

# Making Progress on Your Certification





#### **Presenter**



Véronique Lambert, Program Coordinator Sustainable Jersey for Schools <a href="mailto:lambertv@tcnj.edu">lambertv@tcnj.edu</a> 609-771-3427



### **Webinar Agenda**

- Certification & Digital Schools Star Overview
- 2021 Certification Cycle
- Reviewer Comments
- Overview of district & school applications
- Re-Submitting Documentation
- Tips for Success
- Green Team Resources
- Technical Assistance/Questions

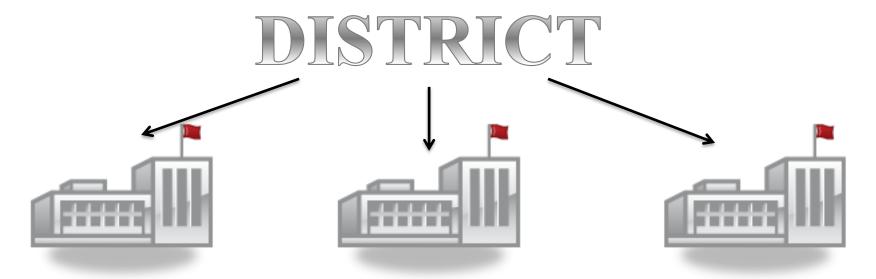


# Certification & Digital Schools Star Application Overview

- Online application for certification has 3 rounds of submissions and reviews
- Districts and schools submit applications, but certification and Digital Schools Star are only awarded to schools
- Digital Schools Star:
  - Districts and schools complete requirements as part of the certification application
  - Only schools submit separate Digital Schools Star application (single action with checklist) in the final round of the certification cycle



#### District and School Coordination



- Points from district actions flow down to all participating schools in the district
- Certification is awarded at the **school level**
- Digital Schools Star is awarded at the **school level**



#### Levels of Certification



- Green team
- 2 out of 14 priority actions
- Actions completed in 6 of 22 categories



- Green team
- 3 out of 14 priority actions
- Actions completed in 8 of 22 categories

https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/certification/certification-overview/



# Going for a Digital Schools Star?

Be sure to complete the following requirements as part of your certification application:

- Complete at least 7 Digital Schools actions in the 3 Digital Learning categories. Of the 7, 5 must be Foundational actions.
- Complete at least **3 Student Learning actions** with **digital learning focus**. Pre K-3 schools with fewer than 3 grades need only complete one such action per grade level.
- Complete at least 1 School Culture and Climate action with a digital learning focus.

With the completion of the mandatory Green Team action, you may not need to complete additional actions to earn both bronze certification as well as a Digital Schools Star.

https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/actions/digital-schools-program/digital-schools-star-recognition/#open/action/108



# Digital Schools Star within **Bronze or Silver Certification**

**Green team** - existing team may also serve as green team

Wellness Council **iSTEAM** Digital Learning Creative Team Team Green Team

**Priority actions** - need 2 for bronze: 3 for silver)

There are 4 priority actions with a **Digital Schools focus** 

**Action categories** – need 6 for bronze; 8 for silver

Digital Schools focused actions are located in 5 categories



# 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

https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/certification/ 2021-certification-cycle/



Unity Charter School - 2020 Silver



Winslow Twp Middle School – 2020 Silver



### **Application Unlocked Email**

All users notified by email when application is unlocked and ready for editing.

#### Your Application is Now Unlocked!

From: Sustainable Jersey for Schools

To: All application users

Dear School/District Applicant:

Thank you for submitting a Sustainable Jersey for Schools application. We have completed the first round of reviews. Based on past certification cycles, it is typical that only a small percentage of actions get approved after the first round. There are two more review rounds in this application cycle.

