

Ready, Set, Certified!

September 30, 2021





Presenters



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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

Deadline Oct 29

Gardinier Environmental Fund Grants

\$10,000, \$20,000, \$30,0000, \$40,000, and \$50,000 grants for projects focused on energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.

Deadline Nov 5

For details and applications: https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/grants/



Energy Grant Informational Webinar

Oct 5, 1:00 PM

Is Your School a Digital Schools Star?

Oct 6, 10:00 AM

Planning for Recertification

Oct 14, 1:30

For details and to register: https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/nc/events/



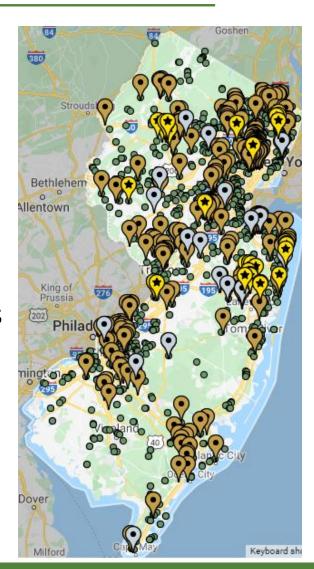
Webinar Agenda

- Why Get Certified?
- Certification Overview
- 2022 Certification Cycle
- Online Certification Process
- Organizing the Green Team for Success
- Resources & Tips for Completing Actions and Applications
- Technical Assistance/Questions



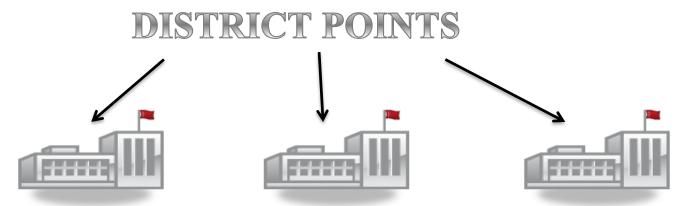
Why Get Certified?

- SJS program provides roadmap to sustainability in your district and schools
- Tap into extensive support and training
 - Sustainable Jersey training and events
 - Connections to partner organizations willing to help
- Priority access and notification on incentives & grants (Sustainable Jersey Grants Program)
- Gain recognition
- Fuel the statewide movement 335 schools certified



Certification Overview

- There is one certification application cycle per year
- Certification lasts 3 years
- The online application is a guided process with 3 rounds of submissions and feedback
- Districts and schools submit applications, but only schools are certified
- Points earned in the district application flow to each school in the district.





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/



Digital Schools Star

- Digital Schools Star is awarded to schools
- Digital Schools Star:
 - Districts and schools complete requirements as part of the certification application
 - Schools submit separate Digital Schools Star application (single action with checklist) in the final round of the certification cycle

For program details, go to:

https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/actions/digital-schools-program/

Webinar: Is Your School a Digital Schools Star? Oct 6 at 10 AM Register at https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/nc/events/



2022 Certification Cycle

January 13 – Initial Application Deadline

- Late February Reviewer Comments
- March 29 Second Submission
- Early May Reviewer Comments
- June 15 Final Application Submission
- Early August Certified Schools Notified
- October Certified Schools Celebration

2020 Awards



Lawrence Twp Public Schools
Bronze Certified



Winslow Twp Middle School Silver Certified & Sustainability Champion

https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/certification/2022-certification-cycle/



Applying for Certification

GET CERTIFIED



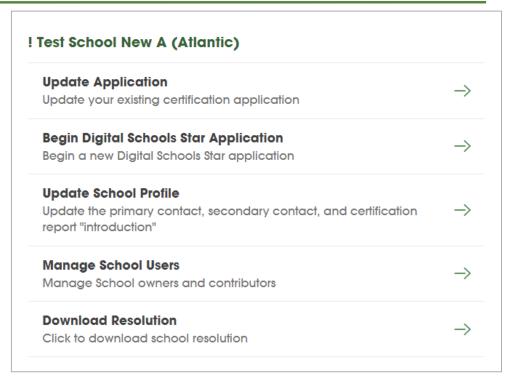
Accessing the Application

- You will be taken to a page that lists the districts and/or schools that you are linked to



District and School Dashboards

 This is where you can access your application, update your profile, add users, and view registration documentation



