# 2021 Sustainable Jersey Grants Program

FOR SCHOOLS
SUSTAINABLE JERSEY®
• CERTIFIED •

**Funded By:**

njea
NEW JERSEY
EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION

## Projects for Points
**Project Ideas and Program Actions to Consider for Your Grant Application**

# Available Funding

- Each school and district is only eligible to receive *one* grant per cycle

- A school can apply for **one large grant** ($10,000) ***and/or* one small grant** of $2,000

  o Districts are **only** eligible to apply for a $10,000 grant

- If two applications are submitted, the application for the larger grant will be considered first

  o If the larger grant is selected for funding, the application for the $2,000 grant will no longer be eligible for consideration

**10 $10,000 Grants**

**40 $2,000 Grants**

**Applying for two grants is a good strategy to maximize your school's chances of receiving funding**

# Use of Funding

| Funding Level | Use of Funds |
|---|---|
| **$10,000 Project Grants** | • Fund all or part of a project that will earn points toward a Sustainable Jersey for Schools action<br><br>• The Innovation Project actions are acceptable<br><br>• The project should leverage partnerships with community resources and include an outreach component focused on promoting community awareness of the project |
| **$2,000 Green Team Grants** | • General operating support and direct expenses for green teams<br><br>• Funds may be used for a project related to an action in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program |

**District applications should focus on projects that benefit multiple schools in the district**

# Energy Projects

- For this cycle, $10,000 energy-related projects **ARE NOT** eligible for funding.

    o However, they are eligible for funding under Sustainable Jersey's separate grant cycle funded by the Gardinier Environmental Fund that is focused specifically on energy initiatives. Once announced, more information on this cycle can be found at bit.ly/SJEnergyGrants.

- $2,000 proposals for energy education, conservation, and/or behavioral change projects

> Districts and schools interested in energy projects should consider reviewing the available resources **here** and applying for a Sustainable Jersey energy grant
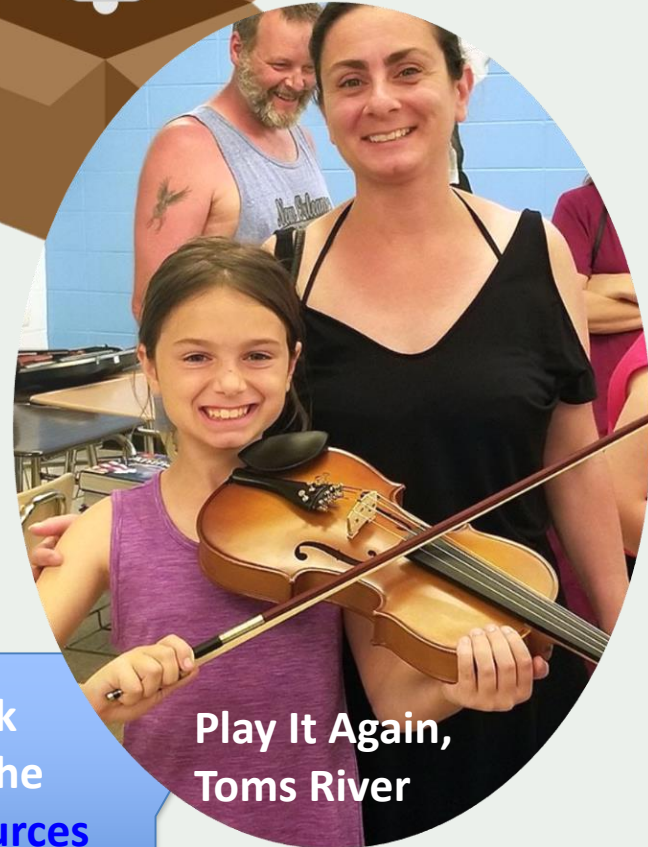
# Projects for Points

- **Typical grant submissions include:**

  o Garden-related projects

  o Plastic reduction campaigns

  o Recycling initiatives

  o Programs to promote physical activity

- **What you should consider:**

  o Identifying a need within your school or district

  o Looking at the Sustainable Jersey for Schools actions to determine where you might need financial assistance to address any of the requirements

*Think outside the box!*

**Play It Again, Toms River**

**Check out the resources library for more ideas**

# Projects for Points

- Professional Development for Sustainability
- School Community Asset Mapping
- Healthy Food Choices Beyond the Cafeteria
- Green Cleaning Training & Education Programs
- iSTEAM
- Student Participation in the Arts
- Curriculum Mapping
- Culture and Climate Needs Assessment

- Green Fair
- School Wellness Council
- Programs to Promote Physical Activity
- Staff Wellness Program
- Waste Audit

# Climate Change Curriculum Resources

- In June 2020, New Jersey became the first state in the nation to incorporate climate change education across its K-12 learning standards.
  - View a list of resources on our website [here](#)
  - [https://subjecttoclimate.org/](https://subjecttoclimate.org/)
- Can get points for any of the Student Learning actions, which are a priority

# Digital Schools Program

- A Digital Schools Star embraces the mindful implementation of effective digital learning and communication tools, resources, and practices – a commitment that is evident in its mission, culture, classrooms, and interactions with its stakeholders

  – [Digital Schools Star Recognition](#)

| New Sustainable Jersey for Schools Digital Schools Actions | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Action Types: 🏛 District Only  🏠 School Only | | Certification Points | Foundational |
| **Category - Digital Learning Leadership** | | | |
| **District Commitment to Digital Learning (Priority)** 🏛 | | 10 - 15 | Yes |
| Community Engagement (District or School Action) | | 10 | |
| **District Professional Development Plan** 🏛 | | 10 | Yes |
| **Equitable Access to Digital Learning (Priority)** 🏛 | | 10 - 15 | Yes |
| **Category – Digital Learning Practices** | | | |
| Authentic Application of Digital Learning Tools and Content 🏠 | | 10 - 15 | |
| **Digital Citizenship (Priority)** 🏛 | | 10 | Yes |
| Personalized Learning and Growing Independent Learners 🏠 | | 15 | |
| **Professional Growth and Collaboration** 🏠 | | 15 | Yes |
| **Category – Digital Technology Access** | | | |
| **Data Safety and Security Policy** 🏛 | | 10 | Yes |
| Digital Device Life Cycle Management 🏛 | | 10 | |
| Infrastructure 🏛 | | 10 | Yes |
| **Support for Digital Teaching and Learning** 🏛 | | 20 | Yes |

# Professional Development

- Contract specialists to provide professional development for teachers on timely issues such as effective virtual instruction, maintaining healthy indoor environments, implicit bias, and anti-racist curriculum and instruction

- Training for custodians on building operations to maintain healthy indoor environments - green cleaning, ventilation

- Training for school counselors, nurses, food service workers and other staff to effectively handle issues and demands arising from Covid-19 and the movement for racial justice

- Training on how to effectively use the available resources, such as Google Classroom

**Program actions:**

Professional Development for Sustainability

Green Cleaning (multiple actions)

Healthy School Environments (multiple actions)

# Curriculum & Virtual Learning

- Purchase supplies or kits for students to facilitate at-home learning of subjects that require special supplies - e.g. science labs, technology, practical and visual arts, home gardening kits

- Purchase subscriptions to programs/software, tools, and training that can help with virtual learning and instruction

- Develop lesson plans and curricula that incorporate climate change education

- Develop lesson plans and curricula across disciplines for racial justice education; that incorporate the history and contributions of Black People, Indigenous People, and People of Color

**Program actions:**

Student Learning (multiple actions)

School Gardens

# Social-Emotional Learning & Equity

- Address social emotional learning issues arising from the Covid-19 pandemic – e.g. send care packages to kids in need; host live social events (either virtually or socially distanced in-person)

- Assess school climate and make progress on addressing identified issues

- Expand equity initiatives – e.g. special supports for ESL and special needs students

- Provide or enhance wifi access to support remote learning for families in need - e.g. wifi on school buses parked where needed

**Program actions:**

School Culture & Climate (multiple actions)

Innovative Project

# Building Maintenance Practices

- Eco-friendly approaches to sanitation in the response to the COVID-19 environment

- Eco-friendly management of single-use waste generated by COVID-19 pandemic – Personal Protective Equipment, food packaging and water bottles from meal service

**Program actions:**

Green Cleaning (multiple actions)

Healthy School Environments (multiple actions)

Waste Audit

Recycling Non-Mandated Materials

# Communications & Community Engagement

- Improve communications with parents to get more information about the needs of students and families, as well as to engage them in building a strong, inclusive and supportive school community - e.g. conduct surveys and focus groups, host events (virtual or socially distanced) on topics of interest to different groups within the community

**Program actions:**

Accessible Communications

Community Education and Outreach

# Innovative Projects

- Initiatives to implement new technologies or practices that advance sustainability goals but that are not outlined elsewhere in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program

  - e.g. Community Schools & "whole child" approach to education - Schools partner with community agencies to provide an integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement

**Program actions:**

Innovative Project (two actions)