



SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GRANTS PROGRAM

FUNDED BY:



- All attendees are muted
- Ask questions in the questions box during the presentation or raise your hand at the end
- The presentation recording and slides will be posted on the Sustainable Jersey for Schools website



Sustainable Jersey for Schools

To achieve a brighter future, one school at a time.

- Empowers public schools to build a better world for future generations with the tools, training, and financial incentives necessary to pursue critical sustainability initiatives
 - Free, voluntary sustainability certification program
 - Subject-specific guidance for over 100 sustainability topics
 - Technical Assistance programs
 - Annual Grants Program



ACTIONS FOR SCHOOLS

To become Sustainable Jersey for Schools certified, schools and districts must complete and document actions from this list. Certification is awarded to schools and is good for three years.

BRONZE Mandatory **Green Team**
2 out of 13 PRIORITY ACTIONS
150 points across 6 of 22 categories

SILVER Mandatory **Green Team**
3 out of 13 PRIORITY ACTIONS
350 points across 8 of 22 categories

★ Bronze or Silver certified schools can earn Digital Schools Star Recognition

Action	Points
BOARD LEADERSHIP & PLANNING	
District Sustainability Policy 	 10
Professional Development for Sustainability 	5 to 20
Green Enhancement of District Strategic Plans	 10
Strategic Plan Implementation of Green Initiatives	 10
School Community Asset Mapping	 10
School District Foundation	10
CLIMATE MITIGATION & RENEWABLE ENERGY	
School Carbon Footprint 	10
Buy Renewable Energy	10
Onsite Renewable Generation System - Geothermal	 10
Onsite Renewable Generation System - Solar	 5 to 45
DIGITAL LEARNING LEADERSHIP	
District Commitment to Digital Learning 	  10 to 15
Equitable Access to Digital Learning 	  10 to 15
Community Engagement	 10
DIGITAL LEARNING PRACTICES	
Digital Citizenship 	  10
Digital Innovative Classroom # 1	  10 to 15
Digital Innovative Classroom # 2	  10 to 15
Authentic Application of Digital Learning Tools & Content	  10 to 15
Personalized Learning & Growing Independent Learners	 15
Professional Growth & Collaboration	  15
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY ACCESS	
Data Safety & Security Policy	  10
Digital Device Life Cycle Management	  10
Infrastructure	  10
Support for Digital Teaching & Learning	  20

DIVERSITY & EQUITY	
Accessible Communications	10
Breakfast After The Bell	20
Diversity on District Task Forces & Committees	 10
ENERGY EFFICIENCY	
Energy Efficiency for School Facilities 	5 to 50
Behavior-Based Energy Conservation Programs	 10
Energy Tracking & Management	10 to 20
FOOD & NUTRITION	
Healthy Food Choices Beyond the Cafeteria	10
Promote Locally Grown Foods	10
School Gardens	 10 to 30
GREEN CLEANING	
Green Cleaning Policy & Plan	10
Green Cleaning Equipment	10
Green Cleaning Supplies	10
Green Cleaning Training & Education Programs	10
GREEN DESIGN	
Green Building Policy 	 10
Design, Build or Certify New Construction & Major Renovations to Green Standards	 10 to 50
Green Building Training	10
GREEN PURCHASING	
Green Purchasing Policy 	 10
Recycled Paper Purchase	10
Sustainable Fleets	 5 to 15
HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS	
Access to Healthy Water in Schools	 20
Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement	 10
Classroom Chemical Purchase, Storage & Disposal Policy	15
Classroom Cleanup Protocol & Practices	10
Integrated Pest Management - Education & Organic Lawn Care	 10
Outdoor Air Quality Awareness Program	10
Radon Testing, Education and Mitigation	 10 to 20
INNOVATION PROJECTS	
Innovative Project #1	 10
Innovative Project #2	 10

INTEGRATED SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS & MATH (ISTEAM)	
ISTEAM Planning & Implementation	15
ISTEAM Strategic Plan Indicators/ISTEAM Policy	 10
ISTEAM Collaborative Units of Study	 10 to 50
ISTEAM Professional Development Plan	5 to 20
LEARNING ENVIRONMENT	
All Arts Disciplines Offered	 10
Curriculum Mapping	15 to 30
Outdoor Classroom	 10
Student Participation in the Arts	 10
SCHOOL CULTURE & CLIMATE	
Inclusive Environment Where All Can Thrive	 10
School Culture & Climate Needs Assessment	 20
Social Emotional Learning Integrated Unit	 10
SCHOOL GROUNDS	
Biodiversity Audit & Management Plan	 10
Biodiversity Project	 10
Green Infrastructure Assessment & Plan	 10
Green Infrastructure Installation	 10
STUDENT & COMMUNITY OUTREACH	
Green Team 	10 to 15
Community Education & Outreach 	  10
Civic & Stewardship Volunteer Initiatives	  10
Enrichment Programs through Partnership	 10
Green Challenges	  10
Green Fair	  10
"Green" Your Green Fair or School Event	  10
STUDENT LEARNING  (One approved action in this category counts toward priority requirements)	
Education for Sustainability Integrated Unit	 10 to 50
Education for Sustainability, Pre K-3	 5 to 25
Education for Sustainability, Grades 4-12 Arts	 5
Education for Sustainability Grades 4-12 Career and Technical Education	 5
Education for Sustainability Grades 4-12 English Language Arts	 5
Education for Sustainability Grades 4-12 Health	 5
Education for Sustainability Grades 4-12 Math	 5
Education for Sustainability Grades 4-12 Science	 5
Education for Sustainability Grades 4-12 Social Studies	 5
Education for Sustainability Grades 4-12 Technology	 5

STUDENT & STAFF WELLNESS	
School Wellness Council 	 20
Policies to Promote Physical Activity	 10
Programs to Promote Physical Activity	 10
Staff Wellness Program	10
STUDENT SAFETY	
Safe Routes to School District Policy	  10
Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety & Promotion Initiatives	  10
Safe Driving Awareness Programs for High School Students	 10
School Travel Plan for Walking & Biking	  10
WASTE REDUCTION & RECYCLING	
Waste Audit 	  10 to 20
Campaign To Reduce School Food Waste	 10
Food Service Training & Best Practices to Reduce Food Waste	 10
Food Recovery - Share Tables & Donation	 10 to 20
Food Waste Recycling/Composting	 15
Document Recycling Rates	 10
Materials Reuse	 10
Recycling Non-Mandated Materials	  5 to 20

-  Priority action. Schools must complete at least two priority actions to achieve certification.
-  Mandatory action. The district or schools must complete the Green Team action to achieve certification.
-  District-only action. District actions earn points for all registered schools in the district.
-  School-only action.
-  Digital Schools action.
Visit www.sustainablejerseyschools.com for more information about the requirements for adding Digital Star Recognition to Bronze or Silver certification.
-  Parallel action in the Sustainable Jersey municipal certification program. Visit the participating town map at www.sustainablejersey.com to find contact information for your local municipal green team to explore working with them on this action.
- Please note: Program actions and points may be subject to change. For the current official list of actions and points visit the website.





Sustainable Jersey Grants Program

- Provides funding for municipalities and schools participating in the Sustainable Jersey programs
- Since 2009, over \$3.9 million awarded to participating public schools and school districts for over 870 projects
- Over 59% of registered school districts have received at least one grant
- Over 37% of all NJ public schools have received funding
- 50% of all grant funding is reserved for certified schools



Round Valley School - \$10,000



Our Partnership with NJEA

- The New Jersey Education Association underwrites both the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program and the Grants Program
- NJEA is contributing \$180,000 to support the 2026 Sustainable Jersey for Schools Grants Program for public school districts and schools
- **NJEA has provided over \$3 million in program support and grants since 2014**





Grants Cycle Overview

All information and resources for the grants cycle can be found on the Sustainable Jersey for Schools website:

Grants and TA ⇒ NJEA Cycle

bit.ly/SJSNJEAgrants

The screenshot shows the Sustainable Jersey for Schools website. At the top is a yellow navigation bar with social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube) on the left and links for ABOUT, NEWS, SUPPORT US, CONTACT US, HOME, and a search icon. On the right of the bar are 'Register' and 'Sign in' buttons. Below the navigation bar is a light gray header area containing the Sustainable Jersey for Schools logo on the left and a list of menu items: Certification, Actions, Grants & Technical Assistance, Events, Resources, and Get Involved. The main content area has a white background. On the left is a sidebar with a list of links: NJEA Cycle, Trees for Schools, Sustainable School Food Service & Cafeterias, Free Energy Technical Assistance for New Jersey School Districts and Municipalities, EmPowered Schools, Thinking about Applying for Grants?, Grant Recipient Information, and Previous Recipients & Projects. The 'NJEA Cycle' link is underlined. To the right of the sidebar is a large banner for the 'SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GRANTS PROGRAM' with the text 'FUNDED BY: njea.' and an image of a glass jar filled with coins and a small plant growing out of it. Below the banner is the section '2026-2027 NJEA Grants Cycle'. The text in this section states: 'The New Jersey Education Association (NJEA), as a Sustainable Jersey for Schools program Underwriter, is contributing \$180,000 to support a Sustainable Jersey Grants Program cycle for schools and school districts affiliated with NJEA. With this contribution, NJEA has provided \$3 million to support a sustainable future for children and communities across the state.' Below this text is the heading 'Online Grant Application' and the text 'Online Application Deadline: Friday, October 30, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Grant Authorization Documentation due Friday, December 4.' At the bottom of the page is a green button that says 'Access the Online Grant Application'.



