

RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

Rutgers Environmental Stewards and Sustainable Jersey

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Webinar participation by Pat Rector,
Rutgers Cooperative Extension
Environmental and Resource Management Agent
Morris and Somerset Counties
November 2, 2016

What is RCE?

Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) helps the diverse population of New Jersey adapt to a rapidly changing society and improves their lives through an educational process that uses science-based knowledge.



- The Rutgers Environmental Stewards (RES) Program educates the public about the science behind pressing environmental issues and helps participants create positive change in their communities.



20- Weekly classes cover the basic processes of earth, air, water, and biological systems.

Stewards gain:

- **An increased awareness of the techniques used to monitor and assess the health of the environment from professionals within their field.**
- **An understanding of the current research and regulations governing environmental management in New Jersey.**
- **An introduction to group dynamics and community leadership.**
- **Classes include regional topics based on the county location**
- **Field trips are included as part of the hands-on learning experience.**

RES Internship

- The largest hands-on experience is derived from the 60-hour internship.
- The internship must be volunteer based
- The internship is project based not hour based
- The internship is a give-back to the community



hmmmmmmm

Wouldn't that be a great idea?



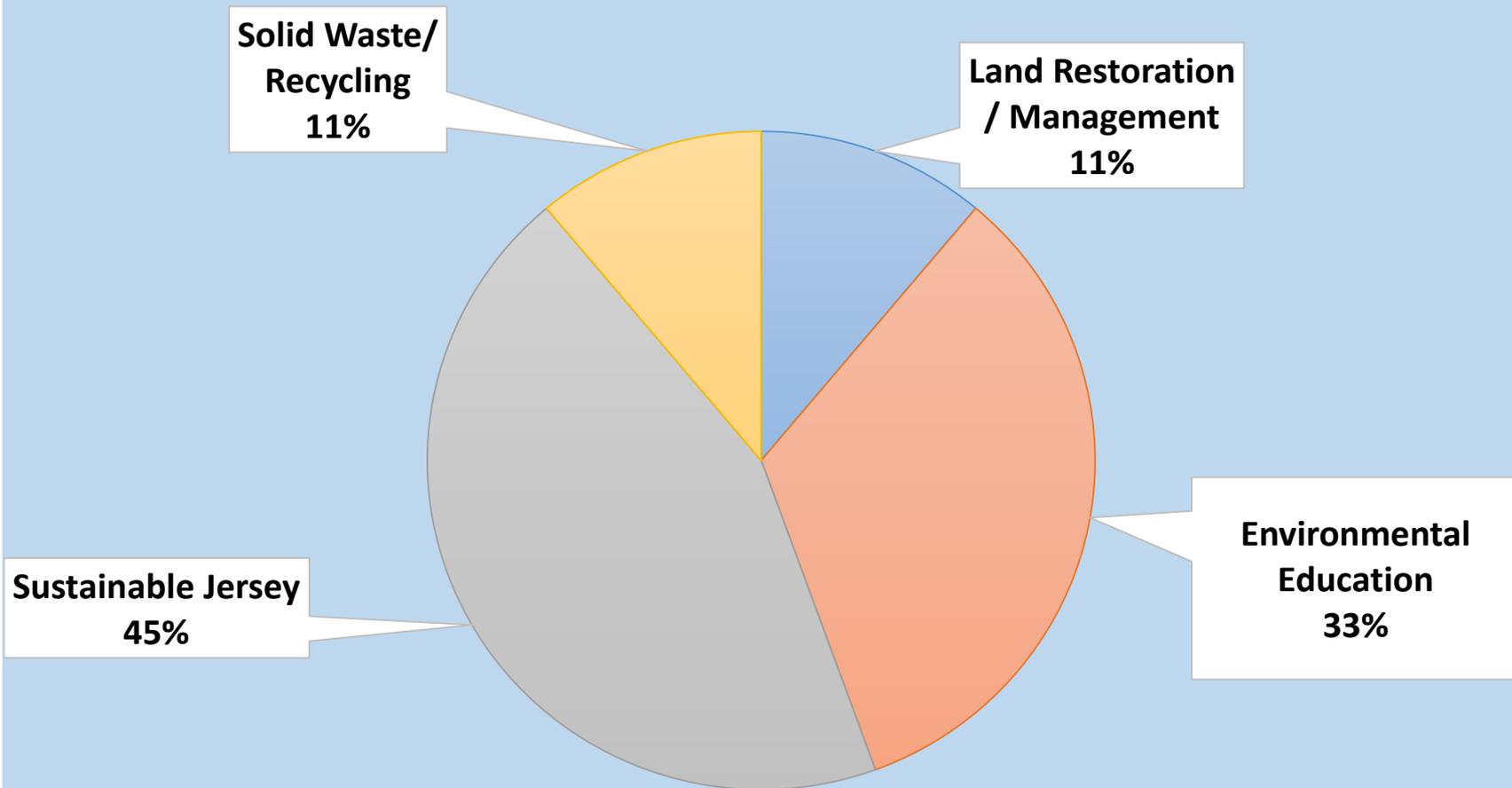
Maybe we could work together and have an intern work with us to help with certification, recertification or moving up from bronze to silver certification.

