



Countdown to Certification

December 4, 2025

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PRINCETON MIDDLE SCHOOL

SHARE TABLE

STUDENTS MAY LEAVE ANY UNWANTED AND UNOPENED FOOD ITEMS ON THE TABLE. THEN MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP CLUB WILL COLLECT THESE ITEMS AND DROP THEM OFF AT THE NURSE TO BE REDISTRIBUTED TO OTHER CLASSMATES!

THESE ITEMS ARE
OK TO SHARE



WHOLE FRUIT



UNOPENED PACKAGED FOOD

UNOPENED BEVERAGES



UNOPENED SNACK ITEMS



THESE ITEMS ARE
NOT OK TO SHARE



OPEN PACKAGES

EATEN FOOD



FOOD FROM HOME





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](#) within a few days.

FOR SCHOOLS SUSTAINABLE JERSEY CERTIFIED

Certification Actions Grants Events **Resources** Get Involved

Green Team Resources

Presentations

Webinar Recordings

NJSBA Conference

Other Presentations

Sustainability Summit

Resource Library

Publications

Webinar Recordings & Presentations

To further assist you in the certification process, we have provided links to previous webinar recordings and presentations that supply information relevant to all aspects of our program. If you were unable to attend one of our online presentations, this is a great opportunity to learn about what you missed. Webinars are listed by action category.

Category Navigation

- [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](#)
- [Student & Community Outreach](#)

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

Agenda

1. Certification Overview
2. Digital Schools Star Recognition
3. Application Demo
4. Resources
5. Submission Tips





Sustainable Jersey for Schools



- 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



Why Get Certified?

- Provides a roadmap to sustainability in your district and schools
- Tap into extensive support and training
- Save money with new efficient practices
- Priority access to our grants
- Gain recognition
- Fuel the statewide movement – 375 schools certified
- Empower the next generation

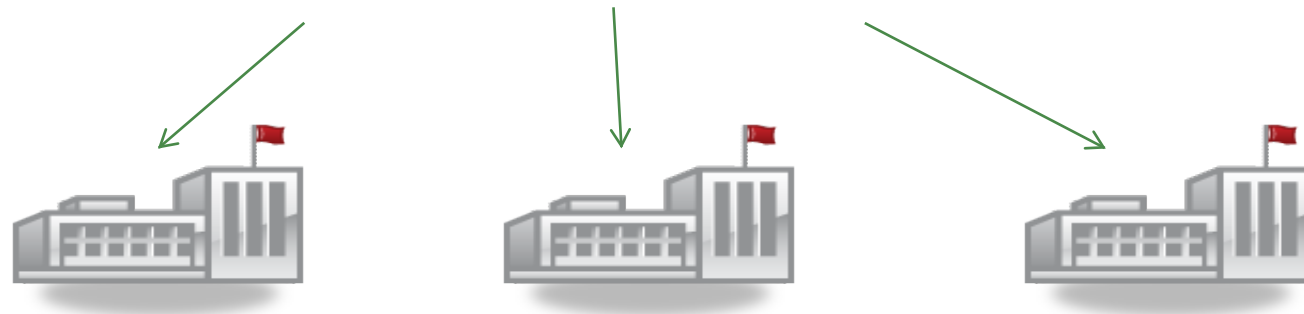




Certification Overview

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

DISTRICT POINTS





Levels of Certification



- At Least 150 points
- Green team
- 2 out of 13 priority actions
- Actions completed in 6 of 22 categories



- At least 350 points
- Green team
- 3 out of 13 priority actions
- Actions completed in 8 of 22 categories



Digital Schools Star Recognition



- Recognizes schools that embrace effective digital learning and communication tools, resources, and practices
- Builds on legacy of Future Ready Schools – NJ
- Districts and schools complete requirements as part of the certification application
- Schools submit their own Digital Schools Star application (single action with checklist)

2025 Digital Schools Star Recipients



<https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/actions/digital-schools-program/digital-schools-star-recognition/>



Digital Schools Star Requirements



- A minimum of 8 of the 13 actions found in the 3 Digital Schools action categories approved. *Some of these actions are District Only and would be completed in the District application.*
- At least one action from each category approved.
- **4 Foundational Actions** approved.
- Digital Innovative Classroom at the 15-point level approved.