**Application Information** 

Webinar

**Process to Resubmit** 

**Action Submission Tips** 

Confirm Your Contacts: Update District/School Profile and Manage Users

**List of Must Revise Actions** 



#### Reviewer Feedback

- Reviewers read the submissions and provide feedback. Actions are marked "Approved" or "Must Revise."
  - Must Revise feedback will summarize what needs to be addressed to have the action approved.
  - Feedback is at the bottom of the action submission page or top of the application.
- Feedback on Not Approved actions from a previous submission can be found by clicking "Show Archived Comments" at bottom of action submission page.

# Reviewer Feedback No feedback has been published. > Show archived comments

55 PUBLISHED COMMENTS
0 UNPUBLISHED COMMENTS
82 ARCHIVED COMMENTS



#### **Reviewer Comments**

#### No Documentation Submitted

 No documentation has been uploaded to support any description that may have been submitted in the "Description of Implementation" text box.

#### **Submission Requirements Not Yet Met**

- Documentation is uploaded to the action submission, but does not meet the requirements for approval.
- The reviewer comments provide guidance on the specific submission items that need to be addressed.

#### **Outdated Documentation**

 No new documentation has been uploaded for the new certification year. Old documentation does not meet the standard.



#### **Reviewer Comments**

#### **Prerequisite Not Met**

 Action submission is sufficient for approval, but the prerequisite action has either not been submitted for or has been marked "Must Revise".

#### **Actions with Prerequisites**

- Strategic Plan Implementation of Green Initiatives (Prerequisite: Green Enhancement of District Strategic Plans)
- Design, Build or Certify New Construction & Major Renovations to Green Standards (Prerequisite: Green Building Policy)



### Accessing the Dashboard

Click

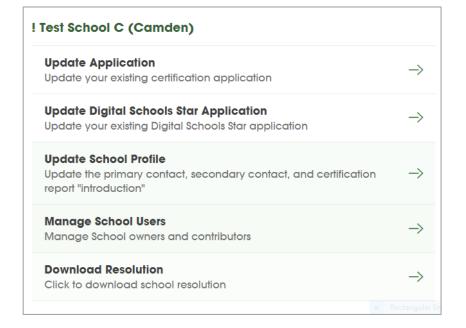
Sign in

 $\rightarrow$  Login

Click on left hand side  $\rightarrow$ 

District and School Dashboards

- You will go to a page that lists the districts and/or schools that you are linked to
- Go to *Update Profile* and **Manage Users** to make sure that all contacts are up to date



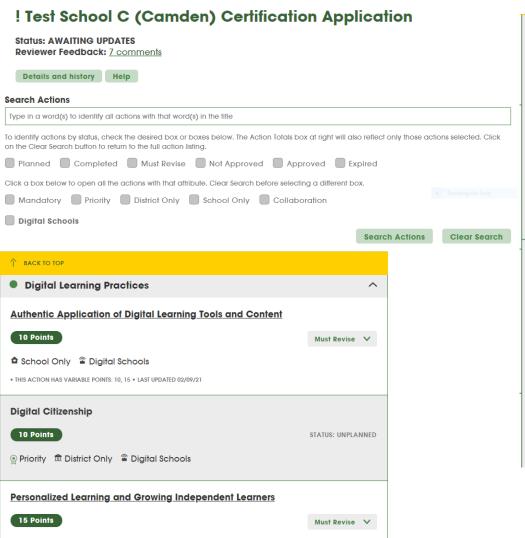


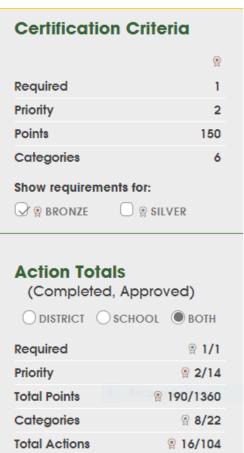
# Application – "Living Document"

