



## *Blue Star Program Guide*

Building on the successful foundation of  
Sustainable Jersey





## MUNICIPAL BLUE STAR PROGRAM

### ***Introduction:***

The municipal Blue Star program combines the visionary Sustainable Jersey Initiative with Clean Ocean Action's focus on water quality protection. It builds on the basic framework of Sustainable Jersey, so participation in that program is required in order to achieve the Blue Star Award. The goal is to inspire coastal towns to achieve Sustainable Jersey Certification and reap its benefits, while at the same time supporting and promoting watershed-wide water quality improvements. Whether you are currently certified or just getting started, the Blue Star Program is an option you can work toward as part of your Sustainable Jersey goal. Through this Blue Star initiative, not only will your community become a leader in environmental stewardship, but you will help ensure the beauty and vitality of a clean coastal ecosystem and economy.

### ***What is Sustainable Jersey ?***

Sustainable Jersey is a point certification program for municipalities in New Jersey that want to go green, save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term.

Sustainable Jersey :

- Identifies concrete actions that municipalities can implement to become "certified" and be considered leaders on the path to a sustainable community
- Provides clear "how to" guidance and tools to enable communities to make progress on each action
- Provides access to grants, and identifies existing and new funding opportunities for municipalities to make progress toward the actions
- Encompasses the 3 equal, interrelated components of sustainability: **Prosperity**: support your local economy and use community resources; **Planet**: practice responsible environmental management and conservation; and **People**: embrace social equality and fairness

The Sustainable Jersey program can also have a significant positive impact on the water quality of New Jersey, which is why Clean Ocean Action (COA) has teamed up with this outstanding program to encourage and help coastal communities maximize clean water benefits.

For more information about the Sustainable Jersey program, please visit: [www.SustainableJersey.com](http://www.SustainableJersey.com)

Updated 1/2016

## ***Why Become a Blue Star Community?***

As a community leader, you may know about the chronic pollution issues facing our waterways and communities. Nearly all of NJ's waters fail to meet the fishable, swimmable, and drinkable goals of our laws. Most of these issues are a result of our everyday actions, and the way we use land and water resources. Fortunately, many can be fixed or prevented with small changes within our daily lives and communities. As all waters flow to the sea, the Blue Star Program can help you find resources and create solutions within your municipality that will also have positive effects downstream.

## ***What is Clean Ocean Action?***

*COA Mission Statement:* "Our goal is to improve the degraded water quality of the marine waters of the New Jersey/New York coast."

Founded in 1984, Clean Ocean Action continues to be a leading national and regional voice working to protect waterways using science, law, research, education and citizen action. For example, the Beach Sweeps program continues to unite communities and volunteers across the state in an effort to remove harmful litter. Beach Sweeps is the longest running and largest environmental grassroots event in New Jersey.

Clean Ocean Action is a coalition of 117 boating, business, community, conservation, diving, environmental, fishing, religious, service, student, surfing, and women's groups. Based on Sandy Hook, COA is the only full time regional coalition that works exclusively to improve and protect the degraded water quality off the coasts of New Jersey and New York.

## ***Purpose of this Guide***

To meet the water quality challenges facing community leaders, Clean Ocean Action has initiated a Blue Star Certification within the Sustainable Jersey program. This program is open to municipalities who apply for Sustainable Jersey certification, and focuses on activities that have more direct water quality benefits. Options include both Sustainable Jersey actions, COA programs and suggestions. COA chose the list of Sustainable Jersey actions based on their direct benefits to water quality. Please review the attached list of water-friendly recommendations attached.

## ***How to Use this Guide***

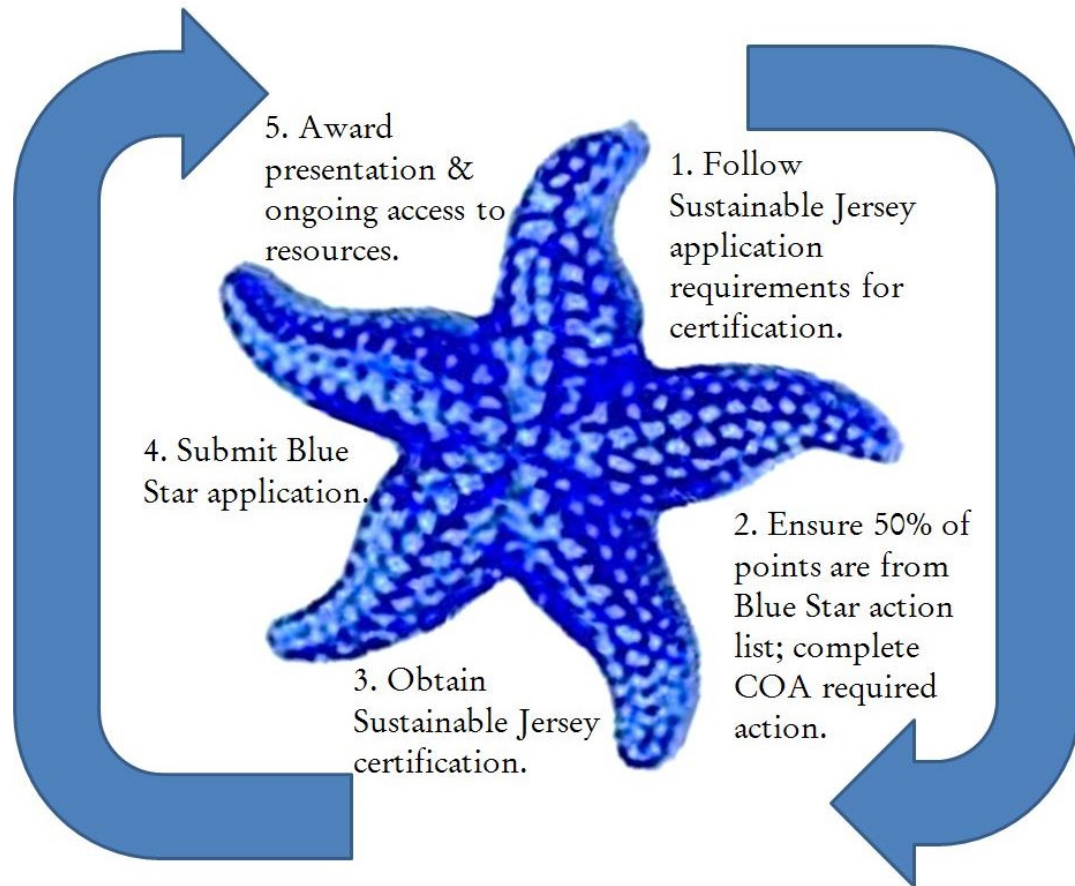
To achieve Blue Star Certification, simply target "Blue Star" actions while counting points for Sustainable Jersey Certification. At either Bronze or Silver certification level, 50% of your total points must come from COA's Action List (found at the end of this document). When you document your actions in your application, make sure you highlight how these actions will improve water quality.