<https://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com/actions/digital-schools-program/digital-schools-star-recognition/>



2026 Certification Cycle

- **January 12** – Initial Application Deadline
- Late February – Reviewer Comments
- **March 23** – Second Submission
- Early May – Reviewer Comments
- **June 15** – Final Application Submission
- Late August – Certified Schools Notified
- **October** – Certified Schools Celebration

2025 Awards



Franklin Township Public Schools
3 Silver, 4 Bronze



Clinton Township School District
All schools Certified, 1 silver, 3 bronze



Application Demonstration

[Access Application User Guide](#)

To view the application demonstration please go to the webinar recording [here](#).

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

Check out Green Team Resources at:

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

Quick Start Resources

Application User Guide

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

Download Application User Guide

Master Action Tracking Spreadsheet

This spreadsheet provides an inventory of program actions, all requirements, look back and approval periods, resubmission requirements, and point values. It is a great tool to help a green team identify what actions have been completed by the district or the school. The spreadsheet can also be used to track progress in completing actions and hopes to pursue. It can also be used to track progress in compiling the required documentation.

Download the MATS

Sustainable Jersey for Schools Brochure

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

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 guidelines.

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 certification.

The logo is emailed to all green team members with access to their school's certification application at the time of certification.





Participants Map Search

Use the [Participating Districts & Schools](https://sustainablejerseyschools.com/certification/search-participating-districts-schools-approved-actions/) (*sustainablejerseyschools.com/certification/search-participating-districts-schools-approved-actions/*) page to find examples of documentation from certified schools and connect with school green teams

Search by action

By Certified Action

Board Leadership & Planning

- District Sustainability Policy
- Professional Development for Sustainability
- Green Enhancement of District Strategic Plans
- Strategic Plan Implementation of Green Initiatives
- School Community Asset Mapping
- School District Foundation

View certified schools approved for that action

APPLICANT	COUNTY	CERTIFICATION
Alexandria Middle School (Hunterdon)	Hunterdon	BRONZE
Lester D. Wilson Elementary School (Hunterdon)	Hunterdon	BRONZE
Florence M. Burd Elementary School (Sussex)	Sussex	BRONZE
Long Pond School (Sussex)	Sussex	BRONZE
Atlantic Highlands Elementary School (Monmouth)	Monmouth	BRONZE
Bedminster Township Elementary School (Somerset)	Somerset	BRONZE
Roy W. Brown Middle School (Bergen)	Bergen	BRONZE
Berkeley Elementary School (Essex)	Essex	BRONZE

View certification report for example documentation

East Brunswick Campus (Middlesex)

Certification Level: Bronze
 Certified On: August 25, 2021
 Total Points: 190
 Certification Report: [View Report](#)
 Applicant Profile: [View Profile](#)



Submission Tips

- Draft the description of implementation in a word document, then copy and paste that information into the application text box.
- **Remove old documentation** that is no longer needed for your submission. Reviewers check to make sure that all documentation is current in relation to action requirements.
- Make sure documentation uploaded aligns with your description of implementation.
- Give uploaded files descriptive names.



Submission Tips

- **Remove sensitive information** – once certified approved actions and supporting documentation are publicly available in your certification report on our website.
 - Ex. Student names & mailing addresses, phone numbers, etc. should be removed
- **Consider submitting one additional priority action** than needed for the certification level you apply for. If applying for bronze certification, submit for 3 priority actions instead of the required two.