#### Application Overview

# Search Features

# **Action Listing**





**Point Calculations** 

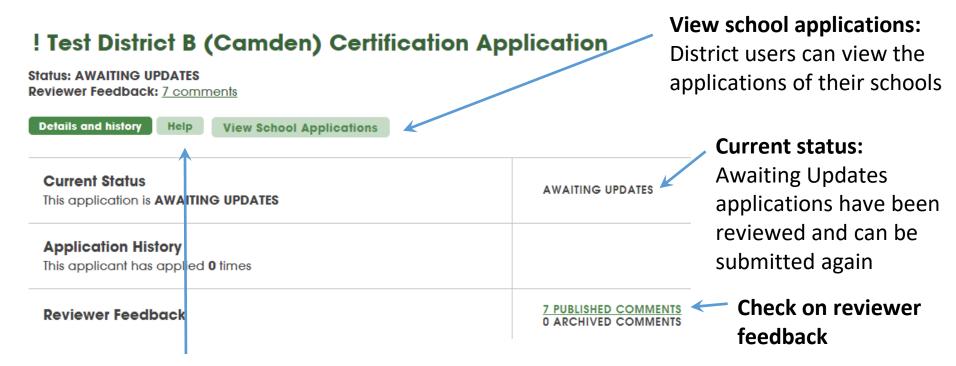
School Only Digital Schools

LAST UPDATED 02/09/21



### **District Application Overview**

#### Click "Details and history" to see:



**Help:** links to

Application User Guide and

Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet



# **School Application Overview**

#### Click "Details and history" to see:

| catus: AWAITING UPDATES eviewer Feedback: 7 comments  Details and history Help |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Current Status This application is AWAITING UPDATES                            | AWAITING UPDATES                            |  |
| Application History This applicant has applied 0 times                         |   |  |
| Reviewer Feedback  | 7 PUBLISHED COMMENTS<br>0 ARCHIVED COMMENTS |  |
| Digital Schools Star Application   | IN PROGRESS VISIT APPLICATION               |  |
| District Application ! Test District B   | IN PROGRESS VISIT APPLICATION               |  |

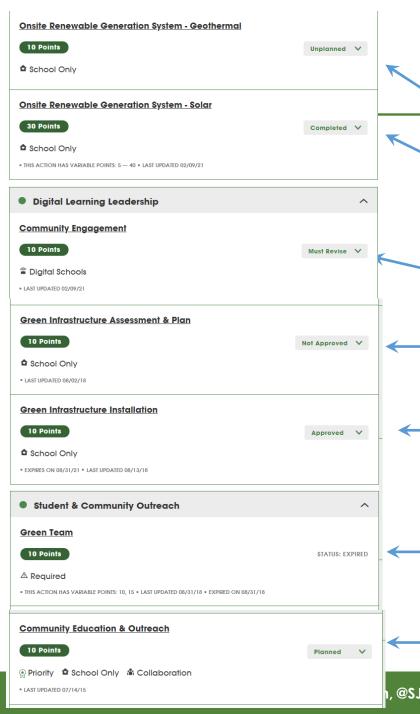
**Get help:** links to Application
User **Guide** and **Master Action Tracking** Spreadsheet

Current status: Awaiting Updates means the application has been reviewed and unlocked. It should be updated before being submitted for another review.

Check on reviewer feedback:
Once you have submitted your application it has been reviewed

Go to Digital Schools Star application

**Visit District application:** School users can view the application of their district



#### **Action Statuses**

Default unless changed by user

Changed by user to indicate the action submission should be reviewed when the application is submitted

Action reviewed in the current cycle and that needs revision to be approved

Credit not awarded in previous application cycle

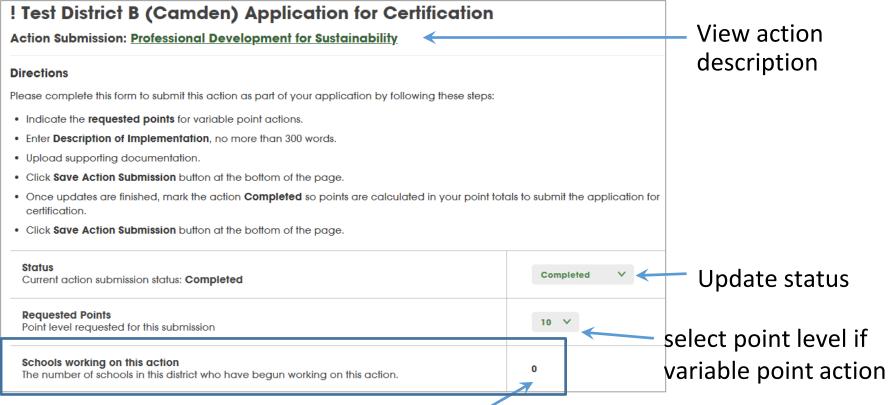
Approved points count towards certification. Note when points expire.