**To meet the challenges facing community leaders to improve and protect water quality, Clean Ocean Action has initiated a Blue Star Award designed in tandem with the Sustainable Jersey program.**

## How to become...

### Blue Star Certified



#### **MUNICIPAL BLUE STAR BENEFITS**

All certified **Municipal Blue Stars** will receive an acknowledgment package which includes additional bay-friendly tips as well as an attractive plaque. COA will work with certified communities in scheduling an award presentation for community and press. Combined, the Sustainable Jersey and Blue Star programs will:

- Increase municipal funds through enforcement
- Improve and protect the economic and environmental future of the community
- Reduce costs through green initiatives
- Promote healthy waters
- Serve as a statewide role model
- Increase community pride and participation

#### **For more information contact:**

##### **Clean Ocean Action**

[www.CleanOceanAction.org](http://www.CleanOceanAction.org)

[Education@CleanOceanAction.org](mailto:Education@CleanOceanAction.org)

Phone: (732) 872-0111

##### **Sustainable Jersey :**

[www.SustainableJersey.com](http://www.SustainableJersey.com)

[info@sustainablejersey.com](mailto:info@sustainablejersey.com)

## List of Blue Star Actions

### Clean Ocean Action Category:

#### Climate Adaption Action\*

This Sustainable Jersey priority action, under the category of “Climate Adaptation,” is designed to help communities identify: 1) your community’s vulnerability to flooding impacts (both coastal and inland) and 2) ways to improve your community’s overall resiliency. This action focuses on the various causes of flooding that could impact a community, either now or in the future, including increased precipitation, increased frequency of heavy precipitation events, sea level rise and storm surge.

#### Why is it Important?

Historically, communities developed near rivers and streams because they provided transportation and power, and because adjacent floodplains were flat and fertile. In the more recent past, development along the ocean coast has boomed because it offers enhanced living conditions and access to recreation. New Jersey has 1,792 linear miles of coastal shoreline subject to tidal influence, sea level rise and storm surge. The New Jersey coastline along the Atlantic Ocean supports a large coastal economy, and the four coastal counties along the Atlantic Ocean (Monmouth, Ocean, Atlantic and Cape May) make up approximately 15 percent of the state’s total employment and approximately 18 percent of its total population.

Living near water bodies has always had inherent risks for flooding hazards and the joint influence of global climate change and land development have increased these risks. Flooding is not only due to climate change, it can result from excessive rainfall, rapid snow melt, and severe coastal storms. More impervious surfaces resulting from development also increase the risk of flash flooding. These flooding events not only damage life and property, but can have a dramatic impact on water quality.

Both the *NJ Flood Mapper Tool* and the *GTR Tool* were developed as non-regulatory tools to help local decision-makers reduce their vulnerability to an increase in the severity and frequency of heavy precipitation events, sea level rise and storm surge, and build capacity for community resilience. The *NJ Flood Mapper Tool* is an interactive GIS system designed to provide visual representations of FEMA’s 100-year floodplain for both inland and coastal flooding and different sea level rise scenarios.

#### What to submit:

To be awarded credit for this action, towns must complete the following three steps **within 3.5 years of the June submission deadline:**

1. Form a team capable of and dedicated to addressing this action. This team could be the town’s Green Team, but more likely will include representatives from the various local agencies that deal with planning, zoning and emergency management. This team will be responsible for the following two steps.
2. Utilize the *NJ Flood Mapper Tool* to visually assess your community’s vulnerability.
3. Complete the on-line *Getting to Resilience: Community Planning Evaluation Tool* (hereafter referred to as the *GTR Tool*), which assesses a town’s readiness to deal with flooding situations.

Points are earned when the town submits the documented output from the *GTR Tool*, along with proof of team formation and a detailed discussion of how the *NJ Flood Mapper Tool* was used.

Please see the full documentation of this action at the Sustainable Jersey website.

## **Innovative Water Quality Project\***

A lack of working examples often limits the acceptance of new technologies and programs. Therefore, projects that showcase new approaches to improving water quality are essential to making progress. These initiatives should have a demonstrable impact on water quality and be models that can be replicated by other towns. They can include ordinances, implementation of alternative or new technologies, policies, practices, or programs. To complement the effort, an educational component that promotes public awareness of the value of the project to the community is *required* for this action. In particular, projects that showcase the use of Green Infrastructure, source tracking and repairing water quality issues, or providing dedicated funding for solving water quality problems are being sought. Specific examples include: innovative bio retention systems, permeable pavement projects, novel source tracking methods that lead to infrastructure repairs, or increasing litter enforcement and making the funds available for water quality improvements.

### **Why is it important?**

Non-point source pollution is the largest contributor to water quality issues in New Jersey's watersheds. Stormwater runoff, in particular, overwhelms our water bodies with litter, fertilizers, pesticides, and pathogens. Green infrastructure practices use natural processes to filter stormwater, and can often save money, create healthier communities, and improve quality of life. Your municipality can also improve water quality by using creative methods to identify, assess, and repair local pollution issues, or implementing a funding source to address water quality issues. In addition to providing replicable models for businesses, residents, and other municipalities, these projects offer educational opportunities and may be incorporated into local school curricula. Finally, the projects raise the municipality's green profile and can help brand the municipality as innovative and forward thinking.

### **What to submit:**

To earn credit, municipalities must provide Clean Ocean Action with a short narrative (300 word max) summarizing the project including what the project is, who was involved in implementing it and its impact in your community. In addition, upload the following supporting documentation:

Upload: Evidence that the project was completed and information regarding the impact it has had on the community. This can include executed contracts, articles, minutes from public meetings, pictures, analyses – virtually any documentation that will verify the information provided in the text box.

Upload: Examples of the community education and outreach that was associated with the project. This could include a snapshot of information posted on a website, published articles, pictures of signage posted at the project site explaining the project to the public, etc.

**All documentation should be from within 5.5 years of the June submission deadline.**

**Model Control Stormwater Ordinance for Municipalities\***

Adopt the forthcoming Sustainable Jersey Model Stormwater Ordinance in your municipality. The release of this action is pending.\*

## Plastic Bag Ban or Fee\*

This action builds on the requirements and benefits of the Sustainable Jersey [Reusable Bag Education Program](#) action by requiring passage of an ordinance that either bans the distribution of plastic bags at all retail shops in the municipality or charges a minimum five-cent fee per plastic bag provided to customers at retail checkout counters.