We have had over 18 internships that have either provided support in terms of projects that provided points or that actually brought their municipalities all the way through the certification process.



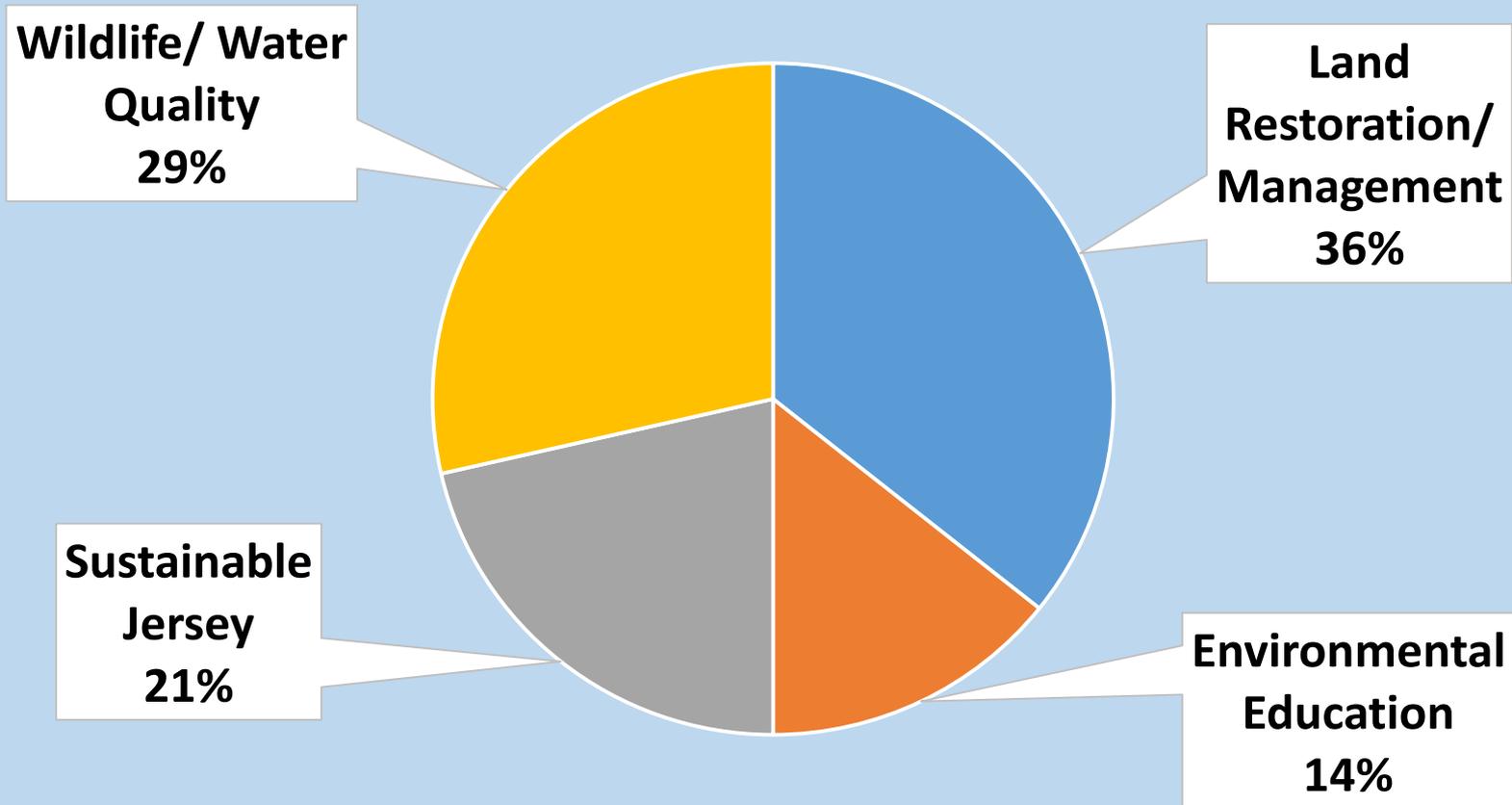
What types of internships?

**Types of Stewardship Projects by percentage
2014**



What types of internships?

Types of Stewardship Project by percentage 2015



- Land Restoration/ Management
- Environmental Education
- Sustainable Jersey
- Wildlife/ Water Quality

Brenda Taube - Margate



- **The green team, also learned after the workshop that they had just been approved for a bronze level certification through “Sustainable Jersey.”**

As an Environmental Steward, Brenda learned her city needed a “green team” so she started one where she serves as a City Commissioner.

She suggested hosting a “Storm Water Management Workshop.”

She suggested this workshop after listening to Dr. Chris Obropta and Dr. Ken Miller lecture during the Rutgers Environmental Stewards Class.

The attendees represented the whole Absecon Island.

Name	Municipality	Project
Thuy Anh Le Duke 2006	Hillsborough	Home energy audit workshops at library 10 points each
Tom Latza EcoComplex 2009	Belmar	Successful Energy audit for the town partnered with NJ Bd of Public Utilities. His work responsible for the town being certified.
Michelle McBride Duke 2010	Hampton	Inventoried, mapped and organized over 200 conservation easements. Included in Silver application.

Working with SJ



Mary Catherine Sudiak actually worked for Sustainable Jersey to assist researching and writing a number of the actions including Community Education and Outreach, Green Fairs, Community Asset Mapping, Accessibly Communications, Diversity on District Task Forces and Committees, Professional Development and Curriculum.

Fleet inventory

**Stephen Jasiiecki-
2014**





- Gabriele became an active member of Bergenfield's Environmental Commission and Green Team,
- She assisted with several sections of the Sustainable Jersey certification for her Borough which was awarded Bronze certification in 2014.
- These included assisting with the High School's rain garden project, donating time and helping to source some funding from the Borough and from Bergen County Utilities Authority.
- She conducted several clean-ups including one of Coopers Pond and one of the downtown shopping area and coordinated paper shredding events.
- She helped to coordinate and judge the environmental poster (elementary schools) and media (middle and high schools) contests. Participation in 2014 nearly doubled, with over 400 entries.

Their team is presently in the planning process for advancing the Borough's certification to Silver.

How can we work together?

We run the Rutgers Environmental Steward Program out of 5 locations at this time.

Passaic County

(Wayne, @ Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Passaic County)

Middlesex County

(Rutgers Cooperative Extension E.A.R.T.H. Center of Middlesex County)

Somerset County

(Duke Farms)

Atlantic County

(Atlantic County Utilities Authority)

Burlington County

(Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Burlington County)

Internships are an important part of our program. We are looking to have internships “in the bank”

Green teams have benefitted from our interns previously.

We would now like to work with Sustainable Jersey and the municipalities to have a more directed rather than accidental internship pairing.

Sustainable Jersey has made the Small Grants (\$2,000) available to use for tuition. New Green Team members who may be interested in becoming more educated in environmental science can take the course and commit their project towards a Green Team need, including Going for the Silver or even Gold.

Internships

- Our internships must show “impact” at the end.
- Similar to SJ Actions, something has to happen.
- Internships that may be something a participant dreamed of may still qualify for SJ points IF they can bring the project to their municipality early. We have brought that to the attention of a couple of interns recently.
- Check out past internships that were not for SJ
- <http://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/CertifiedRutgersEnvironmentalStewardsImpactsandProjects.html>

- Project Criteria:
- Must be environmentally related
- Should require approximately 60 hours to complete with more optional upon mutual assent of volunteer, host and RCE.
- Task should match volunteer's skill and ability and personal interests to assure satisfaction and effectiveness.
- Outcome must be measurable and quantifiable.
- Outcome must produce benefits beyond personal well being.
- Beneficiary (host) must agree to provide appropriate support, guidance and written evaluation in a timely fashion

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<http://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers Environmental Stewards

