



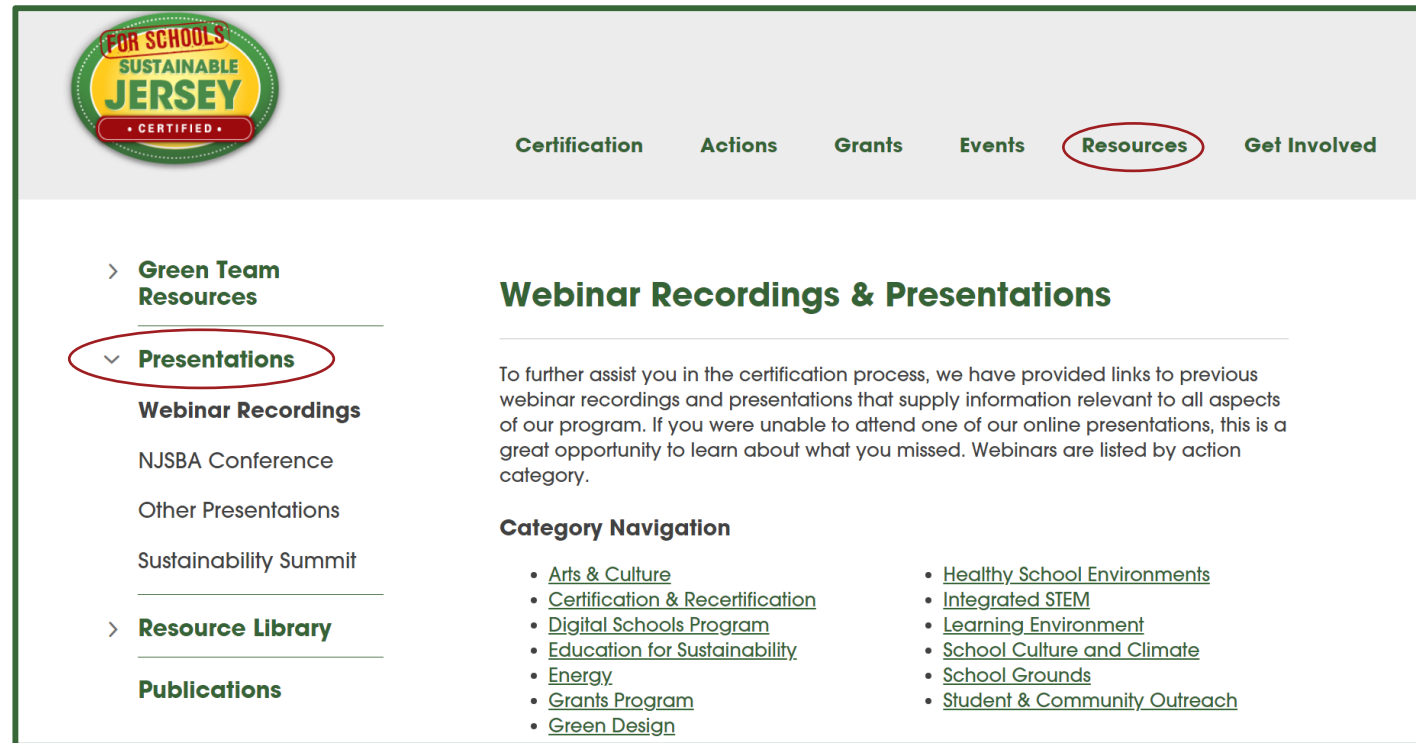
Food Waste Actions: New & Updated

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Webinar Housekeeping

- All attendees are muted.
- Questions? Enter them into the Questions box or “raise your hand” and we will answer them at the end of the presentation.
- The recording and slides will be posted on the [Webinar Recordings page](https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/resources/webinar-recordings/) within a few days.



The screenshot shows the 'Resources' page of the Sustainable Jersey website. At the top left is the 'FOR SCHOOLS SUSTAINABLE JERSEY CERTIFIED' logo. The navigation menu includes 'Certification', 'Actions', 'Grants', 'Events', 'Resources' (circled in red), and 'Get Involved'. The left sidebar has a menu with 'Green Team Resources', 'Presentations' (circled in red), 'Webinar Recordings', 'Resource Library', and 'Publications'. The 'Webinar Recordings & Presentations' section contains a paragraph about the certification process and a 'Category Navigation' list with 11 items: Arts & Culture, Certification & Recertification, Digital Schools Program, Education for Sustainability, Energy, Grants Program, Green Design, Healthy School Environments, Integrated STEM, Learning Environment, School Culture and Climate, School Grounds, and Student & Community Outreach.