- ⇒ If a ban is selected, then all shops must phase out the use of plastic bags within 12 months of the passage of the ordinance.
- ⇒ If a fee is selected, then within six months of the passage of the ordinance, all shops must begin collection of a fee per plastic bag issued to customers. Funds generated by the collection of the fee must be submitted to the municipality on a quarterly basis for deposit and used to support municipal water quality improvement programs (e.g., green infrastructure projects, beach cleanups, illicit connection identification and rectification).

As required under the Reusable Bag Education Program action, municipalities must also couple the passage of the ordinance with the initiation of a public awareness campaign that informs citizens and businesses of the pending changes. If the fee option is selected, the municipality campaign must also indicate how funds generated from the fee will be used.

In order to earn credit for this action, municipalities will need to establish an ongoing program or series of events which should take place from within 18 months of submission.

- 1) Form a committee dedicated to the purpose of raising awareness about the importance of using reusable bags. This committee should be made up of team members who are passionate about the subject, a municipal representative and local business owners.
- 2) Develop short and long range plans. These can include: public announcements through media that this program will be started; outreach to the local business owners to solicit their participation in promoting single-use bag bans or imposing bag surcharges; outreach at events – either on-site at grocery stores or at fairs, and distribution of printed materials to help the public understand why they should use reusable bags. Long range plans should include getting schools and students involved through activities such as bag design contests, creation of PSAs, science fair projects, showings of the educational version of “BAG IT,” or one of the other films that focuses on plastic waste for the residential population; periodic giveaways of reusable bags - either purchased or donated, and the purchase and distribution of “Got Your Bags?” window clings for vehicles.
- 3) Include a “bag care” component to all informational pieces. There have been studies that show that bacteria can build up in reusable bags if not cleaned on a regular basis. Encourage residents to include bags that can easily be washed in their collections.

## Why is it important?

It is estimated that there are over 500 BILLION plastic bags used annually throughout the world. The average American family accumulates 60 plastic bags in only four trips to the grocery store. Single-use bags made from low-density polyethylene (LDPE) or high-density polyethylene (HDPE) may last for 1,000 years or more if landfilled. Only 5-10% of these bags are recycled, and those that do end up in the recycling stream (unless it is a targeted program) cause single stream recycling equipment to jam and delay the processing of other recyclables. A substantial quantity of these bags ends up on our roadsides, in our trees, in our storm drains and, consequently, in our waterways; where they can be devastating to marine life. Plastic bags are made from a non-renewable resource; and the manufacturing process of single-use paper bags is water-intensive. Additionally, both single-use paper and plastic bags are costly for retail stores to purchase and that cost is passed on to customers.

One cloth bag saves:

- 6 plastic bags a week
- 24 bags a month
- 288 bags a year
- 22,176 bags in an average lifetime

**What to submit:**

To earn credit, municipalities must provide Clean Ocean Action with a 300-word or less description of actions taken, a copy of the bag ban or fee ordinance, and any printed materials associated with the public awareness campaign. If a fee option is selected, municipalities must also provide a brief description of who is responsible for collecting the funds and how they will be administered.

In order to earn points, your submission must meet the following standards:

1. Your advocacy meetings with local businesses on bans and/or surcharges and education and outreach events must take place **from within 18 months of the June submission deadline.**
2. In order to receive points for the Reusable Bag Education Action, a town must show that they have completed most or all of the suggested business advocacy outreach and educational components under "What to do and how to do it." These are guidelines to follow; points will be awarded for creative approaches that meet the same goal. Points will not be awarded for activities that earn points in separate Sustainable Jersey actions.

Submit the following documentation to verify that the action was completed to the above standards. (Log in to the password protected webpage where you submit your online application for certification to write in the text box and upload documents).

In the text box, please provide a short narrative (300 words max) to summarize what was accomplished and the general steps taken to accomplish it, along with the timeline of events and the approximate number of residents reached through your efforts.

**REQUIRED Upload:** Sample of program outreach or educational materials, such as flyers, press releases, newspaper articles, or materials prepared as part of the activities.

**REQUIRED Upload:** Photos taken during events.

**OPTIONAL Upload:** Town Resolution of Support or Ordinance if either was done. (These are NOT required in order to earn points for this Action, and there is no shelf life requirement.)

**All REQUIRED documentation and the optional Resolution must be from within 18 months of the June submission deadline.**

## Stormwater Utility Support Resolution\*

The Stormwater Utility Support Resolution is a public affirmation of a municipality's intent to support the establishment of a dedicated fund to address stormwater pollution within the state of New Jersey. This tool provides a model resolution to be adopted by a municipality as a first step toward establishment of a regional or state stormwater utility. As a result, communities will be moving toward improved water quality by supporting a cross-municipality, dedicated mechanism to fund stormwater water quality improvements in New Jersey.

### Why is it Important?

Stormwater runoff from rain events is the main vehicle for non-point source pollution in our developed landscape. With increased development and aging infrastructure, the investigation, maintenance, and repair of stormwater related issues is often delayed or prevented due to a lack of stable funding. A stormwater utility establishes a mechanism to directly fund stormwater improvements within a jurisdiction. Many municipalities, regions, and states have successfully implemented stormwater utilities to establish permanent funding for infrastructure improvements that ensure a sustainable future for their community.

### What to submit:

In order to earn points, your submission must meet the following standards:

1. The governing body must adopt a Stormwater Utility Support resolution. The resolution must be **from within 3.5 years of the June submission deadline** and in effect for the year in which you are applying for certification to receive credit for this action.
2. The adopted Resolution must be distributed to relevant agencies, boards, and commissions. If the adopted Pledge is more than 3.5 years old for the year in which you are applying for certification, the municipality must submit documentation that it has been redistributed to these bodies.

Please see sample Clean Ocean Action's sample Stormwater Utility Support Resolution for guidance.

\*may receive Sustainable Jersey points; please contact Sustainable Jersey prior to starting the project to confirm

## Sustainable Jersey Category: Climate Mitigation & Adaptation

### Sustainable Jersey: Climate Action Plan (10 points)

- A Climate Action Plan (CAP) is a set of strategies and actions designed to lower the greenhouse gas emissions of a municipality. A CAP establishes a timeline for achieving specific emission reduction goals, identifies key strategies for achieving these goals, and tracks progress through the use of measures or indicators. A CAP can also help prioritize the allocation of funding and resources, and analyzes the costs and benefits that result from implementing new strategies.

