

2021 Sustainable Jersey for Schools Grant Recipients

Funded by the PSEG Foundation



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QUOTES FROM SELECT \$10,000 GRANT RECIPIENTS (ALPHABETICAL BY NEW JERSEY COUNTY)

I wanted to create a STEM bus that allows us to bring science activities and concepts to the community. Our hope is that we will be able to have meaningful interactions between our high school students, elementary students, and community partners in a fun, interactive, and immersive environment that we can easily bring to school and community events. We want to engage with members of our community so the students can showcase what they have learned in the classroom. --**Rodney Velardi, Supervisor of Science K-12, Egg Harbor Township School District, Atlantic County**

On behalf of the entire Marion P. Thomas Charter School Village, we are ecstatic about being awarded the 2021 Sustainable Jersey Grant. This resource will be instrumental in funding our Garden to Table Greenhouse Initiative. This initiative will provide our students, staff, and families with an innovative educational experience while impacting local neighborhoods. The pandemic's impact on our food supply has highlighted a need for us to become more knowledgeable about creating and preserving our own sustainable food sources. We owe a debt of gratitude to Sustainable Jersey and PSE&G for bringing our Garden to Table program to life. --**Anglea Mincy, Superintendent, Marion P. Thomas Charter Schools, Essex County**

We opened our community garden in the middle of the pandemic and it was such a great way to bring our school community back together after so many months of isolation. The garden in essence reflected our shared experience: as the flowers bloomed our community bloomed as well. --**Simone Rose, Principal, Thirteenth Avenue Elementary School, Newark Public School District, Essex County**

Griebling Elementary School's grant project was rooted from a seed planted by Sonia Sotomayor children's book, "Just Ask." Similarly, our project will create a hydroponic salsa garden highlighting sustainability, diversity and inclusive educational experiences for all students. --**Betty Ferrigno, Principal, Edith M. Griebling School, Howell Township Public School District, Monmouth County**

Ramtown School is honored to be a recipient of the \$10,000 Sustainable Jersey for Schools grant funded by the PSEG Foundation. We continue to find avenues to positively impact our school community, the environment, and the well-being of our students. The grant will be used to create student-driven outdoor learning environments for our school. On behalf of our Green Team and entire learning community, we thank you for your extremely generous support. --**Albert J. Bohrer, Principal, Ramtown Elementary School, Howell Township Public School District, Monmouth County**

We strive to create a generation of children that looks beyond their computer screens for answers and who may develop a passion for our world and how it works. --**Morris Avenue Elementary School Green Team, Long Branch Public School District, Monmouth County**

We are really excited about this garden and the opportunity it affords us to engage our students and families in hands-on sustainability education and environmental practices. - **Christina Scano, Founder/Lead Person at John P. Holland Charter School**

QUOTES FROM SELECT \$2,000 GRANT RECIPIENTS (ALPHABETICAL BY NEW JERSEY COUNTY)

Riverbank Charter School of Excellence is honored, privileged, and thankful to have been selected to receive a 2021 Sustainable Jersey Grant funded by the PSEG Foundation in the amount of \$2,000. What an amazing opportunity this is for our school environment, students, staff and families. Riverbank Charter School of Excellence strives to create, promote, and provide a healthy and safe environment for students, staff, and families throughout the school year. There are countless reasons to highlight the importance of providing shaded areas when outdoors to our students, staff and families. Installing a shade structure on our school playground and/or open area will allow students to play and learn outdoors with little exposure to harmful UV rays and/or weather related issues. Due to COVID-19 implications on indoor spaces, our students and staff are spending more time outside. Riverbank Charter School of Excellence continues to look for opportunities to extend the classroom learning areas. Providing proper ventilation and social distancing is crucial for in-person learning. A structure built to provide shade can also be designed as a covered outdoor learning area, thereby extending the classroom beyond the school walls. The opportunity to add a shaded area to our school provides endless new opportunities. --**Beth K. Kelley, Chief School Administrator and Principal, Riverbank Charter School of Excellence, Burlington County**

