



Leveling Up: Going for Silver

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Grant Funding Opportunities

Accepting Applications Now

New Jersey Education Association Grants

Ten \$10,000 and forty \$2,000 grants for any initiative that would earn points towards Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification

Application Deadline Extended: December 4

Details and application link at www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/grants-resources

FREE!

FALL WEBINARS

WITH SUSTAINABLE JERSEY FOR SCHOOLS



Sustainable Jersey Digital Schools Program Update

December 15, 2020 at 10:00-11:00 AM

The Digital Schools Program builds on the legacy of the Future Ready Schools - New Jersey (FRS-NJ) program by integrating FRS-NJ topical areas and content into the Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification program. The first application submission deadline for recognition as a Digital School within the Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification program is January 15, 2021. Join us to learn how schools can participate in this new program.

Register at <http://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/nc/events-trainings/>



This free online training series, in partnership with the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), will cover all Sustainable Jersey for Schools actions in detail. Participants will leave the training with a plan for achieving certification and engaging others in support of the certification process. Register for the sessions at <https://www.njsba.org/meetings/>

1. Nov 5, 1-3pm: An Introduction to Sustainable Practices
2. Nov 19, 1-3pm: A District's Role in Sustainability
3. Dec 3, 1-3pm: Building Management & Energy
4. Dec 8, 1-3pm: Student Learning
5. Dec 17, 1-3pm: Healthy Schools
6. Jan 7, 1-3pm: Connecting with Community
7. Jan 21, 1-3pm: Purchasing & Green Cleaning
8. Feb 9, 1-3pm: Digital Schools



Webinar Agenda

- Why Go for Silver?
- Certification Requirements & 2021 Cycle
- Strategizing with your Online Application
- Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet
- Green Team Resources
- Action Strategy / Tips for Success
- Technical Assistance/Questions



Why Go For Silver?

- Prestige, pride, recognition for being silver certified
- Serve as leader and model in the statewide movement – 321 schools certified; 23 schools at silver level



- Reap rewards of greater sustainability action in your school
 - e.g. Saving thousands of dollars on energy costs
- Certified schools gain priority access to Sustainable Jersey grants



Additional National Recognition



<https://njudubon.org/green-ribbon-schools/>

- Letter of Intent Due November 15th
- Final Application Due December 18th

Applications are scored based on demonstrated progress in 3 pillars

- Pillar I: Reduce environmental impact and cost.
- Pillar II: Improve the health and wellness of students and staff.
- Pillar III: Provide environmental and sustainability education, incorporating STEM, civic skills and green career pathways.

Contact: allison.mulch@njudubon.org



Levels of Certification



- Green team
- 2 out of 11 priority actions
- Actions completed in 6 of 19 categories



- Green team
- 3 out of 11 priority actions
- Actions completed in 8 of 19 categories

If you recertify before all points in the application expire you can build on existing approved points for certification instead of starting from zero!

<http://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/actions-certification/certification-overview/>



2021 Certification Cycle

January 15 – Initial Application Deadline

- Late February – Reviewer Comments
- **March 26** – Second Submission
- Early May – Reviewer Comments
- **June 21** – Final Application Submission
- Early August – Certified Schools Notified
- **October** – Certified Schools Celebration



Unity Charter School – 2020 Silver



Winslow Twp Middle School – 2020 Silver

<http://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/actions-certification/certification-overview/2021-application-cycle/>



Strategizing with your Online Application

1. First, determine the number of approved points, and check their expiration dates

SEARCH ACTIONS

Type in a word(s) to identify all actions with that word(s) in the title

Planned Completed Must Revise Not Approved Approved Expired

ACTION TOTALS (Approved)	
Mandatory	0/1
Priority	0/5
Total	10/405
Categories	1/19
Actions	1/39

Green Enhancement of District Strategic Plans Status: Approved

10 Points District Only

- Expires on 08/31/21
- Last updated 07/30/20
- This submission is currently locked

Actions that expire after August 31 of your application year do not need to be updated.

2. Next, focus on updating actions that have expired

Diversity & Equity

Breakfast After the Bell Status: Expired

20 Points

- Last updated 08/07/18
- Expired on 08/07/18

Diversity on District Task Forces & Committees Status: Expired

10 Points District Only

- Last updated 08/07/18
- Expired on 08/07/18



Strategizing with your Online Application

3. Look at the **not approved** actions and read the reviewer feedback to determine what was missing

Application Overview View details and history Help Reviewer f	
Current Status This application is IN PROGRESS	IN PROGRESS
Application History This applicant has applied one time	Certified December 6, 201
Reviewer Feedback Click here →	2 published comments 1 archived comments

REVIEWER FEEDBACK

No feedback has been published.