### Sustainable Jersey: Climate Adaptation: Flooding Risk (20 points)

- This action is designed to help communities identify: 1) your community's vulnerability to flooding impacts (both coastal and inland) and 2) ways to improve your community's overall resiliency. This action focuses on the various causes of flooding that could impact a community, either now or in the future, including increased precipitation, increased frequency of heavy precipitation events, sea level rise and storm surge.
- Please review *See Appendix: Other Resources # 3b*

## Sustainable Jersey Category: Community Partnership & Outreach

### Sustainable Jersey: Community Education and Outreach (10 points)

- Implement a General Waste Reduction Education Program: a comprehensive program that provides residents with ideas on how they can reduce, reuse, and recycle more of their waste and why it is important.
- Develop an outreach campaign by reviewing existing waste reduction education information and creating materials for the community. This guidance can be posted online or in a brochure/booklet format. The brochure/booklet can be displayed and promoted at local venues, e.g., at schools, on community bulletin boards, and at municipal events.
- Please review *See Appendix: Clean Ocean Action Resources #1, 4, 5 & 9*

### Sustainable Jersey: Education for Sustainability Programs (10 points)

- The purpose of Education for Sustainability Programs is to link schools with municipal sustainability initiatives by building partnerships between local government, communities, and schools. This action focuses on formal educational opportunities to advance education for sustainability and highlights a number of programs (correlated with NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards) that have been effective in educating for sustainability.
- Please review *See Appendix: Clean Ocean Action Resources #1, 4, 5, 7 & 8*

### Sustainable Jersey: Green Challenges & Community Programs (10 points)

- A Green Challenge Program engages the community by challenging individuals, families, and businesses to change their behavior in support of the community's goals for sustainable development. The Green Challenge Program asks people to pledge to "take a Challenge" and to make a specific change in their lives or in the way they do business. The program instructs and educates individuals on how to participate, provides a pledge form to sign, and offers resources for success.
  - Once the Challenge is issued to the community, it may take months or a year to reach the 2.5% target participation rate.
- Please review *See Appendix: Clean Ocean Action Resources #1, 2, 3 & 9*

### Sustainable Jersey: **Green Your Green Fair (10 Points)**

- Given that these events attract attendees on a regional scale, consist of numerous vendors, and significant resources are consumed, Municipal coordinators can endeavor to host a sustainable event. The sustainable event not only minimizes the impacts of a Green Fair on energy usage, waste generation, and transportation, but also employs or supports local green and sustainable businesses. These green efforts serve the dual purpose of lowering the environmental impact of a Green Fair event, while at the same time providing a powerful educational experience as the municipality showcases sustainable initiatives for greening events.

### Sustainable Jersey: **Hold a Green Fairs (10 Points)**

- A Green Fair is a community-wide event that educates and encourages people of all ages to adopt a more sustainable lifestyle. Green Fairs allow participants to visualize how their seemingly small individual efforts can make a huge difference in their community.
- Please review *See Appendix: Clean Ocean Action Resources # 1, 3 & 9*

Sustainable Jersey Category: Green Design

### Sustainable Jersey: **Upgrade/Retrofit Water Conservation (10 Points)**

- This action helps municipalities to identify and implement water conservation measures in their own facilities. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), efficient water use can have major environmental, public health, and economic benefits by helping to improve water quality, maintain aquatic ecosystems, and protect drinking water resources. By using water more efficiently and by purchasing more water-efficient products, we can also help mitigate the effects of drought. Addressing water use and conservation both inside municipal facilities as well as water use associated with landscaping and exterior use are important components of a municipal green building policy.

Sustainable Jersey Category: Innovation & Demonstration Projects

### Sustainable Jersey: **Green Roofs (10 Points)**

- As a sustainable alternative to conventional roofing materials, green roofs save energy by maintaining cooler temperatures during summer and providing insulation during winter. A green roof is a flat roof covered with a protective waterproof membrane, drainage materials, soil, and plants. Green roof systems capture stormwater runoff, improve air and water quality, reduce the urban heat island effect, provide aesthetic benefits, and extend the life of roofing materials. Existing structures may be retrofitted with green roofs or they can be included on new construction. Some green roofs are made accessible as rooftop gardens.
- Please review *See Appendix: Other Resources # 3c*

### Sustainable Jersey: **Innovative Community Project (10 Points)**

- A significant barrier to the widespread adoption of new technologies and methods is a lack of familiarity and working examples. Therefore, projects that showcase new approaches to sustainability issues are essential to making progress. Municipalities can receive points for up to three actions (Innovative Community Project 1, 2, and 3) by implementing innovative approaches to civic engagement, resource conservation, development, landscaping, waste management, economic stimulus, etc., that are not outlined elsewhere in the Sustainable Jersey program. These initiatives should have a demonstrable impact on sustainability and be models that can be replicated by other towns. They can include ordinances, implementation of alternative or new technologies, policies, practices, programs, etc. To complement the effort, an educational component that promotes public awareness of the value of the project to the community is recommended. *(To get credit for this option in the Blue Star Program, the project **must** highlight/improve water quality.)*
- Please review *See Appendix: Other Resources # 1, 2a, 5 & 6*

## Sustainable Jersey: Rain Gardens (10 Points)

- A rain garden is a landscaping technique that uses vegetation planted in a shallow depression to capture and filter stormwater runoff. By diverting water that would otherwise enter the combined sewer system (CSS), rain gardens reduce the amount of stormwater runoff entering treatment facilities thereby reducing the chance that the CSS may overflow. Additionally, rain gardens reduce the amount of stormwater entering local waterways and therefore decrease pollution of our waterways and erosion of soils while increasing groundwater recharge. These perennial gardens can easily be incorporated into municipal grounds, parks, or schoolyards to improve ecological health, while making the community more attractive. Rain gardens can also serve as an educational resource and a showcase for low maintenance, native plants.

### Sustainable Jersey Category: Land Use & Transportation

## Sustainable Jersey: Green Building & Environmental Sustainability Element (10 Points)

- This Element, like all Master Plan Elements, is intended to guide land-use decisions and provide the basis for ordinances addressing sustainability and land use issues. For many communities, this element is a good first step at introducing sustainability concepts into local planning documents. Ultimately, it is most effective when towns take the additional step of infusing these concepts throughout each of the elements. Guidance for doing so is under development.
- Municipalities also have the authority to adopt laws and regulations to protect public health and welfare and to promote the general welfare in their communities outside of the planning and zoning powers. These types of environmental and health based regulations and ordinances pertain to all property in a municipality. Examples of some environmental regulations include tree protection ordinances, stream corridor protection ordinances, recycling ordinances, wildlife protection ordinances, etc.
- Please review *See Appendix: Other Resources # 1, 2a, 3a, 4 & 5*