njea NEW JERSEY
EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION

Eligibility Requirements



NEW JERSEY
EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION

Affiliation

School OR District

Student & Community Outreach

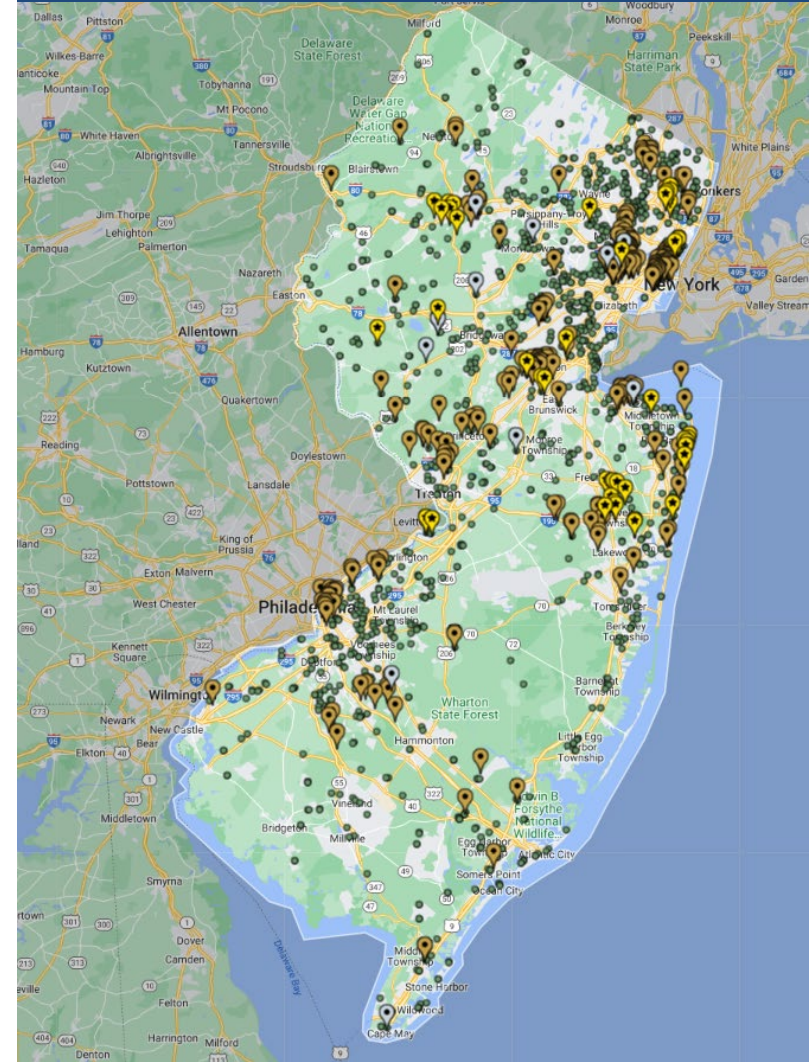
Green Team

10 Points

 Required

• THIS ACTION HAS VARIABLE POINTS: 10, 15

Check the [map](#) to determine
your Sustainable Jersey status

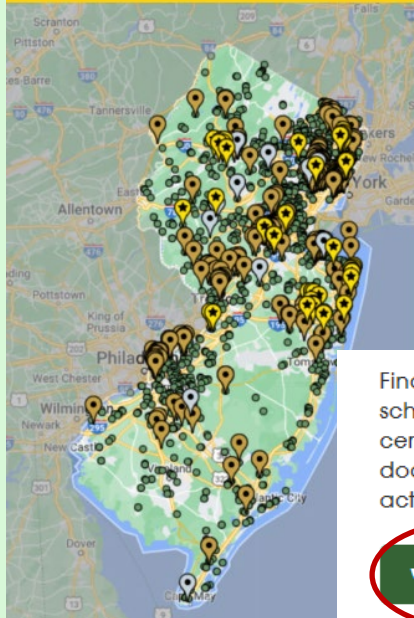




Participants Map Search

Use the [Participating Districts & Schools](#) page to check your school or district's status in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program

View Districts, Schools and Approved Actions



Click on View Map on the Sustainable Jersey for Schools website's homepage

Find participating districts and schools and search school certification reports to view documentation for approved actions.

View Map

Use the List View and Ctrl+F to find your school

MAP VIEW

LIST VIEW

* If not listed, your school district or school is not registered

APPLICANT	DISTRICT	CERTIFICATION	<u>STATUS</u>
Franklin Township Public Schools (Somerset)	Franklin Township Public Schools		SD Registered
Conerly Road Elementary School (Somerset)	Franklin Township Public Schools		Registered
Elizabeth Avenue Elementary School (Somerset)	Franklin Township Public Schools	BRONZE	Certified
Franklin High School (Somerset)	Franklin Township Public Schools	SILVER DIGITAL SCHOOLS STAR	Certified & Digital Star



Previous Grant Recipients

Grant Cycle of Previous Award	Amount	Grant Status	Eligible to Apply for \$10k Grant	Eligible to Apply for \$2k Grant
2026 PSEG	\$10,000 or more	Open	No	Yes
		Closed +	No	Yes
	\$2,000	Open	Yes	No
		Closed +	Yes	No
2025 PSEG or NJEA*	\$10,000 or more	Open	No	Yes
		Closed +	Yes	Yes
	\$2,000	Open	Yes	No
		Closed +	Yes	Yes
2015-2024 PSEG, NJEA, or Gardinier	\$10,000 or more	Open	No	No
		Closed +	Yes	Yes
	\$2,000	Open	No	No
		Closed +	Yes	Yes

**Please note that the NJEA grants are awarded the year after the listed program cycle*

+ A grant is closed when the final report has been submitted and approved by Sustainable Jersey



Available Funding

School Districts and Schools are considered separate applicants

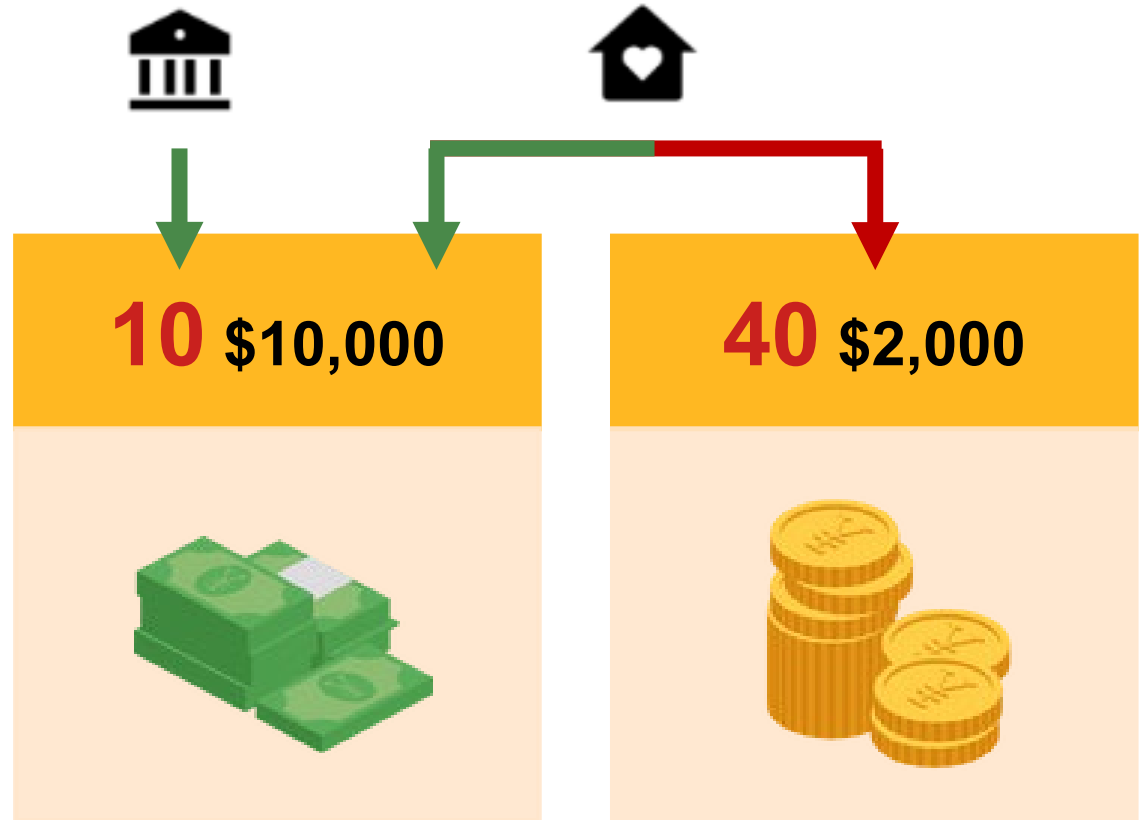
School Districts

- Can apply for one **LARGE** grant for district-level projects

Schools

- Can apply for one **LARGE** and one **SMALL** grant, but can only receive **ONE**

Collaboration with community organizations is encouraged!





Use of Funding

Funding Level	Use of Funds
LARGE and SMALL	Fund all or part of a project that will earn points toward a Sustainable Jersey for Schools <u>action</u> , including the <u>Innovative Project action</u> .
SMALL	Fund general operating support and direct expenses for green teams.
LARGE	Fund a project that leverages partnerships with community resources and includes an outreach component focused on promoting community awareness of the project.

