

NEWS

TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE



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Woodbridge Achieves Sustainable Jersey™ Silver-Level Certification and Sustainable Jersey Champion for Third Consecutive Year

Woodbridge Sets Statewide Pace with Sustainable, Eco-Friendly Initiatives

Sustainable Inventory Includes \$7 Million Solar Panel Project... Green Business & Technology Center... Environmental Resource Guide & Master Plan... Automated Trash Collection & Single-Stream Recycling... Bio-Diesel Fuel & Hybrid Vehicles... 'Green' Business Recognition... "Green" Energy-Saving Retrofit... "Green" Redevelopment

WOODBIDGE, NJ – Mayor John E. McCormac today announced that Woodbridge Township has been named the 2011 New Jersey “Sustainable Champion” having achieved Silver-Level Certification for the third consecutive year (2011, 2010 and 2009). The New Jersey League of Municipalities and Sustainable Jersey program will officially recognize Mayor McCormac and the Woodbridge “Green Team” at the Sustainable Jersey awards luncheon on Tues., Nov. 15 at the New Jersey League of Municipalities annual conference in Atlantic City.

“Woodbridge Township is pleased to accept the Sustainable Jersey Silver-Level Certification and Champion Award for the third consecutive year,” said Mayor McCormac. “Sustainable Jersey serves as a benchmark for our sustainable initiatives, while providing the Township with additional resources needed to plan for our green future. As a result, Woodbridge has implemented dozens of sustainable initiatives and programs that serve to better manage the ways we use energy and other natural resources at work and home. The Sustainable Jersey Program is an important vehicle by which our Township will continue to move into the future as a sustainable and environmentally-conscious community.”

Mayor McCormac noted that in the successful quest for a third consecutive Sustainable Jersey Champion Award, Woodbridge Township, through the Greenable Woodbridge program, implemented innovative sustainable initiatives including a \$7 million project to install energy-producing solar panels on municipal buildings; start-up of the region's first Green Business & Technology Center designed to encourage green business to locate to the Woodbridge green business incubator; creation of a 'green' business recognition program; fully automated trash collection and single-stream recycling that dramatically increased recycling and decreased the amount of waste going to the county landfill; implemented energy-saving audits and retrofits at municipal buildings and facilities; integrated fuel efficient hybrid vehicles and bio-fuels into the municipal fleet; and achieved designation as a Mayor's Wellness community.

According to Sustainable Jersey, Woodbridge Township met the rigorous requirements to achieve Sustainable Jersey certification at the Silver-level, earning 630 points - the most points of any municipality in the statewide sustainable competition. “It's quite an accomplishment to become Sustainable Jersey certified, especially at the Silver-level,” said Pam Mount, Chair of the Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees. “Woodbridge Township and the 2011 list of certified towns are leading the way with impressive sustainability initiatives in New Jersey while providing a model for towns across the United States.”

“Certified towns excelled in areas such as improving energy efficiency and health and wellness, reducing waste, sustaining local economies, protecting natural resources, and addressing diversity and equity. These are exceptional towns with outstanding programs. We’ve been amazed to see how this program has catalyzed community spirit and fostered grassroots leadership, cross-sector creativity and collaboration across New Jersey,” said Donna Drewes, Co-Director of the Institute for Sustainability Planning & Governance at the Municipal Land Use Center at The College of New Jersey (MLUC@TCNJ) and Sustainable Jersey founding partner.

“Greenable Woodbridge” encourages all sectors of the community to become involved in implementing innovative, cost-effective, sustainable, environmentally-friendly and energy efficient programs and initiatives which will provide long-term ‘green’ benefits to Woodbridge’s ten towns. Additional ‘Greenable Woodbridge’ sustainable initiatives already implemented or underway include:

- Establishment of the Mayor’s Environmental Commission which has taken a lead role in supporting “green” and sustainable initiatives;
- Implementation of a Township-wide solar panel project on municipal and school buildings, fire department buildings, private sector and residential buildings designed to save Township taxpayers and businesses long-term energy costs by installing a self-sustaining source of energy that will provide a portion of the Township’s power needs for years to come;
- Development of educational and instructional programs promoting “green” technology and sustainable programs for schools, community associations and local businesses;
- Opening a modern and efficient recycling and bulk waste “Convenience Center” at the Public Works facility;
- Promotion of energy-efficient building and construction by municipal government and the private sector;
- Promoting “Buy Local” initiatives and creation of a downtown Farmer’s Market for “Jersey Fresh” produce;
- Creation of a tree replacement program in parks and municipal properties;
- Introduction of a biodiesel fuel program to power Township vehicles;
- Development of a Companion Animal Management Plan and Wildlife Interaction Plan;
- EPA WasteWise Partner;
- Implemented elements of Sustainable Community and Climate Action Plan;
- Accelerated development of Safe Routes to Schools initiatives;
- Sustainable Arts initiatives;
- Opening first “Greenable Museum” in the state of New Jersey; and
- Publish all-encompassing “Greenable Woodbridge” web page located at www.twp.woodbridge.nj.us which provides information on nearly every aspect of “going green,” along with easy-to-use information on some of the first steps we can all take to establish Woodbridge Township as a leader in “green” and sustainable living.

About Sustainable Jersey

[Sustainable Jersey](#) is a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey. Launched in 2009, Sustainable Jersey is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that supports community efforts to reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and improve environmental equity. Sustainable Jersey is empowering New Jersey towns to build a better world for future generations. It provides tools, training and financial incentives to support and reward communities as they pursue sustainability programs. New Jersey is the first state in the nation to have a comprehensive sustainability program for communities that links certification with strong state and private financial incentives, and a fully resourced program of technical support and training. Sustainable Jersey is 100% voluntary and each town can choose whether it wants to get certified and the actions it wants to do in order to achieve enough points to get certified.

Currently, 62% of New Jersey’s towns and cities (350 towns across all 21 counties) have registered to become Sustainable Jersey certified. The program has distributed over half a million dollars to New Jersey communities to support an estimated 1,500 actions taken “on the ground” to make communities more livable, environmentally friendly and prosperous. Nearly 75% of New Jersey’s population lives in registered/certified Sustainable Jersey communities.

Sustainable Jersey’s partners include the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. The policies and other substantive contents of the program are developed through a transparent participatory process involving NGOs, academics, government, and the business community. Program sponsors include the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, PSEG Foundation, New Jersey Natural Gas, Church and Dwight, Covanta Energy, Elizabethtown Gas, United Water, Verizon, Atlantic City Electric, South Jersey Gas, New Jersey Food Council, Waste Management of New Jersey, Terhune Orchards, EcoMatters, Concord Engineering and Alteris Renewables.

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