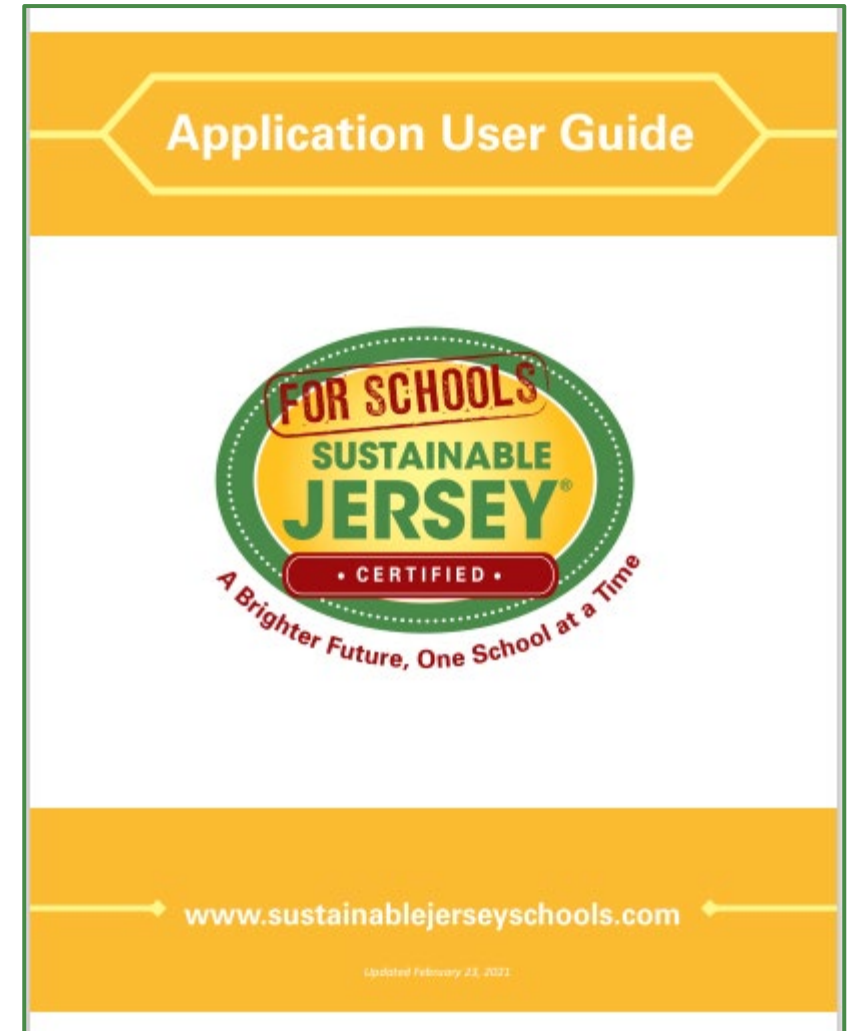
Reviewer Feedback

- While under review, the status of actions will change but you will **not be able to view comments** associated with the actions until the application is unlocked and the status changed to **Awaiting Updates**.
- Feedback is available at the bottom of the action submission page or top of the application.



Confirm Contacts on School or District Dashboard

- Check and update primary and secondary contact information.
- Add anyone who should receive the automatic system emails regarding application status updates as owners/contributors.
- Review [Application User Guide](#) for instructions on making these updates



Q

&

A



Help Sessions

An opportunity to get support at any step in the program.

Registration
process

Organizing
your team

Using the
application

Discussing
strategy

Application
feedback





Sustainable Jersey for Schools Energy Technical Assistance for Schools and School Districts



- Assistance applying for State and utility energy efficiency incentives
- Energy tracking and management
- Completing energy actions for Sustainable Jersey certification

Get free energy technical assistance for your school or school district
info@sustainablejersey.com



SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GRANTS PROGRAM



PSEG

FOUNDATION

\$10k & \$2k Public School and District Sustainability Project Grants Currently Available!

ELIGIBILITY

Established
Green Team

Registered or
Certified



Public NJ school/district

APPLICATION DEADLINE

**Monday
3/9/26
11:59pm**





DIGITAL INNOVATION IN PRACTICE: Real Examples that Shine

Dec.18, 2025, 3:30pm-4:30pm



Schools within the service territories of [PSE&G](#), [NJNG](#), [SJG](#) or [ETG](#) are eligible



**empowered
SCHOOLS**

students generating change

AN ALLIANCE TO SAVE ENERGY PROGRAM 



Learn
More [Here](#)

The Empowered Schools program - formerly known as PowerSave Schools - provides free support and resources to educate students about energy efficiency and save money on your school's energy costs.

Are you signed up for the Sustainable Jersey for Schools mailing list?

Bi-weekly emails with program updates, new funding opportunities, partner event information, and more!



Join Sustainable Jersey For Schools
Mailing List

Join

Sign-up button located at the bottom of the Sustainable Jersey for Schools website homepage at sustainablejerseyschools.com



Thank You

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Sustainable Jersey for Schools Underwriters and Sponsors

Program Underwriters



Corporate Sponsors

