

# Sustainable Jersey

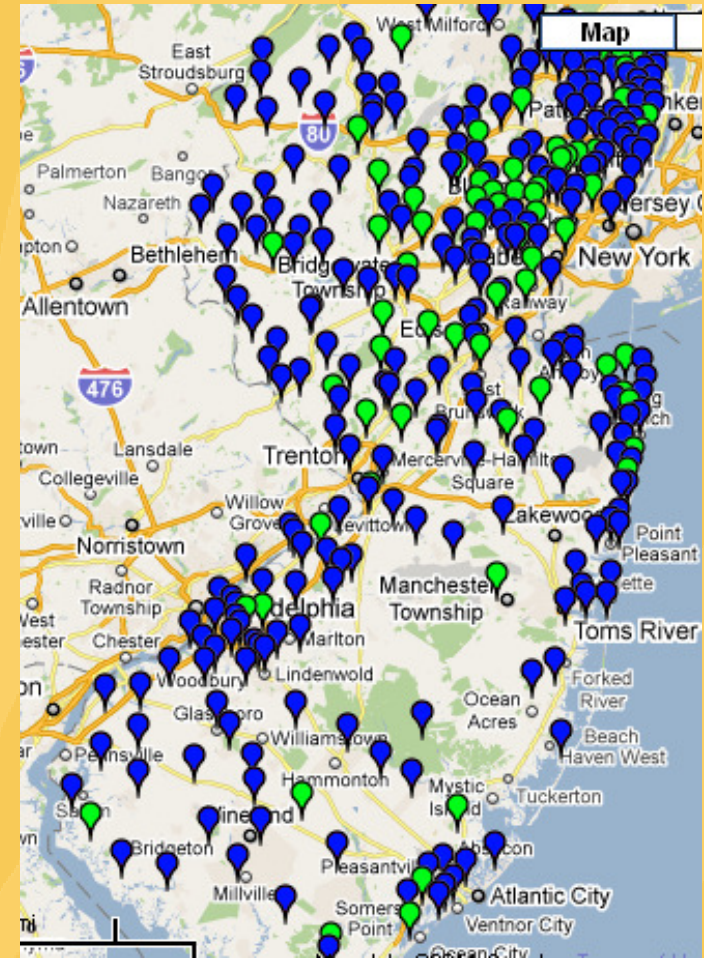
Certification program for municipalities in New Jersey:

- Identifies **actions** to implement to help towns become more sustainable
- Provides **tools, resources, and guidance** to enable communities to make progress
- Provides access to **grants and funding** for municipalities that are working toward certification



# Participating Communities

- Program start: February 2009
- 383 or 68% of NJ towns/cities registered
- 71% of NJ's population lives in these communities
- 113 municipalities certified:
  - 11 towns at Silver level
  - 102 towns at Bronze level



# Who Participates In Sustainable Jersey?

| Municipal Governing Body Majority | All New Jersey Municipalities |            | Registered in Sustainable Jersey |            | Certified in Sustainable Jersey |            |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|------------|
|                                   | Count                         | Percentage | Count                            | Percentage | Count                           | Percentage |
| Democrat                          | 183                           | 32%        | 119                              | 33%        | 36                              | 33%        |
| Republican                        | 325                           | 58%        | 203                              | 57%        | 57                              | 53%        |
| Independent                       | 58                            | 10%        | 37                               | 10%        | 15                              | 14%        |

**Notes:**

- (1) Partisan category based on data from 2010 NJ Legislative District Data Book.
- (2) Registration and Certification Statistics current as of 4/2/2012.



# Program Impact

- Since 2010, over 3000 individual actions have been implemented and submitted for certification
- 2400 were approved as meeting the Sustainable Jersey standards
- A 65% success rate
- Hundreds of formal “Green Teams” have been formed by local governments



# Actions

- Concrete steps municipalities can implement to become certified and more sustainable; actions include:
  - Ordinances
  - Programs and Plans
  - Policies and procedures
  - Retrofit or renovation of facilities



# Actions: Prosperity, Planet, People

## PROSPERITY

| ENERGY EFFICIENCY                         | POINTS     |
|---|------------|
| Energy Audits for Municipal Facilities*   | 20-50      |
| High Efficiency Municipal Buildings       | 10-20      |
| FOOD                                      |            |
| Farmland Preservation                     | 10 each    |
| Food Production                           | 10 each    |
| Planning for Local Food Production        | 10 each    |
| Support Local Food                        | 10 each    |
| LOCAL ECONOMIES                           |            |
| Buy Local Programs                        | 10 each    |
| Green Business Recognition Program        | 10         |
| Green Jobs/Economic Development           | 10         |
| OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE                |            |
| Green Fleets*                             | 10-30 each |
| Adopt Behavioral Policies                 | 5          |
| Green Purchasing Program                  | 10 each    |
| Grounds and Maintenance                   | 10 each    |
| ARTS/CULTURE/HISTORIC PRESERVATION        |            |
| Historic Preservation                     | 10         |
| Strengthening School Arts Programs        | 10         |
| COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AND OUTREACH        |            |
| Create Green Team*                        | 10         |
| Community Education and Outreach          | 10         |
| Energy Outreach and Incentive Programs    | 10 each    |
| Education for Sustainability Programs     | 10         |
| School-Based Energy Conservation Programs | 10         |