Bradley Beach Elementary School is thrilled to be receiving the Sustainable Jersey for Schools grant! Our school takes pride in its continuous efforts to improve sustainability and this grant will help us show our students just how important this initiative is. The funds will be used to rebuild our school garden and create an outdoor classroom setting. Students will have a hand in every aspect of this project and develop skills in agriculture, engineering, and teamwork along the way. As with many of our school initiatives, we hope to engage the community, as well. Students and their families will enjoy much of the harvested produce, but some of it will be donated to our local food pantry. This project would not be possible without the generous donation from Sustainable Jersey for Schools and the PSEG Foundation. Thank you and we can't wait to show you the beautiful garden our school will soon house! --

Amanda Bialek, 5th & 6th Grade Science Teacher, Bradley Beach Elementary School, Bradley Beach Elementary School District, Monmouth County

We are humbled and honored to be chosen as the recipients of the 2021 Sustainable Jersey Grant funded by the PSEG Foundation in the amount of \$2,000. The funds will allow us to further expand our garden and work towards earning recognition with the National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitat program. We are excited to enhance this outdoor space as a learning environment for our elementary students. We are grateful for the generosity of the PSEG Foundation! --

Renie Egan, Christine Grabowski, and Sandra Siclare of the Middle Road School Green Team, Hazlet Township Public School District, Monmouth County

The grant writing team at Memorial Elementary, Skye Donzelli, Jennifer Stenard, and Erin Lowman, has designed an innovative project that will have a lasting profound impact on our students and community. By pairing diverse texts with virtual reality and augmented reality experiences, readers will be transformed into the world of the main characters in books. Accessing these new environments through QR codes will fully immerse the reader in a perspective that reflects not only their own experiences or culture but also the perspective of others. Seeing a mirror of themselves allows students to build a positive personal identity while being digitally immersed in the perspective of their peers, friends, and neighbors and can foster acceptance, understanding, community engagement, and student learning. This project will encourage readers to walk in each other's ecological footprints by creating a call to action. Our students will then act globally AND locally to promote environmental justice throughout the world. This experience will expose our readers to both social and environmental justice and thus create future leaders in the areas of sustainability. --

Ray Gredder, Principal, Memorial Elementary School, Howell Township Public School District, Monmouth County

The Township of Ocean School District is thrilled to receive a Sustainable Jersey for Schools grant. Our district strives to engage our students in caring for the environment. Our teachers help our students see that they are responsible for our planet, not only for today, but for generations to come. We thank the PSEG Foundation for providing this opportunity and we appreciate their support in helping us preserve our planet. --

Jim Stefankiewicz, Ed.D., Superintendent, Township of Ocean School District, Monmouth County

We as a school have grown with the garden! The garden club as a whole has been able to teach students and staff the importance of sustainability, eating healthy, and growing your own plants! So much so, that we have had many new members join the Garden Club at our school! I am beyond excited about this school year and the future projects we will be able to complete with the help of the grant! --

Samantha Torres, Student and Garden Club President, Salem County Career & Technical High School, Salem County Vocational Technical School District, Salem County

On behalf of the Franklin Township Board of Education and our school community, sincere congratulations to the Green Team of Franklin Middle School at the Hamilton Street Campus. Not only have your efforts resulted in attaining Silver Certification and the Digital School Star Award, now you have won a grant from Sustainable Jersey for Schools for your continued work on your Warrior Farm. I know that this courtyard space will continue to be a great place for social-emotional learning, gardening, environmental awareness, and the arts. This project will provide the opportunity for our middle school and alternative program students to not only work to maintain the area but to use the space to find focus and calm. Thanks to the entire Hamilton Street Campus community for their continued support of the Warrior Farm. --

Dr. John A. Ravally, Superintendent, Franklin Township Public Schools, Somerset County

We would like to thank Sustainable Jersey for Schools and the PSEG Foundation for providing the New Providence School District with this wonderful grant opportunity. This grant will allow us to continue to support the hydroponic grow wall and garden classrooms in our school. Hydroponics are the wave of the future as they enable the growth of healthy plants and provide for a community connection. The grant will enable our school to explore this technique further as well as prepare our students for future careers in innovative technologies. We greatly appreciate your generosity and look forward to continuing to offer our students unique learning

experiences with your support. --**Jimin L. Shan, PTSA and Green Team Member, New Providence High School, New Providence Board of Education, Union County**