



Sustainable Jersey for Schools Grants Program Funded By NJEA



Quotes from \$10,000 Grant Recipients (Listed alphabetically by county)

“At Frank R. Conwell Middle School, we are honored to receive and participate in the Sustainable Jersey Grant for Schools Project by NJEA. The “Falcons Take Over the Environment,” and Falcon Tulip Hub projects will provide our scholars with experiences they may never have seen or could be involved in anywhere else. Therefore, we look forward to spreading our wings and soaring with knowledge and wellness at the forefront of our focus.” – *Richard Stellato, Principal, Frank R. Conwell Middle School #4, Jersey City Public Schools, Hudson County*

“The Jersey City Public Schools are proud of the two projects deemed worthy of the 2023 Sustainable Jersey Grants funded by the NJEA. Jersey City Public Schools intends to work collaboratively in an inclusive environment to enrich student experiences and provide opportunities that may not be commonplace in an urban setting. The project developed by Frank R. Conwell Middle School 4, Falcons Take Over the Environment, supports the love of nature in an urban setting. This two-phase project will create The Falcon Tulip Hub—a quiet, meditative environment in the middle of the school atrium—and The Falcon Rooftop Garden, an area where students will work the soil and engage in planting and maintaining a vegetable and herb garden. These projects will enrich our students with experiences not typically available in a city environment. Dr. Charles P. DeFuccio School/P.S. #39 developed the Panther Retreat, a green space outdoor classroom created in an inclusive environment where students with autism can work collaboratively with their peers and where all students can engage with the school community as they design a food to table garden featuring vibrant murals and sculptures.” – *Norma Fernandez, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, Jersey City Public Schools, Hudson County*

“East Amwell Township School extends its appreciation to Sustainable Jersey for Schools and the NJEA for generously awarding us a grant for our garden space. This innovative project will significantly enhance our students' knowledge of sustainability and various other disciplines. We commend our Green Team for their tireless efforts in making our school more sustainable.” – *Erin Dolan, Interim Principal, East Amwell Township School, East Amwell Township School District, Hunterdon County*

“We are incredibly grateful to Sustainable Jersey for Schools and NJEA for supporting our work to engage our students in experiential learning. We intend to utilize the grant to fund field trips to learn about our environment for younger elementary students throughout the entire district. We will work with meaningful partner institutes in the surrounding area so that our students understand the integration that environmental education has in their everyday lives.” – *Kristen Wolff, Supervisor of Mathematics and Science, Flemington-Raritan Regional School District, Hunterdon County*

“We are thrilled to receive the Sustainable Jersey grant, a milestone made possible by Dr. Lindsay Gooditis' exceptional leadership in sustainability. This grant is not just a win for our school, but a reflection of our collective commitment to a greener future.” – *Dr. Nicholas A. Diaz, Superintendent, Franklin Township School, Franklin Township School District, Hunterdon County*

“Sustainable Jersey has provided a framework for forward thinking at the district level in planning for sustainability and best practices that challenge stakeholders to continue elevating all aspects of teaching and learning.” – *Dr. Stephanie Brown, Superintendent of Schools, Milltown Public Schools, Middlesex County*

"The goal of this Harbor Seal project is multifold: (1) to promote community-based citizen science civic engagement and foster public-wide ocean stewardship, (2) to increase engagement and partnerships between our high school (Marine Academy of Science and Technology, of the Monmouth County Vocational School District) and local underserved middle school communities, and (3) to promote authentic use of digital learning tools and technology in high schools to create original content that promotes ocean advocacy. Led by science teachers Liza Baskin and Clare Ng, we will be partnering with park officials at Sandy Hook National Recreation Area to install a live wildlife webcam to view wild seal populations at haul-out sites, and to create a student-maintained website that will live stream this feed for global viewing access. We are also working with Save Coastal Wildlife, a non-profit organization dedicated to wildlife conservation, that has been instrumental in public engagement of our wild seal populations at Sandy Hook. We plan to engage with the public (we are aiming to work with local photography clubs) to photograph the seals to study their population dynamics, and work alongside professional and amateur photographers to capture photo-identification images of our own. Our high school students will also work with scientists at National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to develop state-of-the-art computer software for seal facial recognition, and then work with target middle school communities to foster a high school/middle school relationship to raise awareness about ocean stewardship and conservation in under-served student populations by using citizen science as an engaging inquiry-based hands-on introduction to scientific research." – *Earl Moore, Principal, Marine Academy of Science and Technology, Monmouth County Vocational School District, Monmouth County*