Previously received credit, but due to shelf life of the action, points are no longer counted in application

Changed by user to indicate it will or has been worked on



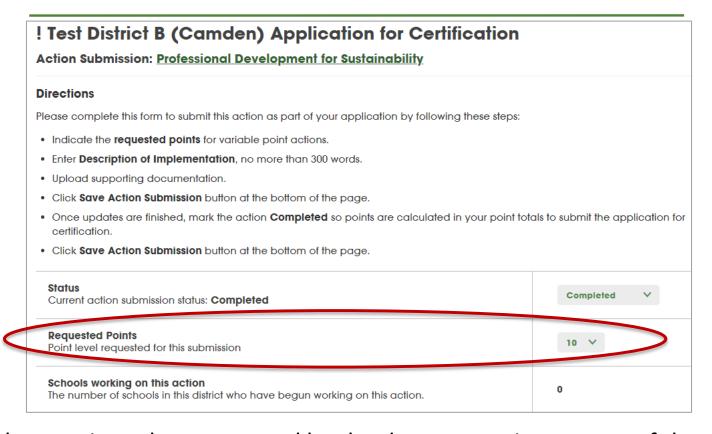
#### **Action Information**



If **district application** and a "**both**" action, you will see how many schools in the district are working on the action. Districts should **not change the status** of an action if schools are working on it without consulting the schools first. The district submission will override the schools.



#### Variable Point Actions



- User selects point value supported by the documentation as part of the submission from the drop down menu
- Reviewer confirms point value selected or changes based on review of the documentation



# Description of Implementation

Input a short summary of what was accomplished and the impact it had or will have on the district and/or school.

# Description of Implementation In the text box below, please provide a short summary (300 word maximum) of what was accomplished and the impact it had or will have on the school community. Include relevant references to the uploaded materials. If updating a previous submission, please remove any outdated or unnecessary information. This is where you describe what you did for this action.

Save Action Submission

Be sure to save action submission at bottom of page after making any changes



### **Upload Supporting Documentation**



Select the file from your computer to upload

- Many types of files can be uploaded, up to 50MB
- You can type a new name that describes the document

Once successfully uploaded the file will appear in the box below

Be sure to save action submission after making any changes

Easily remove files by clicking "X" under Delete

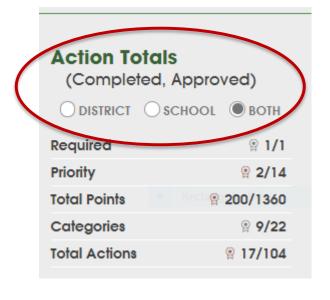


# Calculating Points

Use the **Action Totals** counter in right column to track your point totals.

The counter defaults to show total of Completed and Approved points. In school applications it also defaults to show points from both the district and your school application.

View point totals for actions with different statuses by checking the desired boxes under Search Actions



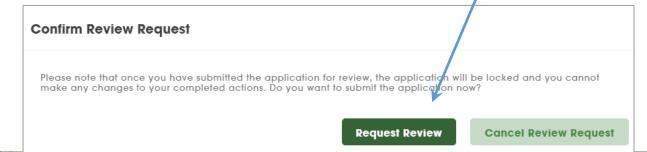
| Search Actions  |                |              |  |
|---|----------------|--------------|--|
| Type in a word(s) to identify all actions with that word(s) in the title  |                |              |  |
| To identify actions by status, check the desired box or boxes below. The Action Totals box at right will also reflect only those actions selected. Click on the Clear Search button to return to the full action listing. |                |              |  |
| Planted Completed Must Revise Not Approved Approved Expired   |                |              |  |
| Click a box below to open all the actions with that attribute. Clear Search before selecting a different box.   |                |              |  |
| Mandatory Priority District Only School Only Collaboration  |                |              |  |
| Digital Schools   |                |              |  |
|   | Search Actions | Clear Search |  |