- In order to have access to a dashboard you must:
 - > Have a username and password for the website
 - ➤ Be linked to a district or school through the registration process or by someone already linked



Update District/School Profile

- Use this primarily to update contact information
 - Please keep this
 information up to date
 since these contacts will
 receive important emails
 regarding the program and
 the application process &
 status
 - Click "Update Profile" at bottom to save changes

	istrict and school profile information current in order to garding your certification applications and other ements.
to the online application in	stacts are also listed as users (owners/contributors) order to receive certification notifications. The state the Manage District/School Users section on the ards.
Primary Contact	
First Name	Last Name
. Alai Mullio	
Veronique	Lambert
	Lambert
Veronique	Lambert
Veronique Position Title	Lambert
Veronique Position Title Chief Wizard	Lambert
Veronique Position Title Chief Wizard Department	Lambert Fmail Address

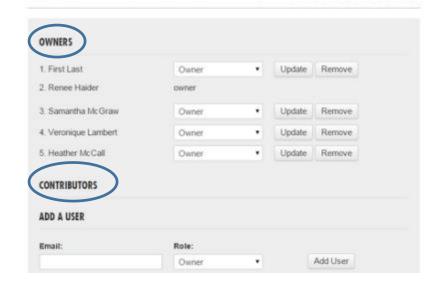


Manage Users

- Allows you to add or remove users to the district/school dashboard
- Can be designated as owner (limit
 5) or contributor
 - Both can work on application (edit, upload, submit for review, etc.)
 - Owners can add/remove other owners & contributors
 - Contributors can add other contributors

Manage Users

Multiple users may contribute to an application for certification. There are two types of users: owners and contributors. Owners may add and remove other owners and contributors. Contributors may add other contributors, but may not remove users from the application. Both owners and contributors can contribute to the school or district's application for certification by adding action submissions, uploading documentation, and submitting the application for review.





Application – "Living Document"

Search Actions

IN PROGRESS

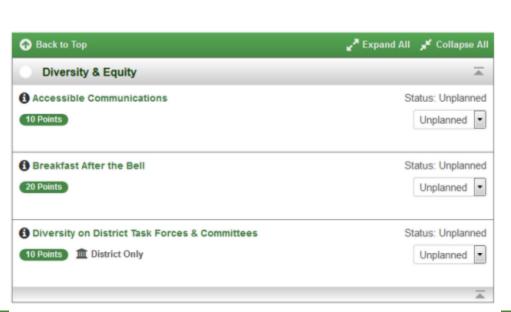
Clear Search

Reviewer Feedback: 0 comments

Application Overview

Search Features

Action Listing



← My Dashboa	ard
ACTION TOTALS (Completed, Approx	/ed)
Mandatory	0/1
Priority	0/3
Total	0/370
Categories	0/17
Actions	0/35
When you have con actions you would li your application, cli below	ke to include in

Point Calculations and Submission

Facebook: Sustainable Jers Energy Efficiency

! Test District (Atlantic) Application

View details and history | Help | View School Applications

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

□ Planned □ Completed □ Must Revise □ Not Approved □ Approved □ Expired

To identify actions by status, check the desired box or boxes above. 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.

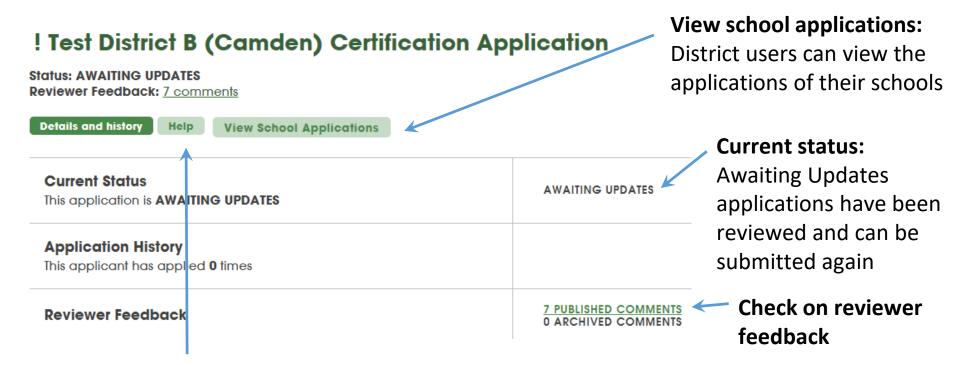
Application Overview

SEARCH ACTIONS



District Application Overview

Click "Details and history" to see:



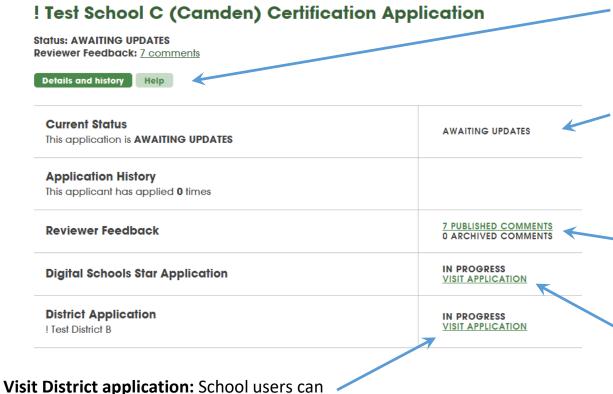
Help: links to **Application User Guide** and **Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet**



view the application of their district

School Application Overview

Click "Details and history" to see:



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

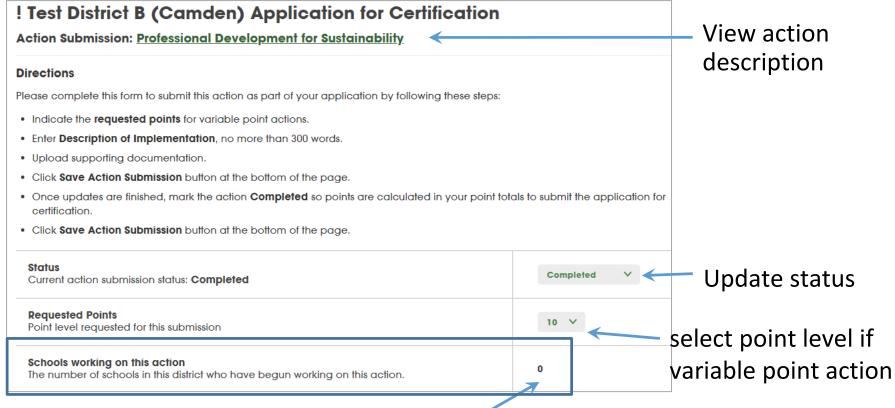
Current status: Awaiting Updates means the application has been reviewed and unlocked. It should be updated before being submitted for another review.

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

Go to Digital Schools Star application



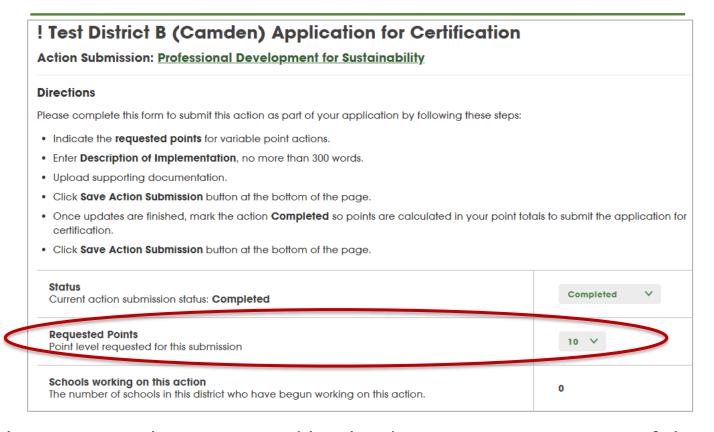
Action Information



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. You may need to edit your narrative based on reviewer feedback.

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



Be Sure to Save Action Submission

At Top of Page

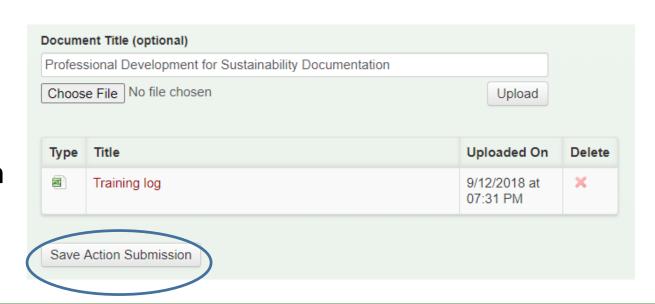
ACTION SUBMISSION: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY

You are editing the action submission for the action "Professional Development for Sustainability." Learn more about this action.