[SHOW ARCHIVED COMMENTS](#)



Why Actions Are Not Approved

Pitfall	How to Overcome
Action documentation completion date is outside the shelf life of the action	Review the Introduction and “What to Submit” sections of the action to find the shelf life of eligible activity and documentation (i.e. how old can they be and still qualify to earn points). Only submit documentation that falls within this period.
Proper documentation not submitted	Ensure that the documentation uploaded fulfills the requirements outlined in “What to submit”
Misinterpretation of Action Goals	Closely read the “What to Do” and “What to Submit” portion of the action to ensure that what you plan to submit is in line with the intent of the action
Seeking credit for same initiative under two different actions	Any initiative may only be submitted under one action, even if it fulfills the requirements of more than one action. Review the entire application to spot duplication
Failure to conduct outreach/education component required for many actions	Read beyond the action’s title, paying close attention to the “What to Do” and “What to Submit” sections
Failure to complete the prerequisite action	Check the Introduction and the “What to Submit” section for prerequisites, and make sure that any required are completed by the final application deadline.



Strategizing with your Online Application

4. Input information about **approved**, **expired** and **not approved** actions into the *Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet* so that your team can develop a plan to begin working toward silver certification

- Spreadsheet is found on the [Green Team Resources Page](#) under the “Grants & Resources” tab of www.sustainablejerseyschools.com
- It includes the action name, submission requirements, shelf-life, resubmission requirements, and points for each action

5. Examine the actions which you have not previously submitted

6. Assign actions to your team by identifying those with an interest in a particular area or those with access to information

(e.g. *policy* actions to board members, *Breakfast After the Bell* action to food service director, *IAQ* and *IPM* actions to Facilities staff, *iSTEAM* actions to curriculum and teaching staff, *School District Foundation* to PTO, etc.)



Strategizing with your Online Application

7. Take a two- or three-year approach to achieving silver.

In the first year, complete long-duration actions and submit them for review. Ensure that approved points will remain approved in your application through your target year to achieve silver.



Actions with Long Approval Duration (1 of 2)

Action	Approval Expiration**	Points
District Sustainability Policy	Application Year + 2	10
School Community Asset Mapping	3 years	10
School Carbon Footprint	3 years from date of most recent data used in analysis	10
Onsite Renewable Generation System - Geothermal	5 years	10
Onsite Renewable Generation System - Solar	5 years	Variable: 5,10,20,30,40
Energy Efficiency for School Facilities	For 5 and 10 points, 5 years from the baseline year provided for data . For 15, 20, 30, 40 and 50 points, 5 years from the completion of energy upgrades.	Variable: 5,10,15,20, 30, 40, 50
Green Cleaning Plan & Policy	Application Year + 2	10
Green Cleaning Equipment	3 years (if school district owns equipment) Application Year + 1 (if equipment is owned by contracted service provider)	10
Green Building Policy	Application Year + 2	10
Prerequisite for Design, Build or Certify to Green Standards		

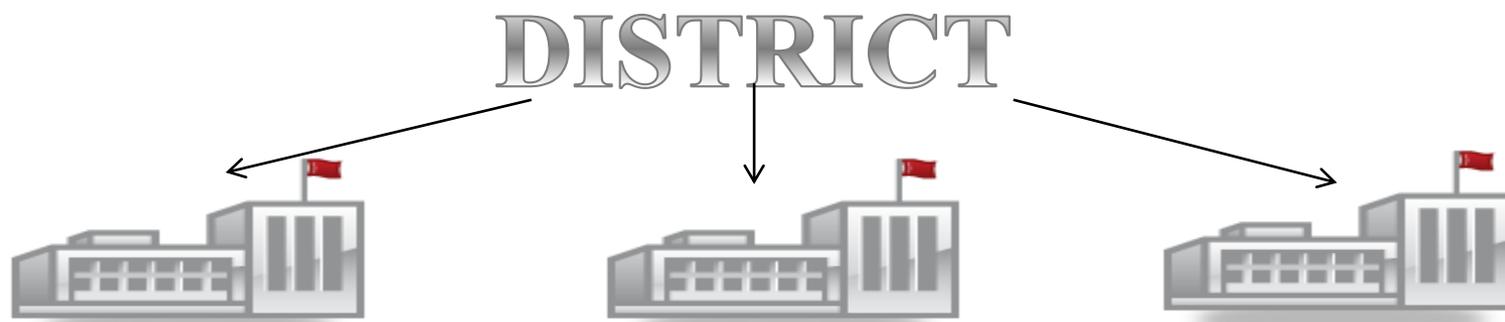


Actions with Long Approval Duration (2 of 2)

