

MAJOR PROGRAM REFRESH EFFORT



Info Session

Goals

- ✓ New user-friendly website, enhanced search features
- ✓ Comprehensive review of all program actions
- ✓ Streamline documentation requirements
- ✓ Encourage schools to apply for higher levels of certification including a new Gold level of certification
- ✓ Digital School Star recognition integrated into the certification application

Timeline

1. **Municipal Certification Program**
 - 2026 Certification Cycle Paused (including Gold Stars)
 - Refresh Completed for 2027 Cycle
2. **Schools Certification Program**
 - 2027 Certification Cycled Paused (including Digital Schools Star)
 - Refresh Completed for a 2028 Cycle
3. **Annual Activities Unchanged**
 - Grant Cycles
 - Technical Assistance Opportunities
 - Topic Focused Professional Development
 - Sustainability Summit



Impact on Your School Certification

- Certifications and Digital School Stars expiring in 2027 will be automatically extended by one year.
- All action submissions expiring in 2027 will automatically be extended by one year.
- The lookback period for action documentation will be extended to include the current and past two school years in 2028.
- The current website will remain operational until the implementation of the new site.
- Certification applications can continue to be updated. All action submission information will be migrated to the new site



SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GRANTS PROGRAM



2026-2027 Cycle Currently Open!

FOR WHO?

New Jersey **public** school district or school affiliated with **NJEA** that is **participating** in Sustainable Jersey for Schools

FOR WHAT?

\$2,000 and **\$10,000** grants for sustainability projects

FOR WHEN?

Grants will be awarded in **mid-to-late March 2027** and have a **12-18 month** performance period to complete the project

LEARN MORE

Visit our website at bit.ly/SJSNJEAgrants to learn more and apply

Online applications due by 11:59pm on October 30, 2026

2026 NJSBA WORKSHOP

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Building a Foundation for Data Privacy and Governance

Monday, October 19, 2026, 12:45pm–1:45pm, Room 304

Reducing Food Waste and Building Sustainability

Tuesday, October 20, 2026, 11:30am-12:30pm, Room 403



Visit us at Booth #847!

2026 NJEA CONFERENCE

CONVENTION SESSIONS

Creating Real-World Learning with Digital Tools

Thursday, November 5, 2026, 11:15am-12:30pm, Virtual

From Idea to Impact: Funding School Sustainability

Thursday, November 5, 2026, 11:15am-12:30pm, Virtual

Sustainable Food Systems and Reducing School Food Waste

Thursday, November 5, 2026, 1:45pm–3:00pm, Virtual



Visit us at Booth #1539!



Sustainable Jersey for Schools

Energy Technical Assistance

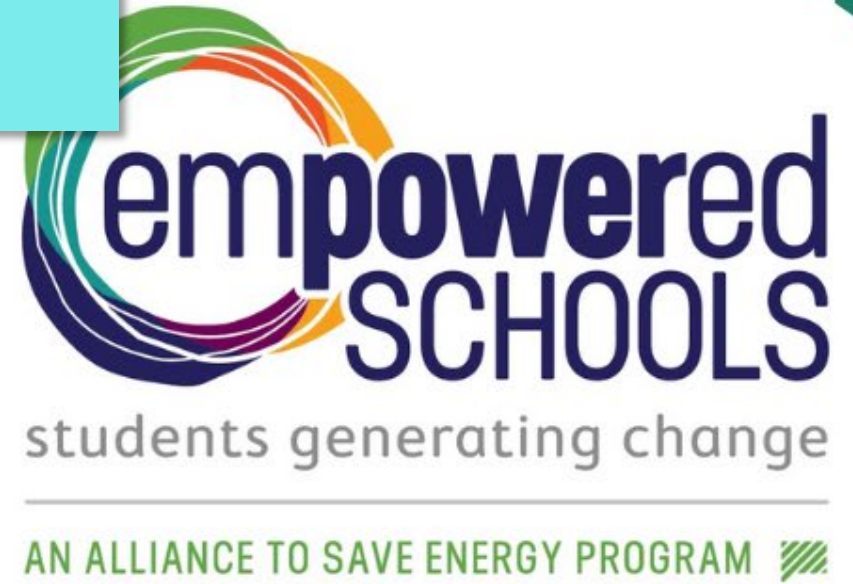
for Schools and School Districts



- Assistance applying for State and utility energy efficiency incentives
- Energy tracking and management
- Completing energy actions for certification

Get free energy technical assistance for your school or school district

Schools within the service territories of [PSE&G](#), [NJNG](#), [SJG](#), [ETG](#), or [RECO](#) are eligible



The Empowered Schools program - formerly known as PowerSave Schools - provides free support and resources to educate students about energy efficiency and save money on your school's energy costs.

Learn
More [Here](#)

Connect with Us!

Complete our [Survey](#)



Book a [Meeting](#)



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Program Underwriters



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