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

Session Agenda

- The case for addressing food waste
- Sustainable Jersey for Schools food waste actions
- Q& A
- Upcoming Events & Resources

Sustainable Jersey for Schools

A free, voluntary program that provides tools, training, and grants to New Jersey public schools to help them implement sustainability initiatives and achieve certification.



- Identifies **actions** to become more sustainable
- Provides **tools, resources, and guidance** to make progress
- Provides access to **grants** for schools and school districts
- Recognizes **accomplishments**
- Awards certification to individual schools but requires School Board and district level support

From Cafeteria to Landfill



Food Waste Facts

- 🍏 Approximately **30 to 40 percent** of the **U.S. food supply**, ends up as food waste.
- 🍏 In 2019, an estimated 108 billion pounds of food from U.S. retail food stores, restaurants, and homes—valued at approximately **\$408 billion** went uneaten.
- 🍏 Schools in the US waste over 1 billion pounds of food each year
- 🍏 In a 2021 study of 3 NJ schools, the average food waste per school was 20,700 pounds per year



Frost & Sullivan

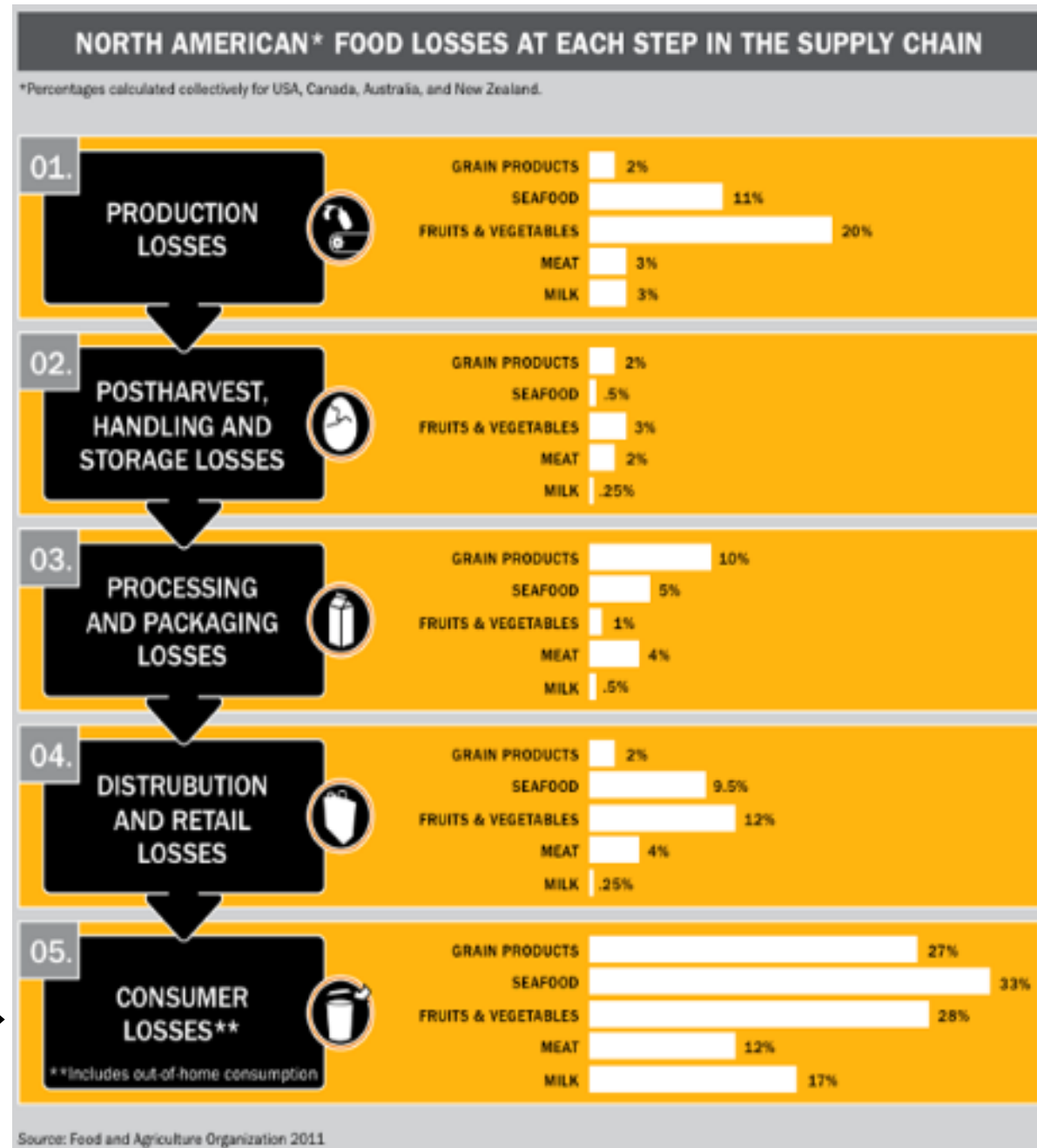
Environmental Impacts of Food Waste

- 🥕 The land, water, labor, energy and other inputs used in producing, processing, transporting, preparing, storing, and disposing of discarded food is wasted.
- 🥕 More than 25% of the world's freshwater use goes to wasted food (>45 trillion gallons of water)
- 🥕 38% of the energy used in global food systems is utilized to produce food that is either lost or wasted
- 🥕 Food waste is responsible for 6% of all greenhouse gas emissions globally (3rd largest emitter)
- 🥕 Food in landfills produces methane, a harmful greenhouse gas

Social & Economic Impacts of Food Waste

- 🥕 Wasted food could be used to feed families in need. Over 190,000 children in NJ experienced food insecurity in 2019.
- 🥕 Getting rid of food waste costs money. In New Jersey, trash disposal fees average to about \$80 per ton.

Where Does Food Loss & Food Waste Happen?





Wasted Food Scale

How to reduce the environmental impacts of wasted food



<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/wasted-food-scale>

Food Waste Study at 3 NJ Schools

- Combined enrollment of 1,750 students
- Before food waste reduction interventions: **62,150 pounds** of food waste from the school lunch program in a school year.
- After food waste reduction interventions:
 - **34,036 pounds** of food waste in a school year – 45% reduction
 - 31,680 pounds of food waste was composted (92% of waste)
 - 21,300 pounds of unopened food items diverted to share tables
 - 207,720 pounds of CO₂eq avoided (21 cars off the road for one year)

Actions To Reduce School Food Waste

- **Waste Audit (10-20 points)**
- **Campaign To Reduce School Food Waste (10 points)**
- **Food Recovery - Share Tables & Donation (10-20 points)**
- **Food Service Training & Best Practices to Reduce Food Waste (10 points)**