"This grant will allow Spring Lake Heights to create an outdoor learning environment focused on our youngest learners. The outdoor learning space will include sensory specific items and be a haven for our learners giving them opportunities outside of the normal classroom walls. Spring Lake Heights thanks Sustainable Jersey for Schools for their unwavering support over the years in making sure our learners have opportunities that will create lasting memories." – *John W. Spalthoff, Superintendent/Principal, Spring Lake Heights School, Spring Lake Heights School District, Monmouth County*

"I am so proud of Township of Ocean Intermediate School teacher, Dian Brannen, for applying for and receiving a Sustainable Jersey grant in the amount of \$10,000. I know these funds will make a direct impact on the work she is doing to improve our green initiatives. Our students are lucky to have Mrs. Brannen leading the way." – *Kelly Weldon, Superintendent of Schools, Township Of Ocean School District, Monmouth County*

"The 'Looking Outside and Inside' project is so special to us because it helps define who we are as a school, through the ingenuity of our STEAM Academy students and the inclusivity it fosters with the involvement of, and focus on, our special needs population. We are grateful to Sustainable Jersey for Schools and the NJEA for honoring that vision with a grant award to help make this project happen." – *Erin Anders, Principal, Toms River - High School East, Toms River Regional School District, Ocean County*

"Penns Grove High School is grateful to partner with our students, families, and community members of the Penns Grove-Carneys Point Regional School District to lead this grant project to have Environmental Science student trainers provide community members and families in our school district with the training and materials needed to grow their own microgreens and other small crops in their homes at no cost. The greens may be added to family meals to enhance their nutritional and culinary value with no expense to families to add essential home-grown nutrients to their daily diet." – *Mrs. L. O'Brien, Principal, Penns Grove High School, Penns Grove-Carneys Point Regional School District, Salem County*

“On behalf of the Westfield Public School District, we were extremely gratified to hear that Westfield High School has been selected to receive the 2023 Sustainable Jersey Grant, generously funded by the NJEA, in the amount of \$10,000. The grant will support a “Student Bike Oasis” at the high school to promote eco-friendly commuting by providing a secure, weather-protected bike shelter. Equipped with covered bike racks, a maintenance station, and seating, the oasis will encourage biking as a sustainable travel choice, while enhancing safety and community engagement. Native plants will further contribute to local biodiversity, making the oasis a multifaceted sustainability hub. This recognition by Sustainable Jersey for Schools and the NJEA is a testament to our district's commitment to sustainability and our collective efforts to foster a school culture that not only educates but also practices responsible stewardship of our planet.” – *Dr. Raymond González, Superintendent of Schools, Westfield Public Schools, Union County*

Select Quotes from Select \$2,000 Grant Recipients (Listed alphabetically by county)

“We are excited for Hawes to receive this NJEA grant dedicated to driving sustainable initiatives forward. With this funding we are ready to launch impactful projects aimed at reducing our environmental footprint and fostering a culture of teaching sustainability. This grant not only validates our dedication to sustainability but also empowers us to continue leading by example and inspiring positive change within our school, our community and beyond.. We extend our gratitude to the grant providers for their support and belief in our students' Environmental Club and its faculty leaders.” – *Shauna Stovell, Principal, Hawes Elementary School, Ridgewood Public School District, Bergen County*