## PEOPLE

## PLANET

| GREEN DESIGN                                      | POINTS  |
|---|---------|
| Green Building Policy/Resolution                  | 5       |
| Green Building Training                           | 5       |
| Green Design Commercial and Residential Buildings | 5-20    |
| Green Design Municipal Buildings                  | 10-20   |
| GREENHOUSE GAS                                    |         |
| Municipal Carbon Footprint*                       | 10      |
| Community Carbon Footprint                        | 10      |
| Climate Action Plan                               | 10      |
| Wind Ordinance                                    | 10      |
| INNOVATIVE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS                 |         |
| Geothermal  | 10      |
| Green Roofs                                       | 10      |
| Raingardens                                       | 10      |
| Solar   | 10      |
| Wind  | 10      |
| Other   | 10      |
| LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION                         |         |
| Sustainable Land Use Pledge*                      | 10      |
| Complete Streets Program                          | 20      |
| Municipal Planning & Zoning Self-Assessment       | 10      |
| Sustainability Master Plan Revision               | 20      |
| NATURAL RESOURCES                                 |         |
| Natural Resource Inventory*                       | 20      |
| Water Conservation Ordinance*                     | 20      |
| Conservation Easements                            | 10-15   |
| Environmental Commission                          | 10      |
| Natural Resource Protection Ordinances            | 10 each |

# Who Created The Actions/Standards?

- To create rigorous and broadly accepted standards, we created a **Sustainable Communities Working Group**
- Over 300 volunteer leaders from:
  - Academia
  - the non-profit sector
  - the business community, and
  - state, local, federal, and county government
- Organized 22 Taskforces to identify best practices in their topic area
- Identified top actions for local governments to undertake



# Policy Alignment w/ Other Organizations

- Energy Audits: NJ Board of Public Utilities
- Walking and Wellness: Mayor's Wellness Campaign, NJ Dept. of Health
- Natural Resource Inventory: Assoc NJ Environmental Commissions
- Energy Star: US Environmental Protection Agency
- Anti-Idling: NJ Environmental Federation
- Lead: NJ Public Advocates Office
- Green Building: USGBC, Somerset Partnership
- Land Use: New Jersey Future (Land Use NGO)
- Complete Streets: NJ Dept. of Transportation
- Recycling and Waste, Water and Resource Protection Ordinances: NJ Department of Environmental Protection





# Tools, Training and Guidance

## Who to Involve

## Timeframe

## Project Costs

## Why Important

## What to Do

## Submission Requirements

## Spotlight

## Resources

- Each “action” comes with a detailed tool and step by step “how to” directions
- Access to free Sustainable Jersey workshops, trainings, webinars and resource center (CEUs provided)
- Training sessions showcase successful municipalities



# SJ Climate Adaptation Task Force

Members include:

- The NJDEP
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
- The State Climatologist
- The Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research and Reserve
- The Barnegat Bay Partnership
- Partnership for Delaware Estuary
- Monmouth Urban Coast Institute
- North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority



# SJ Climate Adaptation Task Force

## Mission:

Work with relevant local, state, and federal entities to establish basic understanding and a common direction for action to prepare for current and anticipated climate change

## Activities:

- Completed Definitions Document - Terms and Concepts
- Completed Climate Change Impacts - Past, Present, Future
- Completed a new “action” to help municipalities adapt to a changing climate



# First Adaptation “Action”: Flooding Risk

- First action deals with coastal and inland flooding
- Built around NJ Flood Mapper and Getting to Resilience
- Guides municipality through process of identifying and addressing threats
- Coastal component addresses projected Sea Level Rise
- Inland Flooding does not yet address anticipated changes to precipitation and flooding



# First Adaptation “Action”: Flooding Risk

## Components of New Sustainable Jersey Action:

1. Create Team
2. Utilize NJ Flood Mapper Tool to ID Vulnerabilities
3. Utilize the “Getting to Resilience Tool” to:
  - Assess your current level of preparedness to the identified threats
  - Receive recommendations on how to become more resilient and prepared
4. Submit evidence of completed effort



# Future Climate Adaptation Actions

- Move Beyond Self-Assessment to Achievement
- Additional points awarded for addressing risks identified in the Flooding Risk Action
- Upgrade Flooding Tool to be more predictive
- New Action: Water Conservation and Drought
- New Action: Health; Heat Events, Infectious Disease, Mold
- Justice: ensure current and future actions address disproportionate impacts



# Sandy/Recovery/Resiliency Activities

Developing Recovery and Resiliency Network in partnership with New Jersey Future and Recovery Fund:

- Provide direct support to municipalities, on a long-term basis, to develop and implement recovery and resiliency strategies and plans
- Identify and prioritize local needs and work to coordinate and focus the efforts of direct service, policy, and research organizations
- Codifying and disseminating best practices developed during recovery efforts
- Reporting on long-term needs for and the application of policies, resources, and decision support tools, and working with resource organizations to meet these needs