# Preparing to Re-submit District Application

- Once you have finished working on an action, mark it as "Completed"
- There are **no** minimum requirements districts must meet to submit an application
- When ready to Submit Application for Review, press the yellow button:
  - Confirm submission pop-up click Request Review.
  - All users linked to application will receive an automatic email about submission
- Users are locked from editing Approved and Completed actions until review is complete

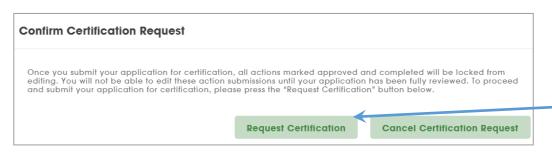
| Action Totals<br>(Completed,<br>Approved) |        |  |
|---|--------|--|
| Required                                  | 0/1    |  |
| Priority                                  | 1/9    |  |
| Total Points                              | 10/630 |  |
| Categories                                | 1/22   |  |
| Total Actions                             | 1/49   |  |
| Submit Application for Review             |        |  |





# Preparing to Re-submit School Application

- Certification Criteria visible on right hand side
- Action Totals In school application you can also view points by District, School or Both..
  - District points flow from the District Application
  - District and School points combined determine ability to Submit Application for Review and Certification
- Gray submit button for Review turns yellow once actions marked "Completed" and "Approved" meet minimum requirements for bronze certification
- Once submitted, Approved and Completed actions are locked from editing until the review is complete



| Certification Criteria  |            |  |
|---|------------|--|
|   | <b>(*)</b> |  |
| Required  | 1          |  |
| Priority  | 2          |  |
| Points  | 150        |  |
| Categories  | 6          |  |
| Show requirement  | ts for:    |  |
| ⊋ BRONZE ≘ SILVER   |            |  |
|   |            |  |
| Action Totals<br>(Completed, Revise,<br>Approved)   |            |  |
| ODISTRICT OS  | CHOOL      |  |
| Required  | ₽ 1/1      |  |
| Priority  | ₾ 3/14     |  |
| Total Points  | 9 320/1360 |  |
| Categories  | ₽ 12/22    |  |
| Total Actions   | g 24/104   |  |
| If all completed action submissions are approved, this application will qualify for PRONZE certification. |            |  |
| To achieve (a) SILVER certification, see certification criteria above.                                    |            |  |
| Submit Application for Review   |            |  |

LinkedIn: sustainable-jersey



# Yes, You Can Drop Actions or Add New Actions!

Actions may be dropped and added to application as you progress through the 3 rounds of the cycle.

- If you no longer think you can successfully complete an action then leave it as "Must Revise."
   Only actions with the status "Completed" will be reviewed when the application is submitted.
- You may add new actions to your application in the second or third round of the cycle. Mark them as "Completed" before submitting.



# Why Actions Are Not Annroyed

| SUSTAINABLE SUSTAINABLE SUSTAINABLE  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 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 |  |

submissions

**Proper documentation not submitted** Misinterpretation of Action Goals or

for new actions)

**Submitting under Wrong Action (check** 

Seeking credit for same initiative under more than one action

Failure to conduct outreach/education

component required for many actions

documentation (i.e. how old can they be and still qualify to earn points). Only submit documentation that falls within this period. Remove outdated documentation from previous

Ensure that the documentation uploaded fulfills the requirements outlined in "What to submit"

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. Re-check even if action had been previously approved since requirements may have changed.