“The Northvale Public School's Administration and Staff is very excited to apply the Sustainable Jersey Grant toward the purchase of a HomeBiogas converter. This purchase will enable our students to explore green energy solutions. Students will be able to expand on the school's existing composting program by using the biogas bag to collect more waste and explore sustainable options for waste. Biogas uses anaerobic digestion to create energy. It is a fermentation process in which the microbes digest the waste to produce methane gas (biogas). The waste can be converted into fuel or fertilizer for the school's courtyards/gardens. This experience will provide our students with numerous educational opportunities, such as exploring and understanding the carbon and nitrogen cycle, converting matter, alternative green energy sources, addressing environmental issues by reducing waste, understanding the life cycle of decomposers, and their impact on the world around them.” – *Michael Pinajian, Superintendent of Schools, Northvale School District, Bergen County*

“Mr. Green’s innovative ideas have set the foundation for a unique learning space for the students and staff at RV PREP. He has created opportunities for our students to research and explore real world, hands on sustainable possibilities right in their own community. As a Sustainable NJ grant recipient, the programs that have been started will be able to continue to flourish and impact both our school and local communities.” – *Vanessa Meekins-Montgomery, Director, RV Prep, Rancocas Valley Regional High School District, Burlington County*

“Henry B. Whitehorne Middle School is a proud and grateful recipient of one of the NJEA Sustainable Jersey for Schools grants. Because the relatively new community garden located adjacent to our building is so widely used by both the public and our students, we will expand the garden through this grant, allowing our students to expand their knowledge of ecosystems and understanding sustainability through experiential learning. The expansion of the garden will further provide our school with a space to be used for interdisciplinary learning experiences, including resource management, nutrition, cooking ideas, and sound environmental practices. Students will also learn to grow and maintain vegetables and herbs in the garden beds and to plant several apple trees through this greatly appreciated grant. Thank you!” – *David Galbierczyk, Henry B. Whitehorne Middle School, Verona Public Schools, Essex County*

"We are thrilled to be receiving this NJEA Sustainable Jersey Grant! Our plan is to send our student green team members on a field trip to learn how to reduce food waste either through gleaning or composting. They will then come back and help their peers increase their awareness and understanding of effective recycling efforts. Elementary students will also receive reusable silicone snack bags to help support a greener school." – *Scott Lipson, Superintendent of Schools, Delaware Township School District, Hunterdon County*

"The Flemington-Raritan School District is grateful to the NJEA for awarding Reading-Fleming Intermediate School a 2024 Sustainable Jersey Grant. This funding will be used by the Student Council to design and deliver exciting and engaging Earth Day activities for over 700 students in grades 5 and 6. As a student-led project, the goal is to increase engagement in Earth Day themed activities, encourage student advocacy, promote the many ways our students can become involved locally and globally, and expose students to various STEM careers that support sustainability and our planet. While this funding enhances Earth Day activities, it is also part of our school's effort, consistent with 5th and 6th grade standards and the activities appropriate for the age of our students, to provide opportunities to students to learn about, engage in and contribute to sustainability through hands-on projects and real-world experiences." – *Dr. Anthony DeMarco, Principal, Reading-Fleming Intermediate School, Flemington-Raritan School District, Hunterdon County*

"I am very pleased that our High Bridge Middle School has been recognized with an NJEA-Sustainable Jersey for Schools \$2,000 grant. This grant will directly impact our students, providing them with Electric Car kits, and allowing them to engage in a project that emphasizes transportation sustainability, creativity, and teamwork. Through this project, students can define, design, analyze, and evaluate their vehicles, further enhancing their Climate Change curriculum." – *Gregory Hobaugh, Ed.D., Elementary Principal/Superintendent of Schools, High Bridge Borough School District, Hunterdon County*