Action	Approval Expiration**	Points
Green Purchasing Policy	Application Year + 2	10
Classroom Chemical Purchase, Storage & Disposal Policy	Application Year + 2	15
Radon Testing and Mitigation	5 years from testing date	Variable: 10, 20
Innovative Project #1	Up to 5 years	10
Innovative Project #2	Up to 5 years	10
iSTEAM Strategic Plan Indicators/iSTEAM Policy	Application Year + 2	10
Biodiversity Audit & Management Plan	3 years	10
Biodiversity Project	3 years	10
Green Infrastructure Assessment & Plan	3 years	10
Green Infrastructure Installation	3 years	10
School Culture and Climate Needs Assessment	3 years from completion of action plan	20
Policies to Promote Physical Activity	Application Year + 2	10
Safe Routes to School District Policy	Application Year + 2	10
School Travel Plan for Walking and Biking	3 years from the date the plan was completed	10



District and School Collaboration Required



- District actions **flow down to all** participating schools in the district
- Certification is awarded at the **school level**
- Need to determine at what level “Both” actions will be completed (If an action status is changed from “Unplanned” in the district application, then schools cannot complete it in their applications)
- District application needs to be completed in same time frame as school applications

**Districts can earn up to 490 points
to support school applications**



Green Team Resources

FOR SCHOOLS SUSTAINABLE JERSEY CERTIFIED

A BRIGHTER FUTURE one school at a time

ABOUT ACTIONS & CERTIFICATION EVENTS & TRAININGS GRANTS & RESOURCES MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT US REGISTER

Home > Grants & Resources > Green Team Resources

Green Team Resources

Ready, Set, Go! Quick Start Resources to Get You Moving

- Certification Overview
- Application User Guide: Detailed guide providing guidance on how to manage users, navigate, and submit your application
- Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet (Updated April 2015)

Program Overview

- Certification Overview: Including steps and application cycle
- Ready, Set Go! Getting Started with Sustainable Jersey for Schools webinar and presentation

Green Team Strengthening

- Create Your Green Team Action: Read through this action to understand what the purpose of the Green Team is, why it is important, and how to get it started.
- Secrets to a Successful Green Team
- Rubric for Assessing your Green Team

GRANTS & RESOURCES

- Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program
- Grants Portal

Green Team Resources

TIP!

Download the Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet:
<http://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/grants-resources/green-team-resources/>



Partner With Your Municipal Green Team

Actions that earn points in both programs

- Community Education & Outreach
- Green Fair
- Green Your Green Fair/School Event
- Civic & Stewardship Activities
- Recycling Non-Mandated Materials
- School Gardens
- Community Asset Mapping
- Safe Routes to School



Egg Harbor Township
2020 Green Team Collaboration Award

TIP: Look up your town on the Sustainable Jersey Municipal Program homepage to get contact information:
<https://www.sustainablejersey.com/certification/search-participating-municipalities-approved-actions/>



Check out Examples - Action Spotlights

Exemplar submissions from currently certified schools are “spotlighted” in the action descriptions:

Education for Sustainability Grades 4-12 Social Studies 5 Points School

Why is it important?	<p>Spotlight: What New Jersey schools are doing</p> <p>Bell Oaks Elementary School, Bellmawr Public School District The students of Bell Oaks Elementary School viewed a Channel One News video that explained how Franklin D. Roosevelt’s “Four Freedoms” speech sought to move Americans to join the war and laid the framework for the declaration. To view Bell Oaks Elementary School approved submission click here.</p> <p>Bret Harte Elementary School, Cherry Hill School District During our Trash to Treasures project, students used waste products from their homes in order to create a usable product. This project effectively involved both students and parents as conversations extended into the homes as students sought to recycle and repurpose waste products. The creativity involved in the project also sparked interest among students and families alike, leading to far reaching effects such as follow-up conversations and suggestions for extension activities in the home. To view the complete description of Bret Harte Elementary School's Trash to Treasures project click here.</p> <p>Reeds Road Elementary School in Galloway, NJ The fourth grade students Reeds Road Elementary School learned about the life cycle of plastic water bottles to help them</p>
Who should lead and be involved with this action?	
Timeframe	
Project costs and resource needs	
What to do, and how to do it ("How to")	
What to submit to earn points for this action	
Spotlight: What New Jersey schools are doing	
Resources	