### Sustainable Jersey Category: Local Economies

## Sustainable Jersey: Green Business Recognition Program (10 Points)

- Community efforts toward sustainability cannot be successful without the active engagement of the private sector. A Green Business Recognition Program offers marketing and promotional support, and sometimes financial and regulatory incentives, to encourage local businesses to implement sustainable practices. Companies can adopt environmentally friendly strategies to increase energy efficiency, conserve resources, reduce waste, and prevent pollution. Beyond ecological impacts, recognition programs can also encompass social responsibility and commitments to the local economy. A simple Green Business Recognition Program might acknowledge companies that pledge to implement green practices while a more comprehensive certification effort could outline a specific set of sustainable business practices and conduct inspections to verify implementation.
- Please review *See Appendix: Clean Ocean Action Resources # 1 & 9*

### Sustainable Jersey Category: Natural Resources

## Sustainable Jersey: Environmental Commission (10 Points)

- The Environmental Commission takes the lead on local environmental issues and serves as a base of local expertise. Created by the municipal government, it informs the local planning and zoning boards about the environmental impacts of proposed development, advocates for open space preservation, researches and makes recommendations on natural resource issues, informs residents on ways to protect the environment, and develops an environmental resource inventory for the town. In these and various other ways, the Environmental Commission is an essential ingredient for creating a sustainable community.

### Sustainable Jersey: **Natural Resource Inventory: (20 Points )**

- The Natural Resource Inventory (NRI), also known as an Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI), serves as an index of natural resources and is a compilation of text and visual information about the natural resource characteristics and environmental features of an area. It provides baseline documentation for measuring and evaluating resource protection issues. The NRI is an important tool for environmental commissions, planning boards, and zoning boards of adjustment. The NRI can be adopted as part of a Master Plan and serves as the first step to protecting and preserving the natural resources within a municipality. It can also be integrated into the plan as the basis of the conservation element, providing the documented basis for the development of resource protection ordinances, or it can be included in an appendix to the master plan. NRIs are dynamic documents and should be revised and refined as additional information and updated data become available.
  - ◊ A municipality that currently has a Natural Resource Inventory completed or updated in the last six years will earn 20 points.

### Sustainable Jersey: **Open Space Plans (10 Points)**

- An Open Space Plan (also referred to as the Open Space and Recreation Plan, OSRP) is a comprehensive document that guides municipal, county, and/or regional open space protection and preservation. The Plan tells how and why open space will be protected and provides a framework for implementation. Through an OSRP, a municipality identifies and examines open space and recreation needs and other resources that are important to the municipality and lays out a plan of action to protect and maintain these places.

### Sustainable Jersey: **Water Conservation Education Program (10 Points)**

- As part of this action, municipalities may choose to implement a variety of different types of education programs. Possible education program activities include municipal demonstration projects that conserve water, workshops for homeowners or business owners, and direct mailings to residents or businesses that provide tips on water conservation. Additionally, municipalities could consider working with school boards to come up with ways to conserve water within schools or educate students on ways that they can conserve water.
- Please review *See Appendix: Clean Ocean Action Resources # 1, 3, & 9*

### Sustainable Jersey: **Water Conservation Ordinance (20 Points)**

- A Water Conservation Ordinance can help municipalities curtail unnecessary water waste and pollution associated with runoff. Seasonal outdoor water usage in particular can lead to an unnecessary reduction in reservoir storage, ground water levels, and stream flows. This Water Conservation Ordinance seeks to help extend available supplies through short-term drought periods, and to avoid recurrent drought warnings/water emergencies caused by late summer “drought.”

### Sustainable Jersey: **Environmental Assessment Ordinance (10 Points)**

- An Environmental Assessment is a tool for a municipality to determine potential impacts to sensitive natural resources. The Environmental Assessment can help predict and address impacts on wildlife and habitat, vegetation, soil, water, and other resources. An Environmental Assessment Ordinance can then require mitigation measures to avoid or minimize any environmental impacts.

### Sustainable Jersey: **Habitat Conservation Ordinance (10 Points)**

- New Jersey is home to diverse and fascinating populations of wildlife. New Jersey’s wildlife and the places that host them are under threat as development increases fragmentation, invasive plants alter landscapes, and people continue to impact natural systems. As a result, the populations of birds, insects, fish, snakes, turtles, and bats and other mammals that live in our state find themselves clinging to smaller and smaller pieces of wild, clean lands. These lands are not used just by wildlife but by many of the state’s residents for hiking, hunting, biking, and fishing (New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan). The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife at the DEP has outlined 13 goals in their Wildlife Action Plan that can be used as the basis for Habitat Conservation efforts by municipalities and regions. For a complete list of state-level goals and strategies, please visit the NJ Wildlife Action Plan: [www.njfishandwildlife.com/ensp/waphome.htm](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/ensp/waphome.htm)

## Sustainable Jersey: Community Forestry Plan & Tree Cover Goal (20 Points)

- The goal of this Action is to help communities initiate or expand tree management programs by planning and assessing the existing community tree resources through the development of a Community Forestry Management Plan that meets the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) Community Forestry Program standards according to the NJ Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act ("the CF Act"). Communities need to achieve "Approved Status" through the program by having a current approved Community Forestry Management Plan, and completing annual training requirements which include CORE training and 8 Continuing Education Credits, and submitting an Annual Accomplishment Report. Finally, communities will be asked to identify their current tree cover and to adopt a long-term policy to maintain or expand their tree coverage consistent with state and national recommendations.
- Healthy trees reduce air and noise pollution, provide energy-saving shade and cooling, furnish habitat for wildlife, enhance aesthetics and property values, and are important contributors to community image, pride, and quality of life. Furthermore, many communities have realized that in order to protect and enhance their valuable tree resources, it is useful to view and manage their trees as a cohesive unit, as a *community* or *urban forest*.

## Sustainable Jersey: i-Tree Assessment of Municipal Trees (10 Points)

- An i-Tree Assessment of Municipal Trees provides important information on the value and benefits of the community tree resources. Communities can use the information about the "environmental services" that trees provide to the community to build support for tree and woodland programs. To implement this action, the municipality will need to use a free software program developed for the US Forest Service called i-Tree. The i-Tree suite of software tools was developed to help users, regardless of community size or technical capacity, identify and manage the structure, function, and value of urban tree populations. i-Tree allows communities to promote effective urban forest management and sound arboricultural practices by providing information for advocacy and planning, baseline data for making informed decisions, and standardization for comparisons with other communities. Better understanding of benefits and services provided by trees increases investment in stewardship, operations, and maintenance.