"We are grateful to NJEA and Sustainable Jersey for their generous support of this year's Hopewell Valley Central High School Green Week program. This student-led initiative offers a vital opportunity for our students, staff, and community to work together on solutions to the climate and biodiversity crisis, envisioning a positive and hopeful future for all." – *Dr. Rosetta Treece, Superintendent of Schools, Hopewell Valley Regional School District, Mercer County*

"In Lawrence Township Public Schools, we are pleased to have continued partnerships with Sustainable Jersey for Schools and the NJEA to fund Green Team Reps for our seven buildings. Our schools are now able to continue sustainable practices and tackle new green initiatives that foster a collaborative relationship between our staff, students, and neighboring communities. With the help of Sustainable Jersey's network of sponsors, LTPS is able to provide our P-12 students with valuable educational experiences in a healthy climate of learning." – *Cari Gallagher, LTPS District Green Team Leader, Lawrence Township Public Schools, Mercer County*

"With "Quench and Conserve" Thomas Jefferson Middle School is empowering students to choose sustainability one refill at a time. This initiative emphasized the importance of shifting our students' mindsets and making sustainable choices in their daily lives. The refill stations make it convenient for students to opt for reusable water bottles instead of disposable plastic bottles. This small change helps students take responsibility for their environmental footprint!" – *Antoinette Emden, Principal, Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Edison Township Public Schools, Middlesex County*

"Thank you, Sustainable Jersey! I'm thrilled about the grant and its potential impact on Edgar Middle School in Metuchen. This initiative is geared towards expanding the biodiversity of our school's courtyard. Through the planting of native species and stocking the pond with indigenous fishes and amphibians, we aim to create a welcoming habitat for local wildlife. This enhanced environment will serve as a crucial resting, nesting, and feeding area for both permanent residents and migrating species. Moreover, we plan to integrate environmental education programming into the school's Environmental Club curriculum. Students will gain insights into native habitats, learn about sustainable gardening practices, and understand the requirements for fostering healthy plant growth. Additionally, club members will take the lead in creating informative kiosks detailing the various plants and animals within the habitat, aiming to educate the broader school community. As both a leader and a scientist, this endeavor fills me with immense pride and warmth, knowing the positive impact it will have on our school and the environment." – *Vincent Caputo, Superintendent of Schools, Metuchen Public School District, Middlesex County*

"The purpose of this grant focused on the foundational skills which come from having a school garden. School Gardens help to extend the classroom beyond traditional settings by expanding it outside. Gardening can provide students with hands-on learning opportunities while increasing environmental awareness and vital experience in problem-solving." – *Chrissy Anderson-Remo, Vice Principal, Aldrich School, Howell Township Public School District, Monmouth County*

"We are excited to use the awarded grant funds to begin our Food Waste Composting Program at Stone Bridge Middle School. The grant funds and support offered through the Sustainable Schools NJ program will allow us to begin our Food Waste Composting Program, which we hope to expand to all district schools in the future." – *Mark Guterl, Superintendent of Schools, Upper Freehold Regional Schools, Monmouth County*

"Eisenhower Middle School is proud to announce the launch of the 'Seeds of Sustainability' project, funded by a grant from Sustainable Jersey for Schools. This initiative will introduce aeroponic towers to our school, enabling year-round growth of healthy herbs, fruits, and vegetables. It's a step towards hands-on learning about sustainable agriculture and promoting wellness within our community." – *Paul Gallagher, Principal, Eisenhower Middle School, Roxbury Township School District, Morris County*

"We are thrilled and honored to receive this grant. The grant funds will allow our students at Jefferson Elementary School to continue their education in sustainable efforts. The Monarch Waystation will be used to teach science with interdisciplinary connections across all grade levels. Our Monarch Waystation will allow the community at Jefferson to learn how to participate in sustainability initiatives while helping preserve the ever-declining habitats of Monarch Butterflies. We are so excited to see this garden come to life!" – *Melissa Cosgrove, Principal, Jefferson Elementary School, Roxbury Township School District, Morris County*