- **Food Waste Recycling/Composting (15 points)**

View all actions at: <https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/actions/>

Waste Audit

(10-20 points): Measure the amount and types of waste generated in the school and/or cafeteria, including tray waste, to help design a waste reduction plan.

An audit is an assessment of the school's waste in terms of quantity and origin. To earn points a school must complete either:

- A general waste audit, including waste from classrooms, offices, and other areas of the building and grounds, and/or
- A food waste audit of cafeteria waste that includes tray waste from the school's meal service.

The audit must have been completed in the **current or previous school year**. Schools may earn 10 points for each type of audit (with a maximum of 20 points).



View action at: <https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/actions/#open/action/78>

Waste Audit Submission Requirements

Provide the following information for each type of audit that is being submitted:

1) Description of Implementation - Provide a short description of the general waste audit and/or food waste audit that your school conducted. OR, provide the answers to the questions listed in #2 below in the text box.

2) Provide the following information ([Waste Audit Submission Form](#)):

- Type of Audit
- Date(s) of audit
- Describe how the audit and its goals were promoted to students and staff
- Describe the procedure for conducting the audit
- Describe the impact that the audit had on your school
- Indicate how the audit report was shared

3) Upload a copy of the report of the waste audit findings (including amounts in different waste categories; food waste audits must include amounts of tray waste) and recommendations to reduce waste and improve recycling efficiency in the school and/or cafeteria.

4) Optional: Upload photos of the audit(s), copies of audit data forms, and/or copies of materials used to promote the audit(s) within the school.

Campaign To Reduce School Food Waste

(10 points): Run a school-wide campaign to educate students and staff and encourage behavior changes to reduce the amount of waste generated (food, packaging, single-use utensils) during school meals.

Campaigns may include challenges such as **Trashless Tuesdays** and **Meatless Mondays** or competitions between classes or lunch periods to generate the least amount of waste. To earn points, the school must show that it has done the following in the current school year:

- Set a goal for the food waste reduction campaign and track progress towards the goal.
- Run a school-wide campaign to reduce food waste.
- Promoted the campaign and shared the results with the school community



View action at: <https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/actions/#open/action/121>

Campaign Submission Requirements

Submit the following to earn points:

1) Short description (about 300 words) of your school-wide campaign to reduce food and related waste in the cafeteria.