### Sustainable Jersey Category: Operations & Maintenance

#### Green Purchasing Program

## Sustainable Jersey: Adopt a Green Purchasing Policy by Ordinance (10 Points)

- Green Purchasing actions will assist your municipality in improving purchasing practices and finding more environmentally friendly products and services. Green Purchasing Programs have been carried out successfully by municipalities, businesses, universities, and the federal government.
- An ordinance is a law adopted by the governing body. Most ordinances require two public hearings: an introduction (usually without public comment), followed later by the final adoption (with public comment) then the ordinance is published on one occasion in the official municipal newspaper(s) of record. After a specified time period, the ordinance becomes law.

## Sustainable Jersey: Adopt a Green Purchasing Policy by Resolution (6 Points)

- Green Purchasing actions will assist your municipality in improving purchasing practices and finding more environmentally friendly products and services. Green Purchasing Programs have been carried out successfully by municipalities, businesses, universities, and the federal government.
- A resolution is a formal expression of opinion or intention of the governing body. Resolutions usually become effective upon their adoption and can be written with sunset clauses that define a specific timeframe for the resolution(s) to be in effect. Furthermore, resolutions are usually considered to be the intent of the sitting governing body and may not reflect the opinions or intentions of future governing bodies.

### Sustainable Jersey: **Energy Efficient Appliances or Equipment (10 Points )**

- Select products with the ENERGY STAR label when purchasing appliances or equipment for municipal operations. ENERGY STAR, a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy, aims to reduce costs and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices for homes and buildings. Appliances that carry the ENERGY STAR label are significantly more energy efficient than other products.

### Sustainable Jersey: **Green Cleaning Products (10 Points )**

- Green cleaning products offer effective performance while minimizing effects on health, environment, and worker safety. Select environmentally preferable cleaning products for municipal facilities. Communicate the municipality's desire for these products to vendors and service providers.
- Please review *See Appendix: Clean Ocean Action Resources # 3*

### Sustainable Jersey: **Green Maintenance Equipment and Materials (10 Points )**

- Green purchasing, also known as environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP), is the coordinated purchasing of goods and services to minimize impacts on human health and the natural environment. Alternatives exist for almost every product used by municipalities that are less hazardous, save energy and water, and reduce waste.

### Sustainable Jersey: **Create A Policy (10 Points)**

- A Green Grounds and Maintenance program ensures that municipally maintained parks, gardens, and landscaped areas are managed in the most efficient and environmentally friendly manner. This includes landscaping with low-maintenance plantings, maximizing water conservation and minimizing surface runoff, utilizing recycled and composted materials, and taking eco-friendly approaches to integrated pest management. Adopting a policy is the first step toward program implementation.
- Please review *See Appendix: Other Resources # 3a, 3b, 3c, 4 & 5*

### Sustainable Jersey: **Efficient Landscape Design (10 Points)**

- Efficient landscaping techniques create an attractive environment in balance with the native surroundings, local climate, and function of the space. An efficiently landscaped area should require little, if any, fertilizer, pesticides, and water. Efficient landscaping should be functional, cost-efficient, environmentally friendly, and aesthetically pleasing. Sustainable landscaping practices known as "xeriscaping" are recommended to minimize water required by incorporating native and low-maintenance plantings. Complementary strategies for "rainscaping" include design features to minimize surface runoff so that areas retain water through natural controls, rather than letting it wastefully flow off site.
- Please review *See Appendix: Other Resources # 1, 3a, 3c & 5*

### Sustainable Jersey: **Integrated Pest Management (10 Points)**

- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a system of pest management that uses multiple approaches to pest control to minimize pesticide use, production costs, damage to the natural environment, and erosion of the natural landscape. IPM optimizes eco-friendly pest management techniques such as natural predators, improved sanitation, physical barriers, traps, and organic products. The primary goal is to significantly reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides.
- Please review *See Appendix: Other Resources # 3c*

### Sustainable Jersey: **Minimize Water Consumption (10 Points)**

- This action focuses on maintenance of landscape plantings after they are in the ground and is comprised of rainwater collection and efficient watering strategies. Minimizing the volume of water used in landscape maintenance can be achieved through using efficient watering techniques such as drip irrigation and smart sprinklers, implementing efficient watering schedules, and collecting water in rain barrels. A complementary undertaking to minimize water used in landscaping is to install native and drought-tolerant plantings that demand very little water. This design strategy is outlined in another Grounds and Maintenance action, "Efficient Landscape Design."
- Please review *See Appendix: Other Resources # 3c*

### Sustainable Jersey: **Recycled Materials and Composting (10 Points)**

- Utilizing recycled and composted materials involves taking the waste generated from normal park and grounds maintenance and turning it into usable materials. Composting is a method that controls the decomposition of this waste into a nutrient rich fertilizer that can be reused to maintain local gardens or parks. Another example of landscape material recycling is the processing of tree prunings into mulches. The goal is to imagine any existing landscaping waste as input materials with potential for functional use.
- This action also can involve the use of materials reclaimed from other municipal activities to construct hardscape features in parks and municipal grounds. For instance, old tires can be used as planters, and recycled wood can become furniture. Recycled materials also can be used for pathways and other design elements as applicable.

### Sustainable Jersey Category: *Waste Management*

### Sustainable Jersey: **Prescription Drug Safety & Disposal (10 Points)**

- Developing a proper and accessible drug disposal program and educational campaign is the only option currently available to municipalities to prevent negative environmental and societal impacts of drug disposal. Traditionally, residents had been encouraged to flush drugs, but negative environmental impacts to waterways and sensitive receptors have been identified. Scientific studies have shown that pharmaceuticals – including antibiotics, anti-convulsants, mood stabilizers and sex hormones - are commonly found in trace amounts in drinking water supplies. Disposal within the normal residential municipal solid waste stream leads to increased contamination of landfill leachate and a rise in management costs as the leachate is routinely pumped from the landfill sumps. In rare cases, occurring in senior communities, disposal through the municipal system has led to theft of drugs from the trash with intent to sell them illegally. In addition, due to a drastic increase in the abuse of household pharmaceuticals, law enforcement is recommending swifter removal of unused medications from households, and a higher level of vigilance on safeguarding drugs from abuse.