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 Read beyond the action's title, paying close attention to the

What to Do" and "What to Submit" sections

Failure to complete the prerequisite Check the Introduction and the "What to Submit" section for



# **Additional Tips**

- Do not resubmit an action if it has not been updated (unless it is needed to get the submit button to turn yellow)
- You may need to combine multiple documents to stay within the 6 document limit
- Save online documents or webpages as PDFs if long term availability is uncertain or access is blocked by password or paywall





# Be Ready for the Limelight!

Once you are certified your information becomes publicly accessible on the website

- Inspire others! Tell a story in your narrative
- Remove sensitive information before uploading your documentation
- Remove irrelevant or outdated documentation
- Only upload parts of documents that are needed (e.g. not the entire policy handbook)
- Name your documents when uploading



#### District and School Collaboration

- District actions are not required for certification but are helpful in meeting the requirements for bronze or silver certification
- District actions are needed to complete the requirements for the Digital Schools Star
- There should be coordination between those working on the district application and those working on school applications



- District application needs to be completed in same time frame as school applications
- District applications must be submitted to have actions completed by district reviewed



# **Green Team - Mandatory Action**

Your **Green Team** action must be approved at the District or School level in order to become certified!

WHAT TO SUBMIT:

- Letter Establishing the Green Team
  - ✓ The letter must identify at least two green team members selected by the local building union leadership for a School Green Team or by the district union leadership for a District Green Team
- Green Team Annual Report with 4 meeting dates

#### **Green Team** Resources

Creating a Green Team

Working on Certification

Promoting Your Green Team

- **Presentations**
- **Resource Library**

**Publications** 

#### **Green Team Resources**

#### **Creating a Green Team**

Learn what you need to know when establishing a green team.

**Read More** 

#### **Working on Certification**

View resources to help green teams achieve certification.

**Read More** 

#### **Green Team Promotion**

Read helpful tips on how to promote the work of your team.

**Read More** 

#### **Apply for a Grant**

Find out about Sustainable Jersey for Schools grants to help complete actions.

Learn More

#### **Quick Start Resources**

Check out Green Team

https://www.sustainablejersey

schools.com/resources/green-

Resources at:

team-resources/

#### **Application User Guide**

This document provides step-by-step guidance on all aspects Dashboard, School Dashboard and online certification applie the online application, updating the District or School profile, of the account.

**Download Application User Guide** 

#### Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet

This spreadsheet provides an inventory of program actions, ab requirements, look back and approval periods, resubmission point values. It is a great tool to help a green team identify wh completed by the district or the school. The spreadsheet can d which actions the school or district may already be doing and hopes to pursue. It can also be used to track progress in comp compiling the required documentation.

**Download the MATS** 

#### Sustainable Jersey for Schools Brochure

This brochure lists all of the actions in the program and the ger requirements. It is an excellent resource for green team meetir

#### **Sustainable Jersey for Schools Registered Logo**

When your school is registered with Sustainable Jersey, you can have access to the Sustainable Jersey for Schools registered logo. The logo should be used in accordance with Sustainable Jersey for Schools logo



To request a registered logo, email schools@sustainablejersey.com.

#### **Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certified Logo**

Each certified school receives a customized certified logo that includes its name. Logos are customized for bronze and silver

The logo is emailed to all green team

members with access to their school's



ustainableJerseySchools.co Schools | Insta: sustainable

Facebook: Sustaina

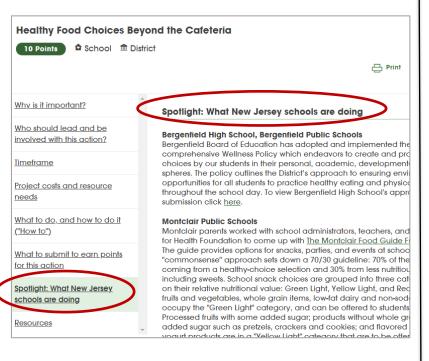


# Check out Spotlights & Examples

Search

Many actions have spotlights – selected by Sustainable Jersey as models.

Find spotlights towards the bottom of the action description.