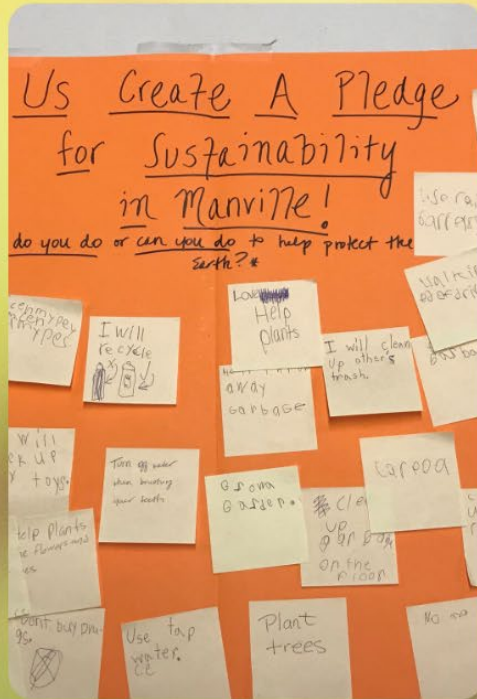


Grant Project Ideas

Utilize the [Previous Grant Cycle Awards](#) as a resource



Green Team Support



Annual Activities

Community Engagement

Promotion Materials

Green Fair

Community and School Gardens



Greenhouse



Traditional



Aquaponics



Indoor Tower

Sustainable Landscaping and Pollinators



Gardens



Certifications



Education



Beekeeping

STEAM / Sustainability Education



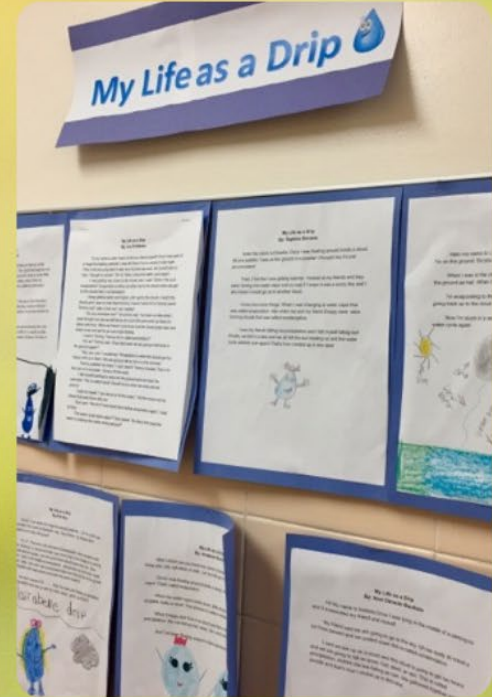
Outdoor Classrooms



Partnerships

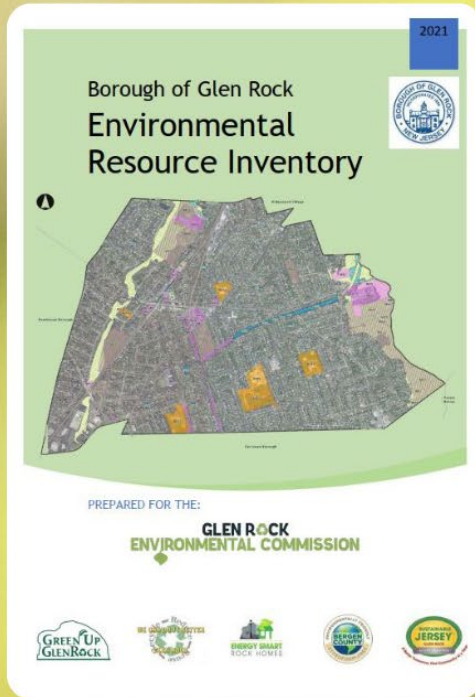


Campaigns

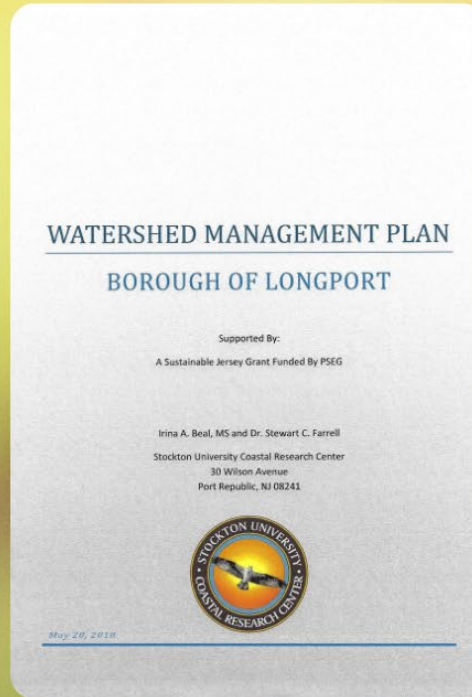


Curriculum Development

Planning, Studies and Inventories



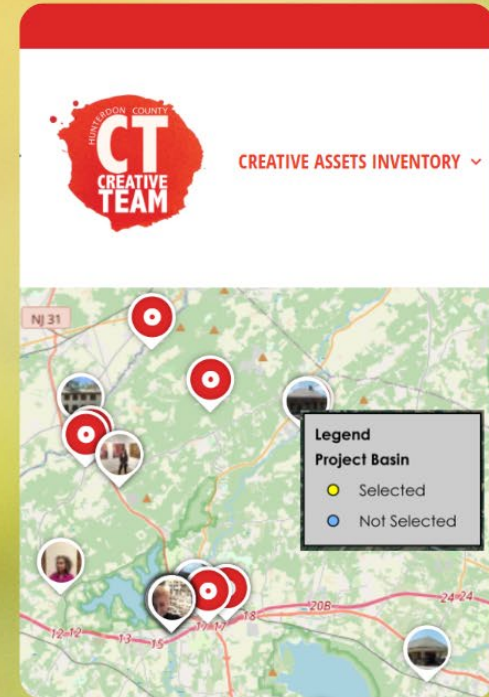
ERI



Watershed Management



Community Visioning



Creative Assets Inventory

Green Infrastructure and Stormwater Management



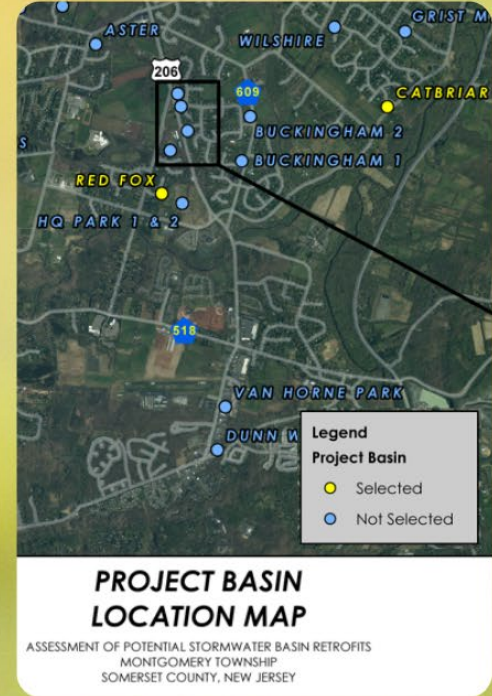
Bio-Swale



Rain Garden



Adopt-A-Drain



Planning

Recycling and Waste Management



Waste Audits



Improved Recycling



TerraCycle



Non-Mandated Collection

Health and Wellness



Promoting Physical Activity



Nutrition Education

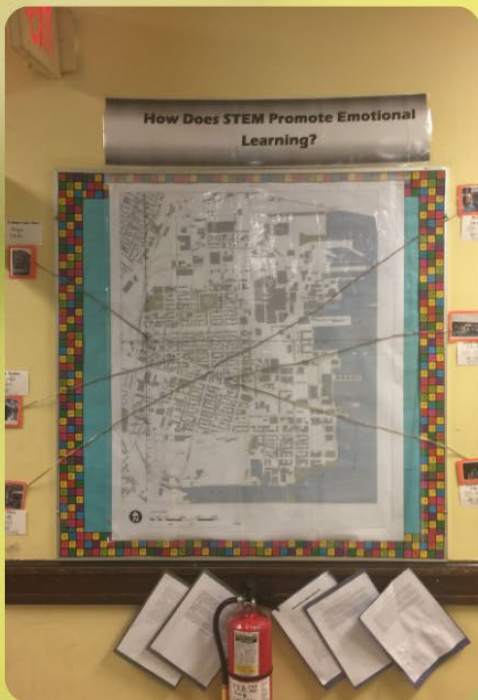


Health Fairs



Anti-Idling Campaigns

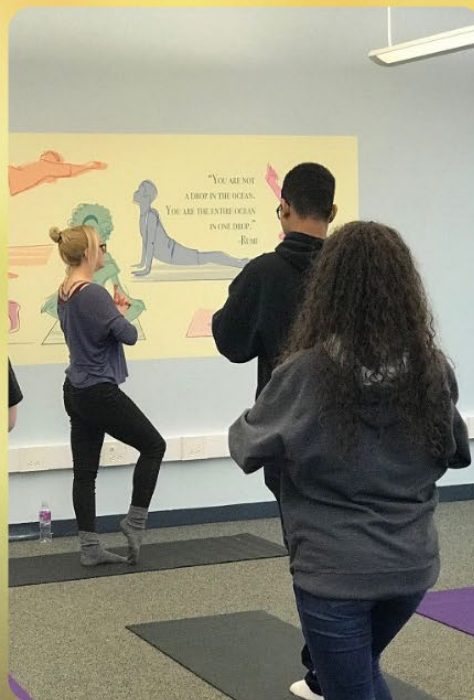
Social and Emotional Learning



Culture and Climate Assessments



Flexible Seating



Mindfulness



Equity and Diversity

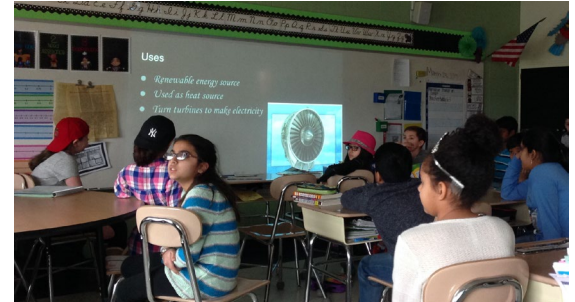


Energy Projects

- Energy audits and incentive programs
 - Lighting upgrades, purchasing new EE equipment, etc.
- Electric vehicle charging stations
- Electric vehicle purchases
- Energy education, conservation, and or behavioral change projects



Interested in energy projects? Review the available funding and resources in Attachment 1 in the [Application Information Packet](#)





Energy Technical Assistance

Benefits of Energy Technical Assistance:

- Improve facility comfort and safety
- Lower school district carbon footprint
- Understand facility usage
- Save money on utility bills
- Gain points in Certification Program
- Most importantly, its **FREE**

Energy Tracking & Management

10 Points

• THIS ACTION HAS VARIABLE POINTS: 10, 20

Energy Efficiency for School Facilities

5 Points

 Priority

• THIS ACTION HAS VARIABLE POINTS: 5 — 50 • NON-COMPETITIVE FUNDING AVAILABLE

To request Energy Technical Assistance:

bit.ly/SJEnergyTARquestForm



Sustainable Jersey collects and processes sustainability related data for school districts.

The Data Center has data on student demographics, languages spoken at home, household characteristics, and information on alternative fuel vehicles organized by public school districts in New Jersey.

Data is updated on an ongoing basis.

Check the [School District Community Profile Data](#) on Sustainable Jersey for Schools for your school's data.