### Sustainable Jersey: **Bulky Rigid Plastics (10 Points)**

- A municipality may choose to recycle materials beyond the requirements set forth in its County Recycling Plan to further reduce solid waste. Municipalities may designate bulky rigid plastic as an additional recyclable material. While the **preferred** option is for municipalities to adopt their own ordinance, municipalities may still be eligible to earn points if they qualify under the second option, No Ordinance, but Recycles, described in more detail in the "What to do" section.
- Bulky rigid plastic is "a formed or molded plastic container that serves as a package and maintains its shape when empty and unsupported." Most rigid plastics are made of high density polyethylene (HDPE) and polypropylene (PP). Some common items made of rigid plastics are plastic buckets, crates, toys, pallets, shelving, chairs, VHS tapes, 5-gallon bottles, and car bumpers, and should NOT to be confused with plastic food containers typically found in the home. For more information on items considered and not considered rigid plastics please visit: [http://www.acua.com/acua/rigidplastics.aspx?&ekmense=c580fa7b\\_20\\_26\\_btnlink](http://www.acua.com/acua/rigidplastics.aspx?&ekmense=c580fa7b_20_26_btnlink)

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### Sustainable Jersey: Recycling Education & Enforcement (5 Points)

- NJDEP has published detailed solid waste generation, recycling and disposal statistics since the mid 1980's. This information shows that statewide recycling actually peaked in the mid 1990's. The State has achieved its TWS recycling rate of 60%. Great recycling education and enforcement has the capability to reach many people, and inform them of their opportunities to recycle (especially those of which they are unaware) from within their community. Furthermore, the proposed action item is important because it is hoped that increased awareness about recycling through education or enforcement will help the State move closer toward its goals of recycling 50% of the municipal solid waste stream and 60% of the total solid waste stream.
- Please review *See Appendix: Clean Ocean Action Resources # 2, 4, 5 & 6*

### Sustainable Jersey: Shrink Wrap (10 Points)

- Shrink wrap is primarily composed of Low Density Polyethylene and is used in a variety of applications including marine, agriculture, and transport packaging. By requiring collection of this additional material, municipalities will improve recycling rates, reduce landfill waste, and earn 10 SUSTAINABLE JERSEY™ points toward certification.

### Sustainable Jersey: Backyard Composting Program (5 Points)

- The objective of this educational program is to increase residents' use of backyard composting. Municipal waste will be reduced as food scraps and yard trimmings are disposed of through backyard composting piles. Municipalities may opt to provide backyard composting bins as well as education to interested residents. This program would complement a Pay As You Throw program.
- Please review *See Appendix: Other Resources # 3c*

### Sustainable Jersey: Grass- Cut IT and Leave IT Program (5 Points)

- The objective of a "Grass – Cut It and Leave It" educational program is to encourage residents to leave grass clippings on the lawn when they mow, as grass clippings provide a natural and healthy fertilizer for a growing lawn. By cutting lawns short and removing the clippings, residents rob a lawn of its own natural fertilizer and create waste that must be hauled away for disposal or recycling by a truck. Of course disposal of the clippings as trash adds to the negative environmental impact of removing the clippings since disposal vehicles use fuel and produce air pollution. By cutting the grass at a higher level and leaving the clippings on the lawn, residents will use less water, fertilizer, and pesticides, and expose themselves to fewer toxic materials. This program complements a Pay As You Throw Program.
- Please review *See Appendix: Other Resources # 3c*

### Sustainable Jersey: Materials Reuse Program (10 Points)

- A Materials Reuse Program is one way a municipality can bring together residents who would like to discard any unnecessary or unwanted items with residents who are looking for used items in good condition. Materials Reuse Programs are valuable to residents as well as to the environment as they keep many materials from being disposed of in landfills.

## Sustainable Jersey: Reusable Bag Education Program (5 Points)

- The average American family accumulates 60 plastic bags in only four trips to the grocery store. Single-use bags made from low-density polyethylene (LDPE) or high-density polyethylene (HDPE) may last for 1,000 years or more if landfilled. Only 5-10% of these bags are recycled, and those that do end up in the recycling stream (unless it is a targeted program) cause single stream recycling equipment to jam and delay the processing of other recyclables. A substantial quantity of these bags ends up on our roadsides, in our trees, in our storm drains and, consequently, in our waterways; where they can be devastating to marine life. Plastic bags are made from a non-renewable resource; and the manufacturing process of single-use paper bags is water-intensive. Additionally, both single-use paper and plastic bags are costly for retail stores to purchase and that cost is passed on to customers.
- For credit, towns may choose to work with local businesses to get them to voluntarily remove single-use shopping bags from their establishments, or to impose a surcharge on such use (essentially paying for the single use bag). Towns may also pursue a public education campaign for reusable bags. In this case, information should be distributed through many avenues; including press releases, outreach events, websites, green team blogs, and targeted events such as showings of the movie, "BAG IT."
- Please review *See Appendix: Other Resources # 6*

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## Clean Ocean Action Resources

### 1. Barnegat Bay Buddies:

- The Barnegat Bay Buddy program offers a checklist of best management practices for citizens to take to reduce non-point source pollution on their properties and in their daily lives. Citizens become Barnegat Bay Buddies when they achieve at least 20 points when filling out the Bay Buddy checklist. In addition, Clean Ocean Action keeps individuals engaged through by incorporating them within a larger movement for collective citizen action to improve their local waterway.
- Your municipality can promote and support the Bay Buddy program within the local community. The Barnegat Bay Buddy program offers a model that can be adapted in other areas to raise awareness about local waterways and specific issues and actions surrounding them.
- Municipalities can work with Clean Ocean Action to develop a similar tracking system for other water bodies or watersheds.

**2. Beach Sweeps:** Clean Ocean Action's Beach Sweeps program takes place twice a year at over 65 locations along the Jersey Shore as well as at lakes, rivers, and bays. Individual sites are coordinated by COA staff and volunteer Beach Captains. The semi-annual (spring & fall) event is much more than collecting trash, it is about building the connection between the litter that is found on the beach and the an individual's everyday choices. All Beach Sweep volunteers are instructed to collect data that is compiled, analyzed, and highlighted in an annual report. These reports are used to educate the public about the severity of the local marine debris problem, as well as to advocate for pollution prevention initiatives. Volunteers are also educated about proper disposal, recycling, and ways they can prevent pollution in their communities. The semi-annual Beach Sweeps are a great platform for local elected officials to outreach to their communities about waste reduction initiatives and information. The Beach Sweeps offer a great platform for further environmental education and activities.

**3. COA's Series of "10 Tip Cards":** COA's series of "10 Tip Cards" can be used to educate distinct groups of people and people engaged in specific activities: Kids, Daily Living, Cleaning, Kitchen, Beach, Lawn and Garden, Pet Owners, Drivers, and Boaters. These cards teach people how they can minimize their contribution to the problem of non-point source pollution.

**4. EnviroScope:** The EnviroScope helps people of all ages better understand the source and prevention of water pollution through visual, hands-on interaction. It makes the connection between what we do on earth and the impacts on the environment.

**5. Pointless Pollution Education Kit (K-12):** COA provides a Pointless Pollution Education Kit (K-12) which includes information, interactive lessons, and hands-on activities to incorporate in the classroom and community. The lessons and activities include grade level, reference to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards, goals, objectives, glossary, and useful websites. A Kit can be ordered by phone/mail/email or downloaded from our website.