Directions: Please complete this form to submit this action as part of your application. First, mark the Status as "planned" and, if it is a variable point action, indicate the **Requested Points**. See the



- OR
- At Bottom of Page



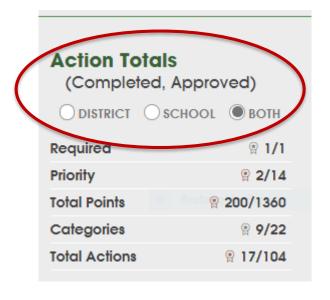


Calculating Points

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



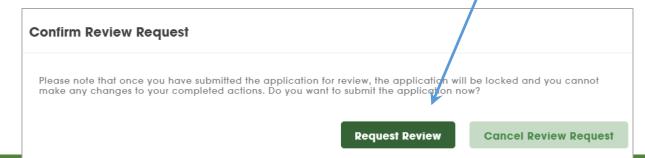
Search Actions		
Type in a word(s) to identify all actions with that word(s) in the title		
To identify actions by status, check the desired box or boxes below. The Action Totals box at right will also on the Clear Search button to return to the full action listing.	so reflect only those acti	ions selected.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



Preparing to 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

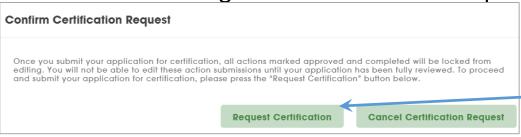
Action Totals (Completed, Approved)	
Required	0/1
Priority	1/9
Total Points	10/630
Categories	1/22
Total Actions	1/49
Submit Application for Review	ation





Preparing to Submit School Application

- Certification Criteria visible on right side of application main page
- 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





Quick Step Guide to Submission

Sign in to website Sign in or sign up. District and School Navigate to the School or District Dashboard 2. Dashboards Click "Update/Begin Application" Update Application For example: Click on action name to open the submission page for that action <u>District Sustainability Policy</u> Add/edit information in the text box & upload files Save Action Submission for the actions you wish to submit & SAVE Before submitting for review, mark the actions Status: Completed "Completed" (even if they still need work) Completed ▼ Review your approved/completed totals in the Action **ACTION TOTALS** Totals box. School applications need enough actions as Completed to turn "Submit" button yellow (Completed, Approved) Click yellow "Submit" button Submit Application for Review and Certification Confirm application submission Request Certification



Proper documentation not submitted

Seeking credit for same initiative under

Failure to conduct outreach/education

component required for many actions

Failure to complete the prerequisite

Misinterpretation of Action Goals

two different actions

action

Why Actions Are Not Annroyed

outlined in "What to submit"

entire application to spot duplication

to Do" and "What to Submit" sections

the final application deadline.

the intent of the action

(i.e. how old can they be and still qualify to earn points). Only

Ensure that the documentation uploaded fulfills the requirements

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

Any initiative may only be submitted under one action, even if it

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

fulfills the requirements of more than one action. Review the

Check the Introduction and the "What to Submit" section for

prerequisites, and make sure that any required are completed by

submit documentation that falls within this period.

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY • CERTIFIED •	ACIIOII3 A	Ale Hol Apploved	
Pitfall		How to Overcome	

Action documentation completion date

Review the Introduction and "What to Submit" sections of the is outside the shelf life of the action action to find the shelf life of eligible activity and documentation



District & School Collaboration



- Points from District application flow down to all participating schools in the district
- Determine which actions the District will complete (If an action status is changed from "Unplanned" in the district application, then schools are blocked from doing that action in their applications)
- District application needs to be completed and submitted in the same time frame as school applications

Districts can earn up to 610 points to support school certification



- Recruit members from diverse sectors of the district administration, educators, facilities, food services, school nurse, parents, students, community partners
- Use existing committees (e.g. wellness council) to also serve as green team
- Tips to encourage and facilitate staff participation in the green team:
 - Make sustainability part of district goals
 - Include sustainability-related professional development in staff goals
 - Provide stipends to staff to coordinate green team initiatives and the application process
 - Release staff from hall/lunch/recess duty for green team meetings and to work on application
 - Use a shared drive (e.g. Google) to compile documents for application
 - Publicly recognize green team efforts and the contributions of volunteers



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



Highland Park
2019 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/



Green Team Resources

Creating a Green Team

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

Read More

Green Team Promotion

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

Read More

Working on Certification

View resources to help green teams achieve certification.