2) Complete and upload the [Campaign to Reduce School Food Waste Submission Form](#) to provide the following information:

- Dates of campaign
- Goals of food waste reduction campaign
- If applicable, describe educational activities before or during the campaign
- Describe the campaign and how it was run.
- How were the campaign and its goals promoted to students, staff and families?
- What were the results and impact of the campaign on your school?
- Lessons learned/What would you do differently?

3) **Optional:** Share materials that could serve as models for other schools, such as:

- Promotional materials for the campaign - posters, articles social media posts;
- Photos, articles or social media posts of the campaign in progress
- Examples of how campaign results were shared with the school community (e.g. social media, news articles, presentation to school board).

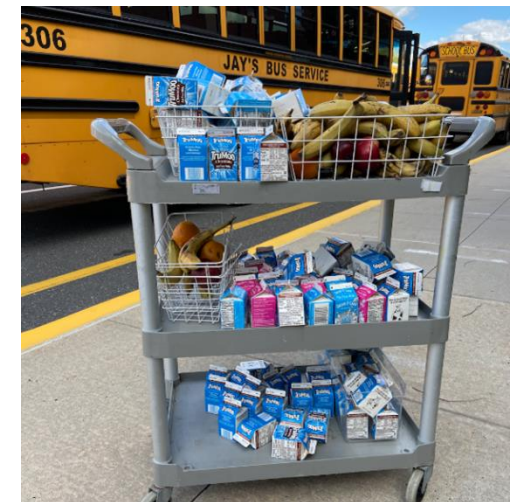
Food Recovery - Share Tables & Donation

(10-20 points): Set up a share table or a food donation program to feed hungry students or community members with recovered excess food rather than throwing it out.

A **share table** is a designated area in the cafeteria where students can place unwanted and unopened food and beverage items during their lunch period. A cooler bin or refrigerator would be needed if collecting dairy or other perishable items. The share table items should be made available to students at no cost during meal times, or as snacks during the school day, after-school activities, or sent home with students.

For a **donation program**, the collected items are donated to an external organization, such as a food pantry or soup kitchen.

To earn points, the school must show that it ran an **on-going** share table (10 points) and/or donation program (10 points) in the current school year and promoted the program and its benefits to the school community. A school with both a share table program and a food donation program may earn 20 points.



View action at: <https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/actions/#open/action/123>

Food Recovery Submission Requirements

Submit the following to earn points:

1) Description of Implementation: Indicate the type of comprehensive, ongoing food recovery program(s) that your school has implemented in the current school year.

2) Complete and upload the [Food Recovery Submission Form](#) to provide the following information for your share table and/or food donation program:

- Type of food recovery program
- Recovery process/set-up
- Redistribution/donation process
- Impact of program on school
- Promotion of program and benefits to the school community
- For donations only, list the organization(s) donations are going to

3) Optional: Upload copies of materials (such as posters, newsletter articles, social media posts) used to promote the food recovery program(s) and their benefits to students, staff and families.

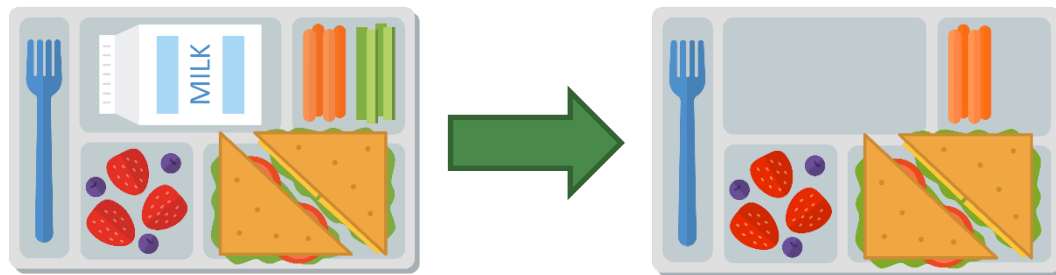
Food Service Training & Best Practices to Reduce Food Waste

(10 points): Train food service staff and implement food service best practices to reduce food waste and promote healthy eating in the cafeteria.

Practices include purchasing and producing food in smaller batches, practicing Offer versus Serve, and deploying Smarter Lunchroom Movement strategies to increase students' intake of healthy foods and reduce waste.