**6. Presentations:** Clean Ocean Action can provide informative presentations to your municipality's Environmental Commission and Green Teams. Presentations can be tailored to the interests and size of the audience.

**7. Student Summit:** COA offers a Student Summit twice per year (May and October) to provide middle school students (Grades 5-8) with an opportunity to experience hands-on, marine environmental education at the Jersey Shore. The activities included in the Student Summit complement the New Jersey Core Curriculum Standards. Some of the environmental learning activities include horseshoe crab discovery and proper handling, seashell identification, invertebrate identification, project terrapin, and activities to identify and propose solutions for non-point source pollution. The Program is free, but schools must apply with Clean Ocean Action.

**8. Teacher resources:** Public education is a necessity for the true implementation of an action. Clean Ocean Action has put together a database with teacher resources, including lesson plans, videos, and activities, on topics such as climate change/global warming, sea level rise, and climate change water impacts. Resources can be found at ForTheShore.org

**9. Wreck Pond Pals:** Similar to the Bay Buddy program, COA has also established a certification program for the Wreck Pond area which includes Sea Girt, Spring Lake, Spring Lake Heights, and Wall Township. Municipalities can utilize the Pond Pals program to model their standards to recognize businesses that implement green practices. Citizens are encouraged to use the action list as a guide to better prevent sources of pollution.

### Other Resources

1. **Bayscape for Barnegat Bay- Coastal Native Plant Demonstration Garden:** The American Littoral Society created the Bayscape for Barnegat Bay. The project showcases six different native plant gardens that citizens can duplicate on their own property. Each is designed to appeal to different tastes, to meet the needs to specific location types, and to attract different types of wildlife.
  
2. **Green Infrastructure Resources:** Green Infrastructure incorporates natural processes into water management methods. Although Green Infrastructure may be a newer buzz word, the concepts have been around for a long time. Green roofs, rain barrels and rain gardens, and porous pavement are all green infrastructure. The main benefit of these methods is in allowing natural processes to both treat water, and to help it soak into the ground, thereby reducing pollutant laden stormwater from ending up in our rivers, estuaries, and ocean. Reducing the amount of impervious surface, like roads and parking lots, is key to this process, and so is interspersing natural areas, so that water gets filtered and absorbed by soil and plants along the way. The following resources can help you get started with Green Infrastructure:
  - a. **Barnegat Bay LID: A Guide to Low- Impact Development in the Barnegat Bay Watershed:** The Pinelands Preservation Alliance created a Guide to Low-Impact Development in the Barnegat Bay Watershed. LID encompasses a variety of practices intended to minimize the impacts of development by managing stormwater in a manner reflective of pre-development conditions. LID is viewed as a means of promoting development that accounts for and works with the natural resources and environmental constraints of a site. More information can be found at: [http://www.pinelandsalliance.org/downloads/pinelandsalliance\\_816.pdf](http://www.pinelandsalliance.org/downloads/pinelandsalliance_816.pdf)
  - b. **Green Guide for Property Management** ([http://www.delawareestuary.org/pdf/green\\_guide.pdf](http://www.delawareestuary.org/pdf/green_guide.pdf))
  - c. **9 Ways to Make Green Infrastructure Work** (<http://www.rpa.org/library/pdf/RPA-9-Ways-to-Make-Green-Infrastructure-Work.pdf>)
  
3. **Green Landscape Resources:**
  - a. **The Cape May Plant Materials Center (NJPMC):** The Cape May Plant Materials Center (NJPMC) provides plant solutions for natural resource conservation concerns pertaining to coastal shorelines, sand dunes, mined lands/critical areas, and coastal grassland habitat. More information can be found at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/plantmaterials/pmc/northeast/njpmc/>
  - β. **Coastal Community Resilience Course:** Participate in a Coastal Community Resilience Course offered by the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center. This one-day training course will provide state and local government agency staff and other stakeholder groups with background on natural hazards. In addition, the course will guide an approach to (1) assess community resilience and (2) develop next steps for improved resilience. More information can be found here: <https://ndptc.hawaii.edu/training/catalog/3>
  - c. **Low Maintenance Landscape Guide for Barnegat Bay Watershed, 2014:** <http://www.soildistrict.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/LowMaintenanceLandscaping2013.pdf>
  - d. **New Jersey Agriculture Experiment Station Fact Sheet:** <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/>
  - e. **Rutgers Cooperative Extension:** <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/extension/>

4. **Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Reserve:** The Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve offers several training programs for coastal decision makers on the topics of climate change, planning and zoning, stormwater and wastewater, as well as recreational fishing. Municipalities are encouraged to utilize these resources in framing their green building and environmental sustainability plans. More information can be found at: [http://jcnerr.org/coastal\\_training/](http://jcnerr.org/coastal_training/)
5. **Plant more trees!:** Incorporate planting trees into a project! According to [American Forests](#), a single tree can absorb 10 pounds of air pollutants per year. Carbon sequestration by plants can offset 15% of total U.S. carbon dioxide emissions from the transportation and energy sectors. More trees can decrease the rate of climate change and help us withstand its effects, potentially resulting in less intense storms, fewer infectious diseases, a more stable water supply, and fewer wildfires.
6. **Plastic Bag Tax:** According to a study conducted by Walmart, a single sturdy, reusable bag needs only be used 11 times to have a lower environmental impact than using 11 disposable plastic bags once. When one ton of plastic bags are reused or recycled, the energy equivalent of 11 barrels of oil is saved. Be the leader in your community and implement a tax on plastic bags. Examples of ordinances introducing a plastic bag tax can be found at: <http://plasticbaglaws.org/legislation/state-laws/california-2/>
7. **Surging Seas – sea level rise analysis by Climate Central:** The U.S. Geological Survey recently launched an online portal that interactively serves up information on past, present and future coastal hazards to help communities improve their resilience. The Coastal Change Hazards Portal can aid in decisions that involve emergency preparedness, ecosystem restoration, and where and how to develop coastal areas to help ensure they are safe and resilient, according to USGS.
  - a. A key component of the portal is the ability to explore coastal hazard risks at varied scales, from a local area of interest to a national perspective. Viewers can access potential impacts of extreme storms, historic shoreline changes, and coastal vulnerability to sea-level rise. And the Coastal Vulnerability Index feature shows the relative susceptibility of the Nation’s coasts to sea-level rise. The tool runs on web browsers, tablets, and smartphones and is designed for a wide-range of audiences, from federal and state agencies to non-governmental organizations, public entities, and private citizens. In April, WaterISAC reported on [another sea-level rise online tool from Climate Central](#). Watch the [video tutorial](#) to get started. *[Visit the USGS Coastal Change Hazards Portal