Read More

Apply for a Grant

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

Learn More

TIP: Download the Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet to survey actions and plan:

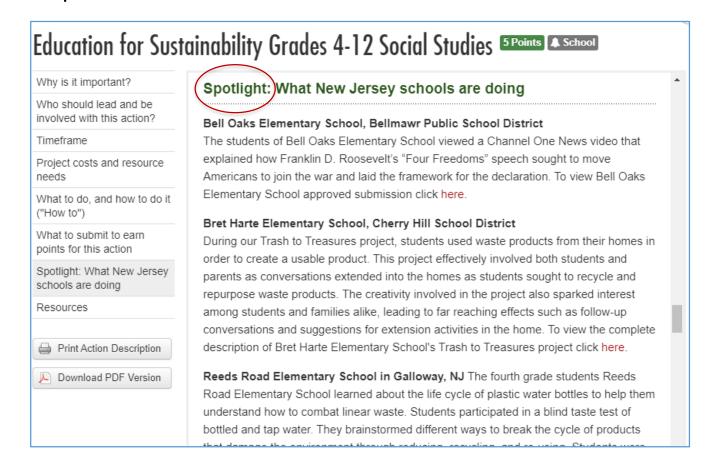
https://www.sustainablejerseyscho ols.com/fileadmin/media/Grants an d Resources/Green Team Resourc es/Certification/SJS Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet.xlsx

https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/resources/green-team-resources/



Check out Examples: Action Spotlights

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





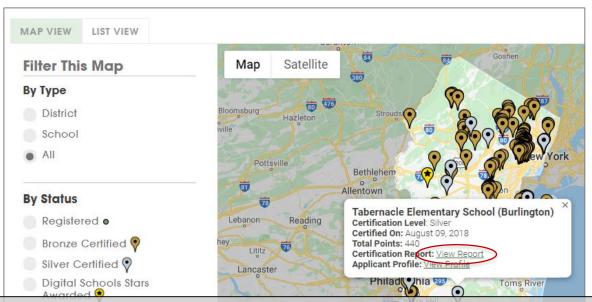
Check out Examples: Certification Reports

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

Search by action

View certified schools approved for that action

View certification report for example documentation



https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/certification/search-participating-districts-schools-approved-actions/



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.

Example of certification report; scroll down report to find submission information for searched action.

Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Jersey for Schools contact for Tabernacle Elementa (Burlington) is:

Name:	Gerald Paterson	
Title/Position:	Principal / Principal	
Address:	141 New Road Tabernacle, New Jersey 08088	
Phone:	6092680150 Ext. 2003	

Sustainability Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Tabernacle Elementary (Burlington) was approved for in 2018 appears below. Note: Standards for the actions changed and the documentation listed may no longer satisfy requirements for that act points associated with actions prior to 2013 certifications may not be accurate.

BOARD LEADERSHIP & PLANNING

District Sustainability Policy 10 Points 111

m Distric

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



Strategy for moving forward!

Make a plan!

- Focus on completing your Green Team Action
- Two Priority Actions
- Then review remaining actions to determine which actions you could complete by the final deadline.
- Low-hanging fruit Look for actions that your school/district is already doing.
- Add additional contributors to your dashboard to help with the documentation



Final Thoughts & Take Aways

- Certification Cycle: It is doable! Many schools achieve certification by the 2nd deadline. Additional schools continue to work on their applications throughout the application cycle up to the final deadline.
- Open Source: Once a school is certified, a report of its approved actions will be publicly available on our website. The goal is to share best practices. Please do not include any sensitive/private information in your submissions.



First Certification Application Deadline:

Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 11:59pm



Program Partners



















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Program Underwriters











Grants Program









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Sustainable Jersey Digital Schools Funders & Partners

Program Underwriters







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Interested in becoming a Corporate Sponsor?

Click here or our contact Development Director, Joe Grillo at 908-406-1901 or email grillog@tcnj.edu.



Questions?

Sustainable Jersey for Schools is here to help!

Véronique Lambert

609-771-3427 or schools@sustainablejersey.com

For Digital Schools questions:

Larry Cocco

609-771-2802 or coccol@tcnj.edu

The recorded webinar and slides will be posted here:

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