Use the Participating Schools Map to find examples of documentation from certified schools

View certified

View certification

report for example schools approved by action documentation for that action Filter This Map Stamfo Reset Cranbury School (Middlesex) Certification Level: Bronze **By Certified Action** Certified On: August 05, 2020 Certification Report: View Report Board Leadership & Planning District Sustainability Policy Professional Development for Sustainability Trenton Green Enhancement of Township District Strategic Plans Philadelphia 295 Toms River Strategic Plan Implementation Chester of Green Initiatives mington School Community Asset School District Foundation Climate Mitigation & Renewable <u>Energy</u> Dover Digital Learning Leadership



# Partner With Your **Municipal Green Team**

#### Look for Actions

- Community Education & Outreach
- Green Fair
- Green Your Green Fair/School Event
- Civic & Stewardship Activities
- **Recycling Non-Mandated Materials**
- School Community Asset Mapping
- School Gardens
- Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement
- Safe Routes to School Policy
- Pedestrian & Bike Safety and Promotion
- School Travel Plan for Walking & Biking

Look up your town on the Sustainable Jersey Municipal Program website to get contact information:

https://www.sustainablejersey.com/cert ification/search-participatingmunicipalities-approved-actions/





# Make a Plan for moving forward!

- Be creative in meeting action requirements during pandemic

   submit by March 26 to get feedback before final June
   deadline
- Focus on completing your Green Team Action
- 2 Priority Actions for bronze / 3 for silver
- Then review remaining actions to determine which actions you are close to completing by the final deadline. Shoot first for Bronze 150 then for the stars
- Identify the outstanding items needed for each action to meet the submission standard
- Pursue new actions if needed
- Add additional contributors to your dashboard to help with the documentation



# Going for a Digital Schools Star?

- Schools will need help from their districts!
- Complete the Digital Schools Star requirements in your certification application.
- Update Student Learning actions and School Culture &
   Climate actions that are approved from a previous cycle with
   the new digital learning requirements to have them count
   towards the Digital Schools Star.
- Complete the mandatory Green Team action, and any other actions needed to meet bronze or silver certification requirements.
- **Schools** Don't forget to submit the separate Digital Schools Star application in the final round of the application cycle.



#### **Next Certification Application Deadline:**

March 26 at 11:59pm



#### Sustainable Jersey for Schools Supporters

#### **Sustainable Jersey for Schools Underwriters**









**Grants Program** 







#### **Corporate Sponsors**

#### **Platinum Sponsors**



**Founding Sponsor** 



**Gold Sponsor** 



Silver Sponsor



**Bronze Sponsors** 











### **Program Partners**





















# Thank You to our Digital Schools Supporters & Sponsors

- Partners
  - New Jersey Department of Education
  - New Jersey School Boards Association

- Supporters
  - New Jersey Leadership for Educational Excellence (LEE) Group



# Digital Schools Supporters & Sponsors

#### Funding provided by:

#### **UNDERWRITER**



#### **Silver Sponsor**



#### **Bronze Sponsors:**











#### **Questions?**

# Sustainable Jersey for Schools is here to help!

Contact Véronique Lambert at 609-771-3427 or <a href="mailto:schools@sustainablejersey.com">schools@sustainablejersey.com</a>

The webinar and presentation will be posted on the *Webinar Recordings & Presentations* page of our website

https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/resources/presentations/webinar-recordings/

See **upcoming events and trainings** on our Events page:

https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/nc/events/

Follow Sustainable Jersey on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn



#### **Student Climate Summit**

# PD Sessions now open statewide through March 22nd!



https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/events/nj-student-climate-challenge/climate-summit/



#### Contacts



Heather McCall, Program Director Sustainable Jersey for Schools <a href="mailto:mccallh@tcnj.edu">mccallh@tcnj.edu</a>
609-771-2469



Véronique Lambert, Program Coordinator Sustainable Jersey for Schools <a href="mailto:lambertv@tcnj.edu">lambertv@tcnj.edu</a> 609-771-3427



Laurence Cocco
Digital Schools Senior Program Consultant
coccol@tcnj.edu