of single-use plastics, plant trees and gardens, organize clean-ups, conduct food and clothing drives and more.



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2021: Delran School District and Township (Burlington County)

Delran Township School District and Township have received this award for their collaborative sustainability efforts, specifically for the work the green teams did together to address the invasive spotted lanternfly.

2020: Egg Harbor Township School District (Atlantic County)

The impressive collaboration efforts between the Egg Harbor Township School District Green Team, the Egg Harbor Township Municipal Green Team, and the Egg Harbor Township Environmental Commission to advance sustainability included [the Catawba project](#), [the Egg Harbor Municipal Community Teaching Garden](#) tended by Egg Harbor Township school students and the Egg Harbor Township Environmental Commission work-study [Eagle Academy projects](#).

Video: <https://youtu.be/MyUN3JoOH0>

2019: Highland Park School District (Middlesex County)

“The district institutionalized a culture of sustainability since it was last recognized by Sustainable Jersey three years ago. The natural next step was to work with borough partners to scale up our efforts by implementing exciting projects like the \$30,000 grant-funded planting of trees all over our campuses.” -- Dr. Scott Taylor, Superintendent, Highland Park Schools

2017: Delran Township School District (Burlington County)

Erica DeMichele, Delran Township School District, K-12 Supervisor of Science, Technology, Engineering, STEM Program Co-Coordinator, and Sustainability Program Coordinator said, “Delran Township Schools and the Delran Municipal Green Team began their collaboration at the infancy of the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program. That work includes education to the broader community at events like Delran Day, the Delran STEM Fair, planting 1,800 native species in the Millbridge School rain garden and planting wildflowers in the community. One notable success is the biodiversity audit completed by the middle school green team and seventh grade class last year, in conjunction with the Municipal Green Team’s task force on collecting data to stop the invasive [Emerald Ash Borer](#).”



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2016: South Orange-Maplewood School District and Maplewood Municipal Green Team (Essex County)

“On behalf of the entire school community, we are extremely proud to receive the Sustainable Jersey Collaboration Award. All of the schools in the district participated in the district-wide green team and the resulting increase in sustainability programs and projects was evident. Participants trace this success to collaboration. The schools worked together to complete the required sustainability actions and shared resources. Collaboration with the municipal Maplewood Green Team played an important role in developing the school district green team.” – South Orange Maplewood School District Superintendent Dr. John J. Ramos, Sr.

Sustainability Makes \$ense Award

This award recognizes a district that has demonstrated exemplary progress in sustainability which results in cost savings to the school district.

2025: Howell Township School District

Howell Township School District has received this award in recognition of their comprehensive Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP) and district-wide sustainability initiatives that have delivered significant cost savings while advancing environmental stewardship. The district's extensive solar energy project, which includes solar at 12 schools, serves as a major component of their sustainability efforts, reducing the district's carbon footprint by 3,821 tons of carbon dioxide annually while providing climate-controlled learning environments across all schools.

2024: Jackson Township School District

Jackson Township School District completed an Energy Savings Improvement Project (ESIP), investing \$28 million in advanced energy-efficient technologies including state-of-the-art boilers, LED lighting, advanced plug load controls, high-efficiency transformers, two combined heat and power (CHP) units, along with the installation of 5.2 megawatts of solar panels. These enhancements reduced annual energy usage from 16 million kWh to 9 million kWh, translating into millions of dollars saved annually. The district also uses geothermal energy at four schools and acquired two electric refuse trucks for recycling, furthering its energy savings.

2023: Jersey City Public Schools (Hudson County)

Jersey City Public Schools completed an Energy Saving Improvement Plan (ESIP) to finance energy upgrades -- including lighting and HVAC upgrades and a multi-building energy



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management system. The district will also be installing solar arrays as part of the ESIP project. These energy upgrades are projected to reduce the energy used by Jersey City Public Schools by more than 10%.

2022: Camden City School District (Camden County)

Camden City School District (CCSD) (Camden County) received the award in recognition of the district's significant energy conservation initiatives. In 2019-2020, CCSD had Local Government Energy Audits (LGEA) completed for 15 schools. The district then prepared an Energy Saving Plan (ESP) and started the Energy Saving Improvement Program (ESIP). They have begun light replacements, are doing ongoing maintenance (retro-commissioning) on their HVAC systems and generating revenue through demand response by reducing their energy usage at peak times.

2021: Hazlet Township Public School District (Monmouth County)

Hazlet Township Public School District has received this award for its exemplary energy practices, including participation in New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, installation of solar panels and completion of significant energy efficiency work--new windows, lighting fixtures, boilers and cooling systems--with the help of an energy specialist hired by the district. Between 2017 and 2020, Hazlet Township Public School District decreased overall energy consumption by 36 percent and saved \$469,770 in energy costs.

