



Berkeley Heights Achieves Sustainable Jersey® Silver-Level Certification Again

TAP into Berkeley Heights

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BERKELEY HEIGHTS, NJ - Sustainable Jersey representatives announced that Berkeley Heights has again met the rigorous requirements to achieve Sustainable Jersey certification at the silver level. Berkeley Heights is one of only 27 New Jersey municipalities that have attained the silver-level certification.

“I want to thank to Environmental Commission and the green team members for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the Township,” said Mayor Bruno. “These people are volunteers who have given thousands of hours of their time to reach the silver level of certification and, in the process, have helped to make Berkeley Heights a better community.”

To become Sustainable Jersey certified at the silver level, Berkeley Heights created a Green Team and completed 36 actions worth 415 points, exceeding the 350 point minimum. Actions included: 1) a complete inventory of the street trees on township roads and identification of hazardous trees, 2) inspection of all conservation easements in town, 3) an inventory and evaluation of all brownfields in town, 4) calculation of the carbon footprints of both municipal government and the entire town, 5) energy audits and upgrades of municipal buildings, 6) inventory of natural resources in the township, 7) installation of no idling signs, 8) installation of a rain garden at the Hughes school, 9) publicizing and promoting recycling, and 10) outreach to local businesses for potential energy saving installations. Berkeley Heights was one of the first municipalities in New Jersey to be bronze certified in 2009, and one of the first nine towns to be silver certified in 2011.

“Becoming Sustainable Jersey certified is a significant achievement, especially at the silver-level,” said Pam Mount, chair of the Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees. “The certified towns

demonstrate tremendous leadership and are a testament to how much we can accomplish with impressive sustainability initiatives in New Jersey.”

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. “Collectively the 417 participating Sustainable Jersey towns are a powerful force in New Jersey,” said Dona Drewes, co-director of the Sustainable Jersey program. Randal Solomon, co-director of the Sustainable Jersey program, congratulated the certified towns. “I commend the towns that have achieved certification for their demonstrated commitment towards the long-term goal of a sustainable New Jersey.”

Ranked sixth in Money magazine’s 2013 list of “Best Places to Live – America’s Top 50 Small Towns,” the Township of Berkeley Heights, in Union County, NJ, has a population of 13,000. Nestled in the Watchung Mountains, the community of comfortable homes and quiet tree-lined streets provides the ideal setting for raising a family and enjoying life. With an area of 6.3 square miles, Berkeley Heights boasts an excellent school system consisting of our elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. Residents benefit from spacious parks and outstanding recreational programs for all ages.

About Sustainable Jersey

Sustainable Jersey is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support communities as they pursue sustainability programs. Currently, 417 of New Jersey’s 565 municipalities are participating in the sustainability certification program. In 2014 the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program will be launched in partnership with New Jersey Scholl Boards Association and other statewide educational organizations.

Sustainable Jersey’s partners include the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, The Sustainability Institute at The College of New Jersey, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) Clean Energy Program. Program underwriters include the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Surdna Foundation and BPU. Previous Sustainable Jersey Small Grants program cycles have been underwritten by Walmart, PSEG and the New Jersey Department of Health. Sponsors include South Jersey Gas, New Jersey Natural Gas, Church and Dwight, Covanta Energy, Energy Solve, Terhune Orchards, Bayshore Recycling, Good Energy, EcoMatters, Spiezle Architectural Group, Waste Management of New Jersey, Pennoni Associates, Inc., Investors Bank, and Concord Engineering. The program underwriters for Sustainable Jersey for Schools are the New Jersey School Boards Association, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Clean Energy Program and Bayer Foundation. The founding sponsors for Sustainable Jersey for Schools are South Jersey Gas, New Jersey Natural Gas and NJM Insurance Group with additional support coming from Pennoni Associates, Inc.

Websites: www.SustainableJersey.com, www.bh-ec.org; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/SustainableJersey>; Twitter: www.twitter.com/SJ_Program