"Roxbury High School is proud to announce our 'Piloting Sustainability with Drones' project, funded by a grant from Sustainable Jersey for Schools. This initiative will bring advanced drones to our campus, enabling aerial environmental surveys and promoting sustainability education. Through this cutting-edge technology, we aim to enhance our environmental stewardship and offer our students hands-on learning experiences in real-world conservation efforts." – *Dominick Miller, Principal, Roxbury High School, Roxbury Township School District, Morris County*

"The Mill Pond Elementary School in Lacey Township is very excited and thankful to have received the grant from Sustainable Jersey! As our new early childhood program evolves, taking care of our environment is an important message we want to embrace early. Our youngest learners can't wait to get their hands on the garden tools and their fingers into our community garden. Thank you for this opportunity!" – *Joanie Donohue, Principal, Mill Pond Elementary School, Lacey Township School District, Ocean County*

"Point Pleasant Beach High School is honored to have been selected by Sustainable Jersey for Schools and the NJEA for a \$2000 grant to create outdoor gardens on our school grounds. These pollinator gardens comprised of native species will add aesthetic beauty and environmental support to our school's existing landscaping. These new gardens are part of a larger community-wide effort to incorporate sustainable practices into the daily operations of both the school district and the borough. Grants like these gently encourage the continued pursuit of practices that enhance our entire community." – *William T. Smith, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, Point Pleasant Beach School District, Ocean County*

"We are thrilled to receive the Sustainable Jersey for Schools NJEA grant to help enhance our school garden. The grant will allow us to update our garden with a greenhouse and hydroponic plants, plant new crops, and supply food to a local community food bank. We are so grateful for this opportunity for our children and community." – *Jennifer Stein, Principal, Franklin Park School, Franklin Township Public Schools, Somerset County*

"On behalf of the Board of Education, faculty, staff and students of Franklin Township Public Schools, I would like to say how proud we are of the green team members of Elizabeth Avenue School (EAS); Franklin Park School (FPS) and Pine Grove Manor School (PGM) for their work in securing their respective grants. Franklin Park and Pine Grove Manor School will use the funds for supplies to refresh and expand their school gardens providing wonderful experiences for their students and produce which they can share with the larger Franklin community. Elizabeth Avenue School is planning a project that aligns with their theme - sharing is caring. The funds from their grant will contribute to the purchase of equipment helping them to implement food waste reduction strategies. Allowing unwanted, unopened food to be redistributed after the school day. I am proud of our EAS, FPS and PGM Green Teams for inspiring their students to share their talents and the fruits of their labors with the larger community, this truly represents the Franklin Warrior spirit." – *Dr. John Ravally, Superintendent of Schools, Franklin Township Public Schools, Somerset County*

"Our school, Juan Pablo Duarte - Jose Julian Marti School No. 28 is eager to begin the development of an outdoor classroom. This outdoor space will be instrumental in extending learning beyond the walls of a traditional classroom. Learning outside is not only beneficial to students' wellbeing but is a great way to renew their enthusiasm for learning. It will also be an excellent opportunity for teachers to regroup with their students after activities that take place in the school garden." – *Evelyn Rodriguez Salcedo, Principal, Juan Pablo Duarte Jose Julian Marti School # 28, Elizabeth Public Schools, Union County*

"On behalf of New Providence High School and the New Providence School District, we would like to sincerely thank Sustainable Jersey for Schools and the NJEA for their incredible generosity and thoughtfulness in selecting us to receive a 2023 Sustainable Jersey Grant in the amount of \$2,000. We are incredibly appreciative and honored to receive this grant as it will allow us to continue to build our courtyard in order to provide our students and staff with meaningful and impactful learning opportunities. The monies received will go a long way in our continued efforts to refurbish and add to our courtyard with a focus in building our Japanese garden. Thank you again for your generosity and know the opportunities this will provide for our students and staff will carry on for many years to come." – *Brian Henry, Principal, New Providence High School and Middle School, New Providence School District, Union County*