2020: Newark Public Schools (Essex County)

Sixty-one schools in Newark Public Schools achieved certification in 2020 and a significant part of their certification applications was the completion of the Energy Efficiency for School Facilities and Energy Tracking & Management actions. Each school completed an energy audit through New Jersey's Clean Energy Program (NJCEP) "Local Government Energy Audit (LGEA)" program. The Newark Public School District also instituted an Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP) through New Jersey's Clean Energy Program. From 2017-19, the district saved \$1.9 million, 4.7 million kWh, and 460,000 therms of gas," said Newark School District's Director of Sustainability, Rodney Williams. Video: <https://youtu.be/ZjvDHiTzZPg>

2019: Upper Township School District (Cape May County)

"We are super excited that our efforts have made a difference. Our Business Administrator, Director of Buildings of Grounds, custodial staff, teachers and our students have made conscious efforts to act in ways that place high priority on the conservation of resources. Every



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little action helps and the energy savings we continue to reap, go directly back into our budget and allow us to maintain and expand student programs and initiatives. Thank you to those who were instrumental in developing such a meaningful opportunity.” -- Vincent J. Palmieri, Superintendent, Upper Township School District

2018: Readington Township Public Schools (Hunterdon County)

In 2013, the Readington Township Public School District took the ambitious step to create an Energy Efficiency Program. With the combination of operational and behavioral changes initiated by staff and students, the district has reduced its energy use. The estimate of avoided cost based on the usage savings over the five years of the program is \$421,000. In 2016, Readington Middle School and, in 2017, Whitehouse School, earned the EPA ENERGY STAR certification for superior energy performance. Students are actively involved in the energy efficiency program. The green teams in each school participate in the program and the middle school students can participate in an Energy Club which monitors classrooms to ensure lights and electronics are turned off at the end of the day as well as investigates renewable energy sources.

2017: Lawrence Township Public Schools (Mercer County)

Dr. Crystal Edward, Superintendent of Lawrence Township Public Schools said, “We were delighted in 2008 when our Board of Education proposed and the Lawrence residents supported a referendum to place solar panels on the roofs of all seven schools. Since that time, revenue generated and savings earned by energy usage offset by the panels is passed to Lawrence residents in the form of tax relief. To be recognized by Sustainable Jersey for Schools with a Sustainability Makes \$ense Award for this green initiative is the icing on the cake.” Since 2010, the district has earned over three million dollars in revenue from energy generated by solar panels on all school buildings. This revenue is in addition to the energy usage offset by the panels. The total solar panel revenue plus cost of energy offset by the panels totals over four million dollars.

2016: Long Branch Public School District (Monmouth County)

“Long Branch Public School District is honored to receive the Sustainability Makes \$ense Award. This initiative is imperative as we must exhaust our efforts and thoughts to develop sustainable systems so that we do not compromise our future.” –Michael Salvatore, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools, Long Branch Public Schools



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2015 Leadership Awards

This award recognizes district leadership in coordinating the work of multiple schools and enabling all schools in the district to achieve Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification in the first year to the program.

Cherry Hill School District (Camden County)

"We're delighted to be recognized for all of the hard work our schools and the district as a whole put into their sustainability projects. Our commitment to sustainability is ongoing; we look forward to building on that commitment with future innovations in our curriculum, our culture and our facilities." Dr. Meloche also noted the district's collaboration with Sustainable Cherry Hill as a vital part of becoming a sustainability leader. "We're continuing our relationship with Sustainable Cherry Hill as it shares our commitment to understanding sustainability's importance not just in our community, but in the larger world community." - Dr. Joseph Meloche, Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools

Egg Harbor Township School District (Atlantic County)

"When we started our Energy program five years ago it wasn't always received with open hearts and minds, but we continue to change our bad old habits to do the right things for our people, district, township, and state. Not always the cheapest, easiest and certainly not always the most popular way to go, but all our schools are engaged and doing great things because it is the "Right Thing!" With Sustainable Jersey for Schools support, we want to continue to lead in that way! We are involved in tying in all our staff and students into a cohesive focused team to promote sustainability and conservation. It will teach our children the right way and make it better for all!" -Shawn Braue, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), District Energy Manager, Egg Harbor Township School District

Medford Township School District (Atlantic County)

"The Sustainable Jersey for Schools application process provided us with the opportunity to critically evaluate our greening efforts districtwide and to begin to develop future sustainable goals. As a district we look forward to this challenge and commit to creating a brighter future for the Medford Community. As we move ahead, we believe there is a 'Silver' lining in our future." - Joseph Del Rossi, Superintendent, Medford Township School District



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Readington Township School District (Hunterdon County)

"We are honored to be among a select group of districts who had all of their schools certified. We are especially proud of Whitehouse School and Three Bridges School who both received silver certifications. Readington Middle and Holland Brook each received bronze awards and have seen amazing energy-saving and behavioral changes. The hard work and dedication of our staff toward the district's ongoing sustainability goals is reflected in these awards." –Donald Race, Facilities Manager, Readington Township School District

Wayne Township Public School District (Passaic County)

"Since 2010, the Wayne Township Public School District has been moving forward with a robust, but solid foundation of a sustainable energy efficiency program. With the full support of a "forward thinking" Board and Administration, Wayne has now begun interfacing sustainability into the classroom and teaming with our student body, staff, teachers and the community. Wayne has had a vision to bring sustainability to not just one school, but to our entire District. We most recently received the "Bronze" recognition from the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program for each of our 14 schools in the District simultaneously. This distinct "Bronze" recognition has now allowed us to raise the "sustainable bar" and challenge ourselves to a future "Silver" certification. Sustainable Jersey thinking is here to stay in the Wayne Township Public School District and will assist in preparing our graduates to become future leaders of the global sustainable community." -- Dr. Mark Toback, Superintendent, Wayne Township Public Schools