To earn points, the school must have done the following in the current school year:

- Trained food service staff in techniques and strategies to reduce food waste
- Implemented some of the best practices in the cafeteria.



View action at: <https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/actions/#open/action/122>

Food Service Training & Best Practices Submission Requirements

Submit the following to earn points:

1) Description of Implementation: Short summary of the training of food service staff and its impact. OR, provide the answers to the questions listed in #2 below in the text box.

2) Complete and upload the [Food Service Training & Best Practices Submission Form](#) OR provide the following information in the Description of Implementation:

- Date(s) of food service training that occurred in the current school year
- Training provider
- Training title or description
- Food waste reduction practices adopted by food service staff in the current school year
- Impact of implementing food waste reduction practices and measures

3) Optional: Share documentation of the food service staff training such as a brochure or webpage describing the training; as well as photos, news articles, or social media posts about the practices or measures implemented in the cafeteria to reduce food waste.

Food Waste Recycling/Composting

(15 points): Recycle cafeteria food waste by composting on-site or sending to an off-site processor of organic waste.

Schools may either recycle food waste through the use of on-site composting units or may arrange for the collection of food waste for off-site management by a third party.

To earn points for this action, a school must have done the following in the current school year:

- Run an ongoing, comprehensive program to recycle food-waste from the cafeteria.
- Promote the program and its benefits to its school community.



View action at: <https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/actions/#open/action/84>

Food Waste Recycling Submission Requirements

Submit the following to earn points:

- 1) A short description of the school's food waste recycling or composting program.
- 2) Complete and upload the [Food Waste Composting Submission Form](#) to provide the following:
 - Type of food waste recycling /composting program
 - Date that the program started
 - Describe the process to separate, collect, and store cafeteria food waste
 - For **ON-site** recycling/composting: Describe the system, the types of food waste collected, and how the compost end product is used.
 - For **OFF-site** recycling/composting: Describe the process for moving collected food waste off-site and explain where the food waste ends up and how it is used.
 - Describe how the food waste recycling/composting program and its benefits were promoted to students, staff and families.
 - What has been the impact of recycling food waste on your school community?
- 3) **Optional:** Upload photographs or other materials that show the operation of the food waste recycling/composting program, and/or copies of materials used to promote the food waste recycling/composting program and its benefits to students, staff and families (e.g. fliers, posters, website posts, articles in the local media).

Q & A



APPLYING FOR CERTIFICATION IN 2024?

Submission Deadline:

- #1 January 12
- #2 March 22
- #3 June 13

bit.ly/SchoolsCertCycle

Upcoming Webinar:

Reach for the Stars!

Explore our

Digital Schools Recognition Program

December 05, 2023

3:30 to 4:30 pm

Delve into the Digital Schools program, designed to recognize schools for their effective use of digital learning tools, resources, and practices. Learn about recent program updates, including revisions to specific actions and criteria for earning the Digital Schools Star.

[REGISTER](#)



SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GRANTS PROGRAM



PSEG
Foundation

2024 Funding Cycle

- \$100,000 in grants are available to New Jersey public schools and school districts participating in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program
- \$2k and \$10k grants for sustainability projects and green team support

Informational Webinar

3-4:30pm on
Tuesday,
December 12,
2023

Application Deadline

By 11:59pm
on Friday,
March 8,
2024

Award Notifications

By late April
2024 with an
event in late
May 2024

Performance Period

10k Grants:
18 months
2k Grants:
12 months

Learn More & Apply





NEW JERSEY

STUDENT CLIMATE CHALLENGE

FREE OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE TO NEW JERSEY PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS IN GRADES 6 TO 12

TEACHER REGISTRATION OPENS

OCTOBER 10

Teacher registers student team who will complete a school or community project that addresses a cause or impact of climate change



STUDENT ENTRIES DUE

APRIL 10

Teams create a digital story video about the project and submits it by April 10, 2024



AWARDS CEREMONY

EARLY JUNE

Winners are recognized at an Awards Ceremony hosted by First Lady Tammy Murphy and receive grants to advance their climate education initiatives ranging from \$3,500 to \$500

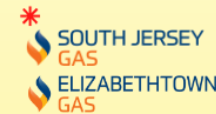
bit.ly/NJStudentClimateChallenge

Sustainable Jersey for Schools Underwriters and Sponsors

Program Underwriters



Corporate Sponsors



*Digital Schools Underwriters and Sponsors



Thank You!

Contact us with any questions
or for help with certification:

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