[Print Action Description](#)

[Download PDF Version](#)



Check out Examples – Certification Reports

See documentation from certified schools in the Participating Schools Map

Search by action



View certified schools approved for that action



View certification report for example documentation

Map view List view

Map Satellite

TABERNALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BURLINGTON COUNTY

Certification Level: **Silver**
Certified On: August 09, 2018
Total Points: 440
Certification Report: [View Report](#)
Applicant Profile: [View Profile](#)

BY TYPE

- District
- School
- All

BY STATUS

- Registered
- Bronze Certified
- Silver Certified
- Any Certified
- Any

BY CERTIFIED ACTION

SEE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW

Board Leadership & Planning

- Professional Development for Sustainability
- District Sustainability Policy
- Green Enhancement of District Strategic Plans
- Strategic Plan Implementation of Green



Sustainable Jersey for Schools Community Certification Report

[Download PDF Version](#)

This is the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification Report of Tabernacle Elementary School (Burlington), a Sustainable Jersey for Schools silver certified applicant.

Tabernacle Elementary School (Burlington) was certified on August 09, 2018 with 440 points. Listed below is information regarding Tabernacle Elementary School (Burlington)'s Sustainable Jersey for Schools efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Jersey for Schools (Burlington) is:

Name:	Gerald
Title/Position:	Principal
Address:	141 Ne Tabernacle
Phone:	609261

Sustainability Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation (Burlington) was approved for in 2018 appears changed and the documentation listed may include points associated with actions prior to 2013.

BOARD LEADERSHIP & PLANNING

District Sustainability Policy 10 Points District

Program Summary:

The Tabernacle Township Board of Education recognizes its role as a responsible steward of the environment. Embracing the sustainable schools concept and building healthy and sustainable schools positively impacts not only our students' learning experience but the health of the entire community. To this end, it supports sustainable planning and operations, as well as sustainability education and shall therefore endeavor to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The District's goal is to not only incorporate sustainability into our operational and business practices to the extent of economic and practical feasibility, but to make it an integral part of the students' educational experience. We seek to preserve our natural environment while balancing social, economic and environmental issues. The District believes that it is both possible and desirable to:

- Protect the environment and preserve natural resources;
- Improve the learning environment and student health;
- Enhance sustainability leadership in our schools and community;
- Strive to create green and healthy spaces within and outside our schools;
- Create a culture of Environmental Stewardship.
- Save General Fund dollars that can be used towards education and jobs.

The District further believes that public education can provide leadership in sustainable development and operations. Therefore, it shall implement this policy in a manner that will involve those who attend, visit, and work in support of the District. The extent of this policy is far-reaching. It will include, but not be limited to:

- Facility operations, functionality, design and construction;
- Purchasing;
- Curriculum development;
- Health and Wellness.

The Superintendent, in consultations with the Business Administrator shall establish administrative procedures and guidelines to implement this policy. Our district continues to recognize the importance of sustainable practices. There is on going support for the SJ4S actions as we strive towards a more responsible & sustainable school.

- [BOE Approval Documentation](#)
- [District Sustainability BOE minutes 2017](#)
- [District Sustainability Policy Documentation/BOE](#)
- [District Sustainability Policy Documentation/screen shot](#)



Action Strategy

- Identify actions approved from prior certification & those with which you're already involved; use the Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet and assign actions to green team members
- Identify actions with a long approval duration if building application over more than one year
- Pursue actions in which the school or district was interested
- Identify actions for which people have a passion
- Engage the help of Interns to help with collecting and uploading documentation – Administrative or High School / College students





First Certification Application Deadline:

**Jan 15, 2021
at 11:59pm**



Questions?

- Visit us at www.sustainablejerseyschools.com
- Email us at schools@sustainablejersey.com
- Call Sustainable Jersey Staff
 - Heather McCall 609-771-2469
 - Véronique Lambert 609-771-3427

The webinar and presentation will be posted on the [Webinar Recordings & Presentations](#) page of our website



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Grants Program



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