Community Profile Data by School District

* More detail available on Data tabs below

District Information

Student Population by Race/Ethnic

District Name

County Name

District Grade Level

Total Schools in District

Total Student Enrollment

White

% White

Black

% Black

Hispanic

% Hispanic

Asian

% Asian

Native American

Asbescon Public Schools District

Atlantic

PK-08

2

927

422

45.5%

117

12.6%

276

29.8%

68

7.3%

0

Academy Charter High School

Monmouth

09-12

1

173

5

2.9%

57

32.9%

108

62.4%

0

0%

0

Academy For Urban Leadership Charter School

Middlesex

07-12

1

332

6

1.8%

20

6.0%

306

92.2%

0

0%

0

Achievers Early College Prep Charter School

Mercer

06-09

1

443

3

0.7%

51

11.5%

387

87.4%

0

0%

1

Alexandria Township School District

Hunterdon

PK-08

1

423

367

86.8%

7

1.7%

24

5.7%

7

1.7%

0

Allamuchy Township School District

Warren

PK-08

2

441

295

66.9%

29

6.6%

67

15.2%

15

3.4%

0

Allendale Public School District

Bergen

PK-08

2

897

628

70.0%

7

0.8%

67

7.5%

139

15.5%

0

Alloway Twp School District

Salem

PK-08

1

289

250

86.5%

13

4.5%

11

3.8%

0

0%

2

Alpha Borough School District

Warren

PK-08

1

198

144

72.7%

16

8.1%

30

15.2%

3

1.5%

0

Alpine Public School District

Bergen

KG-08

1

163

92

56.4%

14

8.6%

8

4.9%

41

25.2%

0

Anover Regional School District

Sussex

PK-08

2

448

16

70.5%

16

3.6%

83

18.5%

16

3.6%

0

Area NJ Alternative Fuel Report Data Breakdown by School District

Data Acronyms: LDV - Passenger Car LDT - Light Duty Truck MDT - Medium Duty Truck HDT - Heavy Duty Truck LSV - Low Speed Vehicle

Definitions on Notes sheet

Battery Electric Vehicles

Hybrid Electric Vehicles (non plug in)

Plug In Hybrid Electric Vehicles

Neighborhood Electric Vehicle

Natural Gas Vehicle

District Name

Total AFV

LDV

MDT

HDT

LDV

LDT

LDV

LDT

LSV

LDT

MDT

HDT

Atlantic County Vocational School District

1

0

0

0

1

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

Clifton Public School District

1

0

0

0

0

1

0

0

0

0

0

0

Cumberland County Board Of Vocational Education

1

0

0

0

0

1

0

0

0

0

0

0

Egg Harbor Township School District

1

0

0

0

1

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

Elizabeth Public Schools

4

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

3

0

0

1

Gloucester City Public School District

1

0

0

0

1

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District

3

3

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

Hillside Public School District

1

0

0

0

1

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

Hunterdon County Vocational School District

1

0

0

0

0

1

0

0

0

0

0

0

Jackson Township School District

3

0

0

2

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

1

Jersey City Public Schools

2

0

0

0

0

2

0

0

0

0

0

0

Lenape Valley Regional High School District

1

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

1

0

0

Livingston Board Of Education School District

1

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

1

Madison Public School District

1

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

0

District Profile Data

Alternative Fuel Vehicle Data

%Languages Spoken at Home Data

Poof by Racial/Ethnic Group Chart

Free/Reduced Lunch Status Chart

% Pr ...



Sustainable Jersey Purchasing Resource Center: Designed to Support your Sustainable Transportation Goals

This **tool** assists you in purchasing key green technologies:

1. Electric vehicles (EVs)
2. Electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE)

Coming Soon:

1. Green Grounds Equipment
2. EV Accessories
3. Building Management Systems



Sustainable Jersey Purchasing Resource Center Alternative Fuel Vehicles

Filter by Co-op/Contact ▾

Filter by Fuel Type ▾

Filter by Manufacturer ▾

Filter by Vehicle Type ▾

Filter by Price Range ▾

[Return to Purchasing Resource Center Home Page](#) [Reset Filters](#) [FAQ Page and Glossary](#)

Vehicle Information ▾	Vendor Information	Co-op/Contract	Vehicle Class	URL for Spec Sheet (for Co-op) OR Quote	Vehicle Price	Direct Pay Eligible	Delivered within three months?	Customization	Offer Expiration
Manufacturer: MacLaren's Mobile Model: The Legendary Ride Year: 2024 Color: Yellow Range: 250 miles	Vendor Name: Swayly's Electric Motors Point of Contact: Marshall Erikson Preferred Contact Method: marshall@swaylys.com	Educational Services Commission of NJ (Formerly Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission)	Class 1 2	swaylyselectric.com/maclarens	Vehicle price: \$50,000 Destination price: \$1,800 Total purchase price: \$51,800	Yes	No	Wraps	Feb 24, 2025
Manufacturer: Gilmore Auto Model: Stars Hollow Cruiser Year: 2024 Color: Lorelei's Lavender Range: 200 miles	Vendor Name: Stars Hollow Vehicles Point of Contact: Luke Danoes Preferred Contact Method: luke@shvehicles.com	Educational Services Commission of NJ (Formerly Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission)	Class 1 2	starihollowvehicles.com/orvis	Vehicle price: \$35,000 Destination price: \$1,200 Total purchase price: \$36,200	Yes	Yes	N/A	Jan 20, 2025
Manufacturer: Ford Model: Interceptor Year: 2024 Color: White Range: 250 miles	Tracy's Ford Tracy Woods woodst@tcnj.edu	Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council	Class 1 2	www.blahblah.pdf	Vehicle price: \$5 Destination price: \$1 Total purchase price: \$6	Yes	Yes	police lights	Dec 31, 2024

1 / 3 < >

Disclaimer: Sustainable Jersey has created the Purchasing Resource Center to serve as a guide for municipalities and schools in New Jersey who are pursuing green transportation technologies. The information provided in this resource should be verified by each user. It is important to note that Sustainable Jersey is not affiliated with any of the vendors listed on this resource, and does not sell any products or services. Sustainable Jersey is a non-profit organization that seeks to empower communities with the tools, training and financial incentives necessary to pursue critical sustainability initiatives. Learn more about [Sustainable Jersey](#).

Adding Products to this Database
If you are a vendor for an eligible product and would like to add your offering to this database, please email info@sustainablejersey.com and instructions will be sent to you.



Projects for Points



- What you should consider:
 - The status of your green team—does it need financial support?
 - Identifying where you need financial assistance to complete a program **action**
 - Identifying a need within the school, district or community
 - Identify an innovative project that you cannot find funding for elsewhere
 - Identify an opportunity to partner with community stakeholders



Solar Bus Shelter at
West Orange HS



Limitless Café at Howell
Twp MS North



Play It Again,
Toms River



Other Resources

Grants & Technical Assistance

NJEA Cycle

- > Free Energy Technical Assistance for New Jersey School Districts and Municipalities
-

SJ-PSE&G Energy Efficiency Partnership Program

EmPowered Schools

Trees for Schools

- > Thinking about Applying for Grants?
-

- > Grant Recipient Information
-

Previous Recipients & Projects

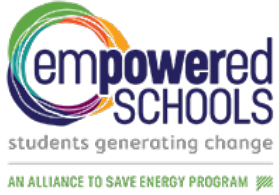
Resources

- > Green Team Resources
-

- > Presentations
-

- > Resource Library
-

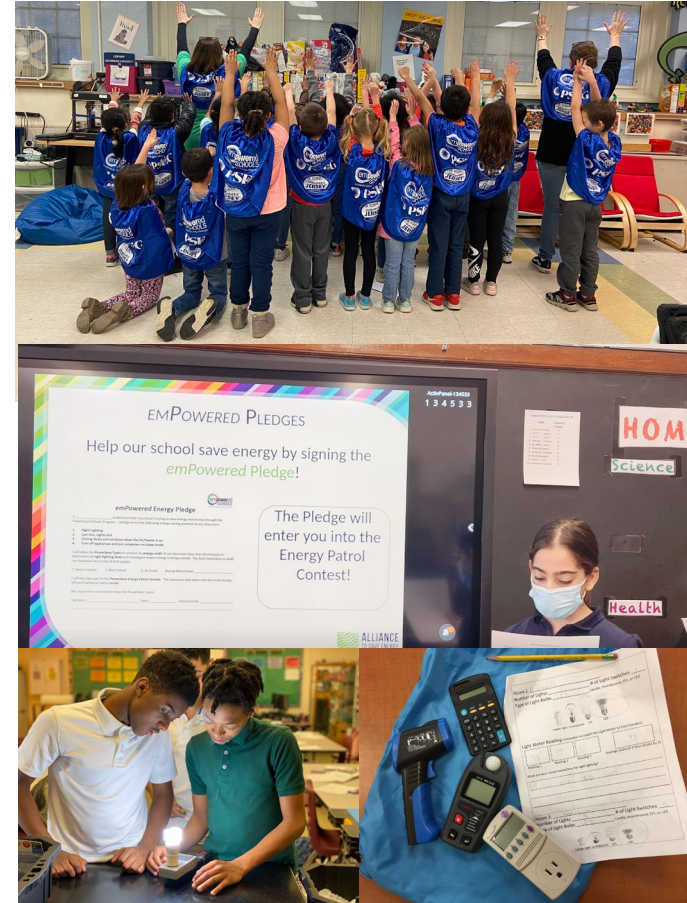
Publications



Empowered Schools

Receive free support and resources to educate PK-12 students about energy-related issues [\[link\]](#)

- Integrates STEAM principles to promote energy literacy through lesson plans, hands-on activities, and competitions
- Students will use the school building and their homes as learning labs to solve real-world problems and generate cultural change by making energy efficiency visible, important, and doable



Safe Routes Regional Coordinators

Safe Routes Regional Coordinators from eight Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) throughout New Jersey are ready, willing, and able to offer FREE technical assistance in Safe Routes programs in communities from all 21 counties.

Watch our short video to learn about how your Safe Routes Coordinator can help, and use the table and map provided below to determine which regional TMA applies to you.

For more information, [download and view the Safe Routes Resource Center information sheet](#). If you have any questions regarding identifying your regional coordinator, please contact us at: srts@ejb.rutgers.edu.

<https://www.saferoutesnj.org/find-your-srts-regional-coordinator/>



Participation in this program can help to earn points in the [Safe Routes to School District Policy](#) action, [Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety and Promotion Initiatives](#) action, and the [School Travel Plan for Walking and Biking](#) action.



Food Waste Resources

- Reduce, Recover & Recycle Food Waste - Sustainable Jersey Toolkit for PreK-12 Schools
 - This toolkit, produced by Sustainable Jersey and Rutgers Cooperative Extension, provides guidance, resources, and examples for addressing food waste while also promoting healthy food and addressing food insecurity.
 - It covers a range of topics that include: waste audits; reducing and recycling organic food / packaging waste; recovering uneaten food; training staff on and implementing food service best practices; educating and engaging students; running school-wide campaigns; and using school gardens to promote sustainable food knowledge and behaviors.

Reduce, Recover & Recycle Food Waste

Sustainable Jersey Toolkit for PreK-12 Schools





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/>
- Can get points for any of the Student Learning actions, which are a priority



Photos from Dale Rosselet, Allison Mulch, Dalton Farms, and NJ Audubon

New Jersey Climate Change Education Hub

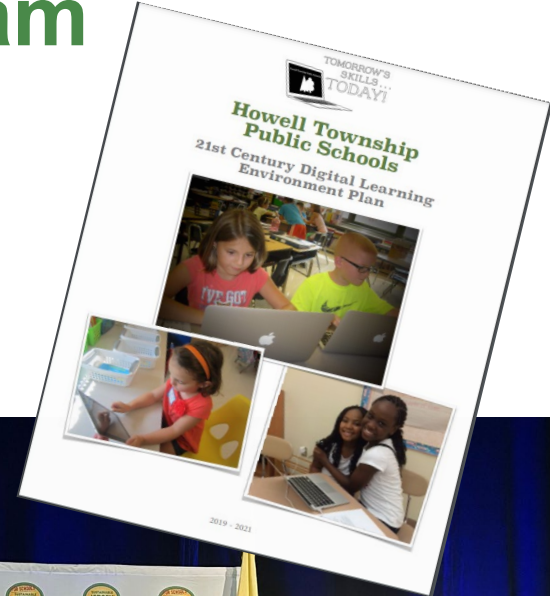
The resources you and your school need to effectively teach climate change. These comprehensive resources are built around the official [NJ Student Learning Standards](#) and expand on the work of the New Jersey Department of Education.





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
 - The program actions were recently revised—review updates [here](#).





Application Process

bit.ly/SJSNJEAgrants

Online Grant Application

Online Application Deadline: Friday, October 30, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Grant Authorization Documentation due Friday, December 4.

Access the Online Grant Application

Make sure to record the email address and password for the application. Grant recipients will need that information to log into the system to complete reporting requirements.



Getting Started

Sign Up

Enter an email address and choose a password to create a new account.

Email

Password

- Must contain at least one lowercase letter
- Must contain at least one uppercase letter
- Must contain one number
- Must be between 8 and 32 characters
- Must not be an email address

Confirm password

• Passwords must match

Sign Up

SIGN UP OR SIGN IN

Please note that **each individual school** will need its **own account**. Any **district applications** must be submitted through a **district account**.

webportalapp.com/sp/login/sjs-njea-grants

ace



SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GRANTS PROGRAM

FUND



Sign In

Email

Password

Log In

[Forgot your password?](#)

Need an Account?

[Sign Up](#)

Sustainable Jersey Grants Program Account

This grant account can be used from year to year to submit applications to be considered for funding by the Sustainable Jersey Grants Program. Below is more information on how to utilize your grant account.

Cycle Specific Portals

Note that this portal is specific to the NJEA grants- by signing in to this portal with your grant account, you will be able to review any past submissions and unsubmitted drafts. Copies of previously submitted

Thank you for signing up for a Sustainable Jersey Grants Program account! As the **primary grant contact**, you will use this account to submit grant applications in Sustainable Jersey Grants Program cycles and, if any of your applications are selected for funding, the required reporting requirements. Before moving forward with a grant application, you must first create a Profile for your grant account.

Please click "Create a Profile to Get Started" to begin. You can always edit your Profile by clicking "Edit".

You cannot move forward until you have completed your Profile.

Create a Profile to Get Started

Profile ▾

Save Draft

Create Profile

Primary Application Contact

This is the primary person Sustainable Jersey will correspond with regarding this application and any subsequent award. The primary contact must be a school district employee. It cannot be a consultant.

Name *

Title *

Organization/School

Phone *

Please do not include parentheses () or dashes (-)

Phone Number Extension

Email *

PRIMARY CONTACT

MUST be a school district employee. If working with a consultant who plans on submitting the application on behalf of the school/district, they should submit it using a school/district grant account with a proper primary contact.

Note that school applicants that wish to apply for both a 10k and a 2k grant will need to submit **two** separate applications, but can use the same account and profile.

Thank you for filling out the profile form for your grant account. Below you will find buttons that will allow you to do the following:

- Use the "get started" button to create a new grant application for the 2022 Sustainable Jersey Grants Program Cycle funded by NJEA
- Complete the reporting requirements associated with a previously-awarded grant



SECTION 1: GRANT PROPOSAL

New this year, you can access each step of your grant application that is due by October 30 (collectively called your "Grant Proposal" at the same time. Use the blue open button to complete a step.

Grant Proposal

There are 50 days remaining to submit this.

Submit

Please complete all sections of the School Grant Proposal to submit an application in the 2026 Sustainable Jersey for Schools grants cycle funded by NJEA. **All sections must be submitted by the end of the day on October 30, 2026.**

NJEA Grant Proposal

Action Required

Open

Complete this form by providing information about your school or school district, answering questions about your Sustainable Jersey grants history and NJEA affiliation to confirm your eligibility, and describing your proposed project. This form serves as your grant proposal, so we highly recommend reviewing the [Application Information Packet](#) before completing this step.

Sustainable Jersey for Schools Program Status

Action Required

Open

Complete this form by indicating your school or district's current status in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program. Applicants must be registered or certified with Sustainable Jersey for Schools to be eligible to apply.

Instructions for checking your school or district's status, along with explanations of the different Sustainable Jersey Status Types, are available in the [Application Information Packet](#).

NJEA Local Association President Notification

Action Required

Open

Complete this form by uploading evidence that your NJEA Local Association President has been informed of your school or district's intent to submit a grant application. Acceptable documentation includes a copy of an email sent to your NJEA Local Association President or, if they choose to provide one, a letter of support.

Your NJEA Local Association President is not required to respond or provide a letter of support. We simply require documentation showing that they were informed of the proposed grant application and given the opportunity to offer their support. Please also let them know that, if your application is selected for funding, Sustainable Jersey will notify them of the grant award using the contact information provided in your grant proposal.

How to Save: You may save your work, log out, and resume your in-progress application at any time by using the login feature. Drafts of the application will automatically save every 5 minutes and a "save draft" button is available at the end of the application form. You are encouraged to manually save your application when you are logging out or stepping away from working on it.

How to Submit: When you are ready to submit this form, please click the blue "Mark as Complete" button at the bottom of the page. Then, the "Submit" button to the right will become green and clickable. The Grant Proposal section is not fully submitted until you click the green "Submit" button. Even if you submit the Grant Proposal Section, you will still be able to edit any of its forms up until the section deadline.

Questions? Review the [Application Information Packet](#) for more detailed information about the grant application process and check the [FAQ](#).

Need help? Contact Kaitlyn Vollmer at 609-771-3189 or at grants@sustainablejersey.com.

Need a copy of your application? You can print or save a PDF copy of this section by following the instructions available [here](#).

You may encounter a pop-up window when you click on links within the application form--please note that all links within the application are for pages and files from the Sustainable Jersey for Schools website which and are safe and secure.

* Indicates a required field

I. Preliminary Questions

Before moving forward with the application, you must first select if you are submitting an application as a school district or a school. Then select the grant amount that you are applying for. This information will populate the form with questions specific to that grant.

Are you submitting an application as a school district or school? *

School

School proposals should address actions that would impact only one school in the district. Proposals focused on implementation in multiple schools should identify the school district as the applicant.

Is your school affiliated with NJEA? *

No

This grants cycle is only open to schools affiliated with NJEA. If your school is not affiliated with NJEA, they are not eligible to apply. Please withhold from submitting your grant application in this cycle and instead submit it in the upcoming grants cycle funded by the PSEG Foundation, which is open to all public schools in NJ regardless of union affiliation. This cycle will also award \$10,000 and \$2,000 grants and is due to be announced in October.

Which grant are you applying for? *

\$10,000

II. Sustainable Jersey Grant History

How it Affects Your Eligibility

Schools are able to have two grants open at one time--one "large" grant of \$5,000 or more and one "small" grant of \$2,000. If a school currently has an open large

Save Draft

Mark Complete

Close

WORKING ON A STEP FORM

You can use the save draft button to save your work to return to at any time before the section deadline. Use the Mark Complete button to save your form.

Grant Proposal

Please complete all sections of the School Grant Proposal to submit an application in the 2026 Sustainable Jersey for Schools grants cycle funded by NJEA. **All sections must be submitted by the end of the day on October 30, 2026.**

There are 50 days remaining to submit this.

Submit

NJEA Grant Proposal

Complete

Edit

Complete this form by providing information about your school or school district, answering questions about your Sustainable Jersey grants history and NJEA affiliation to confirm your eligibility, and describing your proposed project. This form serves as your grant proposal, so we highly recommend reviewing the [Application Information Packet](#) before completing this step.

Sustainable Jersey for Schools Program Status

Action Required

Open

Complete this form by indicating your school or district's current status in the Sustainable Jersey for

EDITING A STEP POST-COMPLETION IS POSSIBLE

You can use the edit button to go back and work on a previously submitted step as long as it is before the section deadline.

Mark Complete

Grant Proposal

Please complete all sections of the School Grant Proposal to submit an application in the 2026 Sustainable Jersey for Schools grants cycle funded by NJEA. All sections must be submitted by the end of the day on October 30, 2026.

There are 50 days remaining to submit this.

Submit

NJEA Grant Proposal

Complete this form by providing information about your school or school district, answering questions about your Sustainable Jersey grants history and NJEA affiliation to confirm your eligibility, and describing your proposed project. This form serves as your grant proposal, so we highly recommend reviewing the [Application Information Packet](#) before completing this step.

View

Edit



This has been submitted

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

The **Submit** button will turn **Green** and become clickable once you mark your application form for that section as complete. This is only possible once all required fields have been filled out. You will still be able to access any section to make changes before the section deadline (even if you submitted that section already) by using the “Edit” button. You can view the form submitted in any step using the “View” button.

Grant Authorization Document

Please complete the final section of your grant application by submitting your Grant Authorization Document. This section must be submitted by the end of the day on December 4, 2026.

There are 85 days remaining to submit this.

Submit

Grant Authorization Documentation

Action Required

Complete **this form** requesting a signed and dated copy of the letter *or* resolution authorizing your submission of the grant application. A template letter can be found [here](#) and a template resolution can be found [here](#).

If submitting a resolution, make sure that you are submitting the correct one. The grant authorization resolution is **not** the same as the resolution required to register in Sustainable Jersey for Schools or the resolution required to establish a green team.

Open

**SECTION TWO: GA
DOCUMENTATION IS
DUE LATER ON
DECEMBER 4, 2026**

Grant Proposal

Thank you for completing your proposal. It is now submitted and will undergo our eligibility review before being sent to the selection committee for funding consideration. Our staff will reach out to the primary contact if additional information or documentation is required.

The final section of the application is the Grant Authorization Resolution, which can be submitted at the same time or after your proposal via the next application section.

Edit



This has been submitted

**SECTION ONE: GRANT PROPOSAL
IS DUE BY OCTOBER 30, 2026**



Does your school or district have an idea for a sustainability project that needs a source of funding? Consider applying for a Sustainable Jersey grant! Sustainable Jersey is pleased to announce that NJEA is contributing \$180,000 to support another cycle of the Sustainable Jersey Grants Program.



Available Grants

\$10,000 School or District Project Grants
\$2,000 School Green Team Support Grants

Eligibility Rules

New Jersey public schools participating in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program with an established green team and NJEA local association. Previous grant recipients must meet additional requirements.

Learn More

Join us for our informational webinar on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, from 3:00PM to 4:30PM. Find the link to register via the QR Code.

Application Due

Friday, October 31, 2025

Apply Today

The online application and additional information can be accessed via the Grants tab on the Sustainable Jersey for Schools website (sustainablejerseyschools.com) or via the QR Code.



Flyer

Application Resources



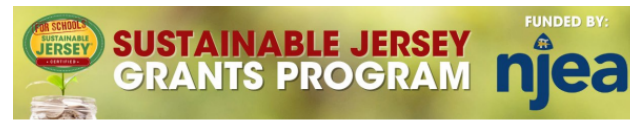
2025-2026 NJEA Grants Cycle QuickStart Guide

The Sustainable Jersey Grants Program is an important resource benefit available to any NJ public school or school district participating in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program. Please consider taking advantage of the annual funding cycles in order to support your school's journey to becoming more sustainable. This QuickStart Guide provides a basic overview of the 2025-2026 NJEA Grants Cycle. More detailed cycle information can be found in the [Application Information Packet](#). Apply online [here](#).

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 11:59PM ON OCTOBER 31, 2025

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Sustainable Jersey Grants Program
Funded by the New Jersey Education Association

2025 Application Information Packet for School Districts and Schools

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QuickStart Guide

App Info Packet



Application Walkthrough



SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GRANTS PROGRAM

FUNDED BY: 

Sustainable Jersey Grants Program Account

This grant account can be used from year to year to submit applications to be considered for funding by the Sustainable Jersey Grants Program. Below is more information on how to utilize your grant account.

Cycle Specific Portals

Note that this portal is specific to the NJEA grants-
-by signing in to this portal with your grant account,
you will be able to review any past submissions and
unsubmitted drafts.

Sign In

Email

Password

[Log In](#) [Forgot your password?](#)

Need an Account?

[Sign Up](#)



Section 1: Grant Proposal Steps

Section 1: Grant Proposal – due 10/30/2026

NJEA Grant Proposal

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Requested Funding Amount | 4. Application Contacts |
| 2. Sustainable Jersey Grant History | 5. Grant Proposal |
| 3. Applicant Information | 6. Optional Information |

Current Sustainable Jersey for Schools Status

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Current Status in the SJS Program | 2. Green Team Documentation* |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|

NJEA Local Association President Correspondence

- | |
|--|
| 1. Evidence of NJEA Local Association President Correspondence |
|--|

*Not required from Sustainable Jersey schools **currently certified** in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program (or districts with at least one certified school)



Step One: Grant Proposal

Preliminary Questions

- Are you submitting an application as a school district or school?
 - **School District** OR **School**
- Is your school district/school affiliated with NJEA?
 - **Yes** OR **No**
- Which grant are you applying for?
 - **\$2,000** OR **\$10,000**

Must answer these questions first in order to populate the application form with questions specific to the grant you are applying for



Step One: Grant Proposal

SJ Grant History

- **Previously-awarded grants** from the Sustainable Jersey Grants Program can affect your school or district's eligibility to apply for another grant
 - Review the eligibility chart for previous grant recipients
 - Schools are eligible to have two open grants at one time—one 10k and one 2k grant

As long as the project is finished, a grant can be closed out by submitting a final report. Contact us to see if your school or district has any open grants and what your close-out options are. It may be possible to close out a grant in time.



Step One: Grant Proposal

SJ Grant History

- **Outstanding Grants** (Open Past Original Reporting Deadline)
 - Unable to apply for any grants until the outstanding grant is closed
 - Still the case if the previously-awarded grant has an extension
- Open grants in an individual school do not affect the district's or any other schools' eligibility to apply for a grant—all are considered separate entities



Step One: Grant Proposal

Applicant Information

- **School/District Name and County**
 - Search for your school/district name via the search bar and this information will auto-fill

Please note that schools/districts with the same name may have to try clicking on more than one name before finding the one assigned to the correct county.

District Information *

Absecon Public Schools

Academy Charter High School

Academy For Urban Leadership Charter School

Alexandria Township School District

Allamuchy Township School District

Allendale Public School District



Step One: Grant Proposal

Applicant Information – All Applicants

- **NJDOE School District Code**
- **District Employer Identification Number (EIN)**
 - Ask your fiscal contact for this
- **Number of Students the District Serves**
- **Percentage of Students in District on Free or Reduced Lunch**

Can get all of this information from the most recent Fall Enrollment Reports via the NJDOE website [here](#).



Step One: Grant Proposal

Applicant Information – School Applicants Only

- Type of School Applicant (Elementary, Middle, or High)
- School Student Population
 - Ask your fiscal contact for this
- Percentage of Students in School on Free or Reduced Lunch

Can get all of this information from the most recent Fall Enrollment Reports via the NJDOE website [here](#).



Step One: Grant Proposal

Applicant Contacts

- Provide the name, email address, phone number, and phone number extension (if applicable) for the following contacts:
 - Superintendent **(title not needed)**
 - Principal **(only for School Applicants)**
 - Fiscal Contact **(will also need mailing address)**
 - NJEA Local Association President
 - Media Contact **(optional)**

Community engagement is important, so it is good to have someone responsible for project promotion.



Step One: Grant Proposal

Grant Proposal

- **All Grant Applications Must Include:**

- Project Title and Brief Description
- Action Plan and Timeline
 - Can use the template available [here](#)
- Budget Narrative and Detailed Project Budget
 - Can use the budget template available [here](#)

Before getting started on the proposal, review the evaluation criteria for \$2,000 grants [here](#).



Step One: Grant Proposal

Grant Proposal

- Only **10k** Grant Applications Must Include:
 - Project Team
 - Community Engagement
 - Project Impact and Evaluation

Before getting started on the proposal, review the evaluation criteria for \$10,000 grants [here](#). Note that the evaluation process for the large grants is more extensive than that for the smaller grants.



Step Two: SJ4S Program Status

Check Your School's/District's Current Program Status

- Did you check the [Participating Schools and Districts Map](#)?
- What does the map say your school's/district's status in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program is?
 - **Schools:** Not Registered, Registered, Certified Bronze, Certified Silver
 - **District:** Not Registered, Registered (Districts cannot be certified)



Step Two: SJ4S Program Status

Check Your School's/District's Current Program Status

- **Previously certified?**

- Note certification only lasts for three years and can be expired at the time of the grant application

- **Not registered?**

- Registering is free and easy. You can learn more [here](#).
- If you are at least in the process of registering by 10/31, your application will still be considered.



Step Two: SJ4S Program Status

Green Team Documentation

- Currently certified schools or districts with at least one certified school **DO NOT** need to provide this information
- Otherwise, we need the following green team documentation:
 - List of green team members
 - Summary of green team activities

List of Green Team Members

- First Name, Last Name, Affiliation
- NO OTHER INFORMATION
- xxx
- xxx
- xxx
- xxx

(if just forming, it is okay if this mostly consists of the project team)

Summary of Green Team Activities

A brief description of what your green team has been working on in the past year. Explain what actions you have identified and are working towards completing. Explain what community activities you have tabled at, participated in, or hosted. Can be a bulleted list. Can also upload your green team yearly report, if you have one.

(if just getting started, explain future plans and goals for your green team)

You can either create a district or school green team or appoint an existing group to act as the green team. District green teams are created by resolution whereas school ones can be created via a letter from the principal. You can follow the instructions available [here](#). It is okay if your green team is the same as your project team.



Step Three: NJEA Local Association President Correspondence

- Please upload evidence that your NJEA Local Association President has been informed of the green team's intent to submit the grant application.
 - This can include either a copy of the email that was sent to, or a letter of support from, your NJEA Local Association President.



While it would be great to have your NJEA Local Association President on the project team, you are only required to show proof that you have reached out to the President to let them know of the grant application.



Section 2: Grant Authorization Doc

- Upload either a **School Board Resolution** OR a letter from the superintendent, business administrator, or school principal
 - A template resolution can be found [here](#) and a template letter [here](#)
 - Can use the same resolution for a 10k and 2k grant application
 - Must be signed and dated
 - **Must be submitted by 12/4/26**

Resolution of Support Authorizing the Submission of a Sustainable Jersey for Schools Grant Application

Some school districts have requested a sample of the resolution that must accompany their Sustainable Jersey for Schools Small Grants Program application. The purpose of the resolution is to affirm that the Board of Education approves of the proposed grant project/activities. A signed and certified resolution should be uploaded through the online grant application. Any standard resolution in support of applying for a grant will suffice. We do not require that you use this format.

SAMPLE RESOLUTION [Insert Name of School Board]

Resolution of Support from [Insert Name of School Board] Authorizing the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Small Grant Application

WHEREAS, Sustainability means using resources wisely, saving money and reducing our impact on the environment, all of which will ensure the future health, safety, and prosperity of our children; and,

WHEREAS, The _____ Board seeks to support and work with school staff and administrators, students and parents to ensure a safe and healthy environment for students by encouraging our school community to implement sustainable, energy-smart, eco-friendly and cost-effective solutions.

WHEREAS, [Insert Name of School Board] is participating in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Program; and

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Program is to provide resources to school districts to make progress on sustainability issues, and they have created a grant program called the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Small Grants Program;



SUSTAINABLE JERSEY

DATE

Kaitlyn Volmer
Grants Program Coordinator
Sustainable Jersey for Schools

Dear Ms. Volmer:

This letter shall serve as documentation of the authorization for **SCHOOL NAME HERE** to submit a **FUNDING LEVEL HERE** grant application for the **PROGRAM YEAR** Sustainable Jersey for Schools Grants Program funded by NJEA. As the **PRINCIPAL/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**, I fully support this application and authorize its **submission** on behalf of the school community.

If selected for the grant award, we will **BRIEF MENTION OF PROJECT**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

SIGNATURE

**NAME
POSITION
SCHOOL/DISTRICT**

GRANT AUTHORIZATION LETTER TEMPLATE

NOTE: The above template letter includes all the information we need for this letter to serve as the authorization document for the grant application. However, please feel free to treat this authorization letter also as a letter of support. Your principal, business administrator, or superintendent are free to provide more details about the project, the vision behind it, and the impacts it would have on the school community. While not required, the Blue Ribbon Selection Committee looks favorably upon letters of support and signs that the school community is committed to the grant project.

This resolution is **DIFFERENT** than the resolution required to register in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification program OR to establish a green team.



Applications Under Review

Staff Application : Test

Created on 09/19/2023

Submitted

Sustainable Jersey Grant Application: Submission

External

Inbox x



Sustainable Jersey Grants Program <no-reply@email.zenginehq.com>
to me ▾

2:07 PM (3 minutes ago)



Hello Kaitlyn Vollmer,

Thank you for submitting a Sustainable Jersey grant application in the 2024 school grants cycle funded by NJEA. This email serves as confirmation that your application was received by Sustainable Jersey and is currently undergoing the eligibility prescreening process.

We suggest saving a copy of your completed grant application as a PDF to keep for your records. Follow the instructions available [here](#). This example references the municipal PSEG-funded cycle, but these instructions can be used for the NJEA cycle as well.

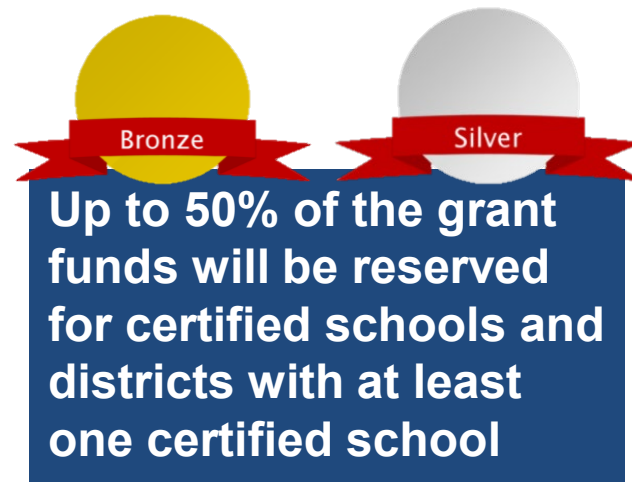
If additional information is required for your application, staff will reach out. You will be notified if your application meets the eligibility standards. You will be notified on whether or not you will be awarded the grant by mid-February. In the meantime, if you have any questions about your grant application or the [Sustainable Jersey Grants Program](#), please do not hesitate to reach out to Kaitlyn Vollmer at 609-771-3189 or at grants@sustainablejersey.com

Best,

Sustainable Jersey Grants Program

Selection Process

- All **\$10,000** proposals will be reviewed by a Blue Ribbon Selection Committee composed of experts from the public and private sectors.
- All **\$2,000** grants will be awarded based on the green team's commitment to advancing sustainability initiatives in the school and how the proposed activities will lead to the successful completion of specific Sustainable Jersey for Schools actions.
- Other factors for consideration include geographic spread, team capacity, project diversity, past awards and community need.





\$10,000 Evaluation Criteria

**Project
Description**

15 Points

**Project
Team
Members**

10 Points

**Action Plan
& Timeline**

10 Points

**Community
Engagement**

20 Points

**Project
Impact and
Evaluation**

25 Points

Budget

20 Points



\$2,000 Evaluation Criteria

Project Description

Budget

Action Plan & Timeline

- Efforts the school makes towards achieving Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification are considered along with other factors
- Note that the \$2,000 grant applications request less information than the \$10,000 grant applications



Project Description

- The description concisely summarizes the specific project to be funded by the grant award

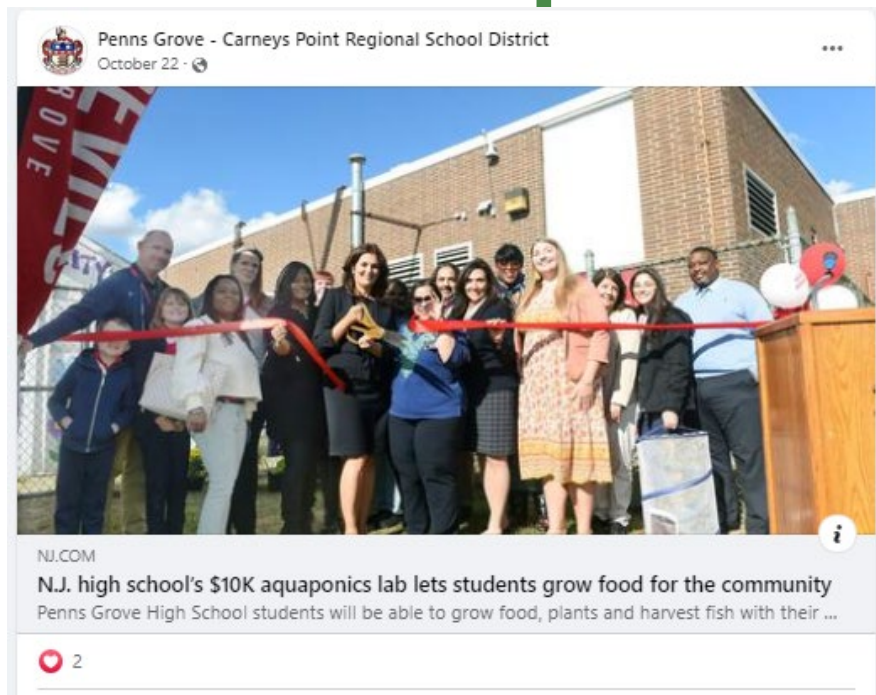
TIP: Project Selection

- Think “outside the box”
- Identify all requirements associated with the project
- Consider community dynamics when crafting your proposal so it’s successful
- Consult stakeholders before settling on a plan
- Understand your capacity



Penns Grove High School Example

- Clear, concise, and compelling: framed aquaponics as a solution to food insecurity in a designated food desert.
 - Connected directly to sustainable farming practices and STEM education.
- ➡ Strong case for full points.





Project Team Members

- The designated project team appears qualified to undertake the proposed project
- The project team includes representation from district, school, and community stakeholder groups that will be involved in or impacted by the implementation of the proposed project

TIP: Building Your Team

- Include representation from stakeholder groups that will be involved/impacted by the implementation of the project like school staff, students, and parents.



Penns Grove High School Example

- Diverse team: superintendent, curriculum director, science/math supervisors, principal, environmental science teachers, custodial staff, and food services director
- Included NJEA representatives and community partners (Exchange Club, municipal green team).

➡ Demonstrated capacity and broad expertise.





Action Plan & Timeline

- The proposed project action plan addresses the steps needed to successfully complete the project
- Target completion dates are realistic and will enable the project to be completed within the 18-month performance period



TIP: Project Planning/Implementation

- Consider administrative delays, such as the procurement process and plan time for paperwork
- Research the products you plan to use
- Plan ahead for summer months/downtime
- Set deadlines and adhere to them
- Spend time and resources to train volunteers
- Try to plan for the unexpected – always have a “plan B”
- Include plans for how the success of the project will be shared with the school community



Action Plan & Timeline

- Implementation steps should start no earlier than mid-March 2026. Planning steps can occur earlier, but no grant funds can be spent beforehand
- Events where the grant will be promoted, such as a ribbon cutting ceremony, and materials will be distributed are identified





Action Plan & Timeline

- Template available! Not required, but highly recommended applicants use it.
- At least take a look to make sure you are covering all of the steps/tasks/areas that the selection committee will be looking for when evaluating this section.
- It's okay if you use "Month 1, Month 2..." etc., as needed but make sure to have an anticipated start and end date.



Grant Application Proposed Project Action Plan

Please use this form to outline the specific steps or tasks needed to complete the proposed project. These steps include project planning, implementation, community outreach and evaluation. Identify the target completion date for each step to ensure the project can be accomplished by the end of the performance period. Include plans for ribbon cutting ceremonies and milestone events. Implementation steps should NOT begin until after the grant is awarded at the press announcement event. Additional lines can be added.

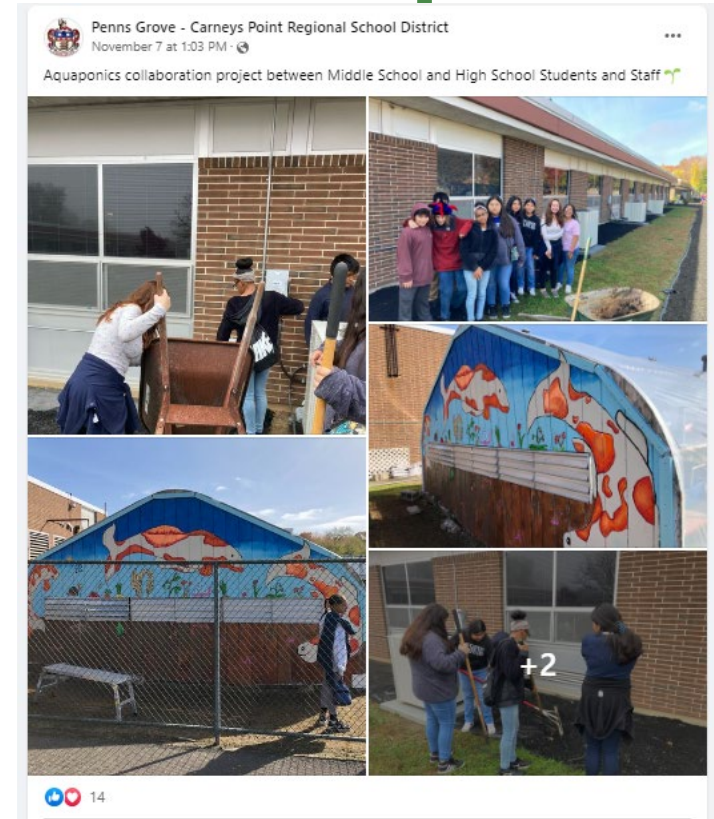
Steps/Tasks that the Project Team will take to Complete the Proposed Grant Project	Team Member Responsible	Target Completion Date
Planning Steps		
1.		
2.		
3.		
Implementation Steps		
1.		
2.		
3.		
Community Engagement Activities		
1.		
2.		
3.		
Evaluation and Reporting Steps		
1.		
2.		
3.		

Project Promotion – Events Where Promotional Materials With Sponsor Recognition Are Distributed		
Name of Event	Materials	Date
1.		
2.		
3.		
Proposed Date of Ribbon Cutting Ceremony (if applicable)		



Penns Grove High School Example

- Detailed action plan: outlined steps for planning, building, curriculum integration, outreach, and evaluation
 - Identified specific milestones (e.g., ribbon-cutting, School Board presentations).
- ➡ Realistic and achievable within the 18-month performance window.



Community Engagement

- Capitalize on collaborations between community stakeholders including representatives from the schools, municipal and county agencies, civic or community-based organizations, non-profits, professional organizations and local businesses.
- Expand on what is in action plan and timeline.

TIP: Bringing in other Stakeholders

- Recruit volunteers early on
- Identify and involve all relevant parties from the beginning
- Keep meetings short, timely, meaningful and efficient
- Think of how the project will affect other community groups and see if they want to get involved



Community Engagement

- Events where the grant will be promoted, such as a ribbon cutting ceremony, and materials will be distributed are identified



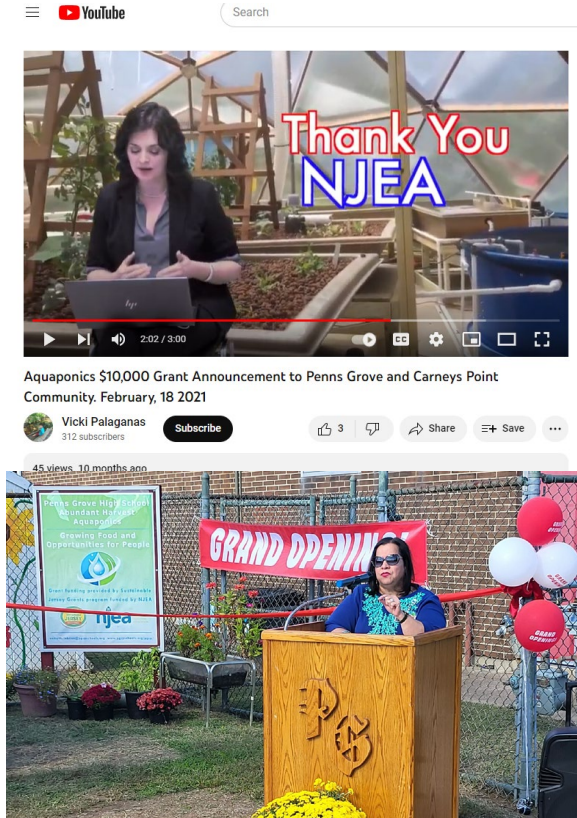


<https://youtu.be/R0JpYHoV1cM>

Penns Grove High School Example

- Planned wide promotion: social media, website, school board updates, signage with NJEA logos, ribbon-cutting.
- Brought in students, parents, staff, local leaders, and organizations to ensure visibility and ownership

➡ High score for deep and varied engagement.





Project Impact and Evaluation

- The project will augment existing green team efforts and support certification efforts
- The proposed project is unique, innovative and addresses a specific need in the community
- What the project hopes to accomplish is clear and relevant background information is provided to better understand the true impact of the project

TIP: Identify Impacts

- Propose a project that capitalizes on collaborations between school and municipal or district/school stakeholders





Project Impact and Evaluation

- Who will benefit from the proposed project (students, school staff, families, community) and how is clearly articulated
- Project outcomes will be evaluated





<https://youtu.be/R0JpYHoV1cM>

Penns Grove High School Example

- Community is a food desert (supermarket closed; reliance on Dollar Store).
 - Highlighted nutritional inequality and Salem County's 30%+ obesity rate.
 - Connected to nutrition, equity, sustainability education, and certification.
- ➡ This was their strongest area — very likely scored near full points.





Budget

- The Budget Narrative clearly summarizes project expenses and identifies all the sources of funding needed to complete the proposed project, including in-kind contributions such as volunteer hours
- The budget is realistic, costs are justified and resource contributions, including in-kind, have a reasonable value

TIP: Tracking Expenses

- Discuss accounting and procurement with your business office ahead of time.
- Plan to create a designated grant account to track expenses.
- If completing an outreach project, justify use of promotional materials
- Include shipping costs
- Remember that the budget is an estimate and that modifications can be made if in receipt of the grant award



- Promotional items including “give-aways” (i.e. T-shirts, water bottles, reusable bags), refreshments, incentives or awards do not comprise more than \$1,000 for 10k projects and \$200 for 2k projects
- It is clear that all additional funding besides the grant is in-hand or committed
- The project leverages no or low cost resources to cost-effectively complete the proposed project

TIP: Leveraging Other Resources

- Consider asking community members and local businesses for donations, whether it be funding or project materials, especially for promotional materials
- Can include money for a sign, which is required for applicable projects and can likely be donated
- Review the resources in the actions on the website for other opportunities to leverage resources





- Template available! Not required, but highly recommended applicants use it.
- The detailed project budget is consistent with the Budget Narrative and clearly identifies the eligible project expenses that will be billed to the grant
- Make sure grant funds column adds to grant award—cannot award grants less than 2k or 10k



Sustainable Jersey Grants Program Budget Template



Matching or in-kind contributions are encouraged, but not required. If the proposed project will be 100% funded by the grant, do not enter anything in the Other Funding Sources column. If other funding will be used to complete the project in conjunction with the grant, please identify the amount in the Other Funding Source column. Identify the source of the additional funding, if it has been secured, and any other details deemed necessary to include in the Budget Narrative. Any NJCEP, utility, or other incentives should be included. In order to upload your budget to the grant application, you must convert the excel document into a PDF. Please make sure that the rows and columns in the PDF are not cut off due to page breaks. To ensure this, select the "fit to paper width" option when saving as a PDF.

Applicant Name:

A. SALARIES, WAGES, AND FRINGE BENEFITS

Name	Title	Hours	Sustainable Jersey Grant Funded	Other Funding Sources (cash, incentives or in-kind)	Total Cost
					\$ -
					\$ -
Total Municipal Salaries			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

B. SUBCONTRACTORS/CONSULTANT COSTS

Subcontractor/Consultant	Role in Project	Period of Performance	Sustainable Jersey Grant Funded	Other Funding Sources (cash, incentives or in-kind)	Total Cost
					\$ -
					\$ -
Total Subcontractor/Consultant Cost			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

C. ITEMIZED EQUIPMENT

Item	Unit Cost	Quantity	Sustainable Jersey Grant Funded	Other Funding Sources (cash, incentives or in-kind)	Total Cost
					\$ -
					\$ -
Total Equipment Cost			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

D. ITEMIZED SUPPLIES

Item	Unit Cost	Quantity	Sustainable Jersey Grant Funded	Other Funding Sources (cash, incentives or in-kind)	Total Cost
					\$ -
					\$ -
Total Cost of Supplies			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

E. OTHER ITEMIZED EXPENSES

Item	Justification	Quantity	Sustainable Jersey Grant Funded	Other Funding Sources (cash, incentives or in-kind)	Total Cost
					\$ -
					\$ -
Total Other Expenses			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

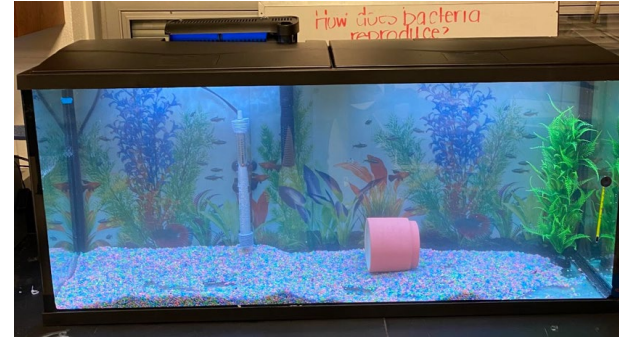
TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
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<https://youtu.be/R0JpYHoV1cM>

Penns Grove High School Example

- Budget was itemized and eligible, listing tanks, filters, rafts, sump tanks, greenhouse structure.
 - Realistic, with in-kind contributions and community support strengthening feasibility
- ➡ Showed responsible and strategic use of grant funds.





Grant Awards





Grant Awards

Grant recipients will be announced:

Mid-February 2027

Grant Event:
Mid-March

- Announcement event with free breakfast, networking opportunity, and chance to get your photo taken with the program sponsors
- \$2,000 grants will be mailed in full to the attention of the application's fiscal contact
- \$10,000 grantees will receive an initial payment of **half the award amount with an understanding that they must front the second half of the grant**
 - The final payment of the remaining half will be paid to the school/district upon satisfactory approval of the final report



Reporting Requirements

- \$10,000 grants will submit an interim report midway through the project and a final report after an 18 month performance period
 - **Note that the second half of the grant funds will not be released until the project is complete and final report approved**
- \$2,000 grants will submit a final report after a 12 month performance period
- Take pictures, keep track of expenses, and be sure to acknowledge the sponsors—will need this documentation for the report

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GRANTS PROGRAM

FUNDED BY: **njea**

Sustainable Jersey Grants Program Account

This grant account can be used from year to year to submit applications to be considered for funding by the Sustainable Jersey Grants Program. Below is more information on how to utilize your grant account.

Cycle Specific Portals

Note that this portal is specific to the NJEA grants-
-by signing in to this portal with your grant account, you will be able to review any past submissions and unsubmitted drafts.

Sign In

Email

Password

[Forgot your password?](#)

Need an Account?

Make sure to record the email address and password for the application. Grant recipients will need that information to log into the system to complete reporting requirements.



Application Tips



Consider these 4 tips to increase your chances of receiving a grant

- Schools should apply for both a small and a large grant
 - Can copy and paste information; just need to change the budget and action plan and timeline
- Include the community and stakeholders in as many of the steps to complete the project as possible, including the planning phase
 - Invite municipal green team members, local businesses, and organizations
- Identify sources of in-kind donations of time, labor, and funding to show that your school community has skin in the game
- Be detailed—too much information is better than too little



Timeline

<u>Timeframe</u>	<u>Action</u>
Friday September 11, 2026	Webinar presentation & recording posted on website
Friday October 30, 2026	Section One: Grant Proposal of the application is due (Three Steps)
Friday December 4, 2026	Section Two: Grant Authorization Doc due Should also aim to be registered, have a green team, and have closed out outstanding grants by this time
Mid-February	Recipient/non-recipient notification
Mid-March	Grant announcement event and funds distributed



Thank you!



Join Sustainable Jersey and/or Sustainable Jersey for Schools mailing list



Questions about Digital Schools and Climate Change Education?

Rosalie Morillo (She/Her)
Program Manager, Schools Content & Special Projects
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Questions about the schools certification program?

JoAnna Contarino (She/Her)
Senior Program Coordinator
schools@sustainablejersey.com
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Questions about the grants program?

Em Boxer (They/Them)
Grants Program Assistant
grants@sustainablejersey.com
609-771-3196



Want to discuss a grant proposal idea?

Kaitlyn Vollmer (She/Her)
Grants Program Manager
609-771-3189

Thank You!

To ask questions, please either:

- Raise your hand (to ask question verbally)
 - Make sure to unmute yourself using the green microphone button
 - If calling in via the telephone, make sure you input the audio code: **601-196-200**
- Type your question in the question box



MAJOR PROGRAM REFRESH: 2027 SCHOOLS CYCLE **PAUSED**



What to Expect in 2028

- Updated program actions
- A new Gold level of certification
- Digital Schools Star recognition will continue but without the need for a separate application
- More user-friendly website interfaces
- New website search features

Impact on Schools

- Automatic extensions for everything expiring in 2027.
- Reviews will pause during 2027, but the current site will stay active for schools preparing for 2028.
- Lookback periods are extended to accept documentation from the current or previous two school years. More user-friendly website interfaces
- All historical certification data will automatically migrate to the new platform.



Visit the website to register for upcoming webinars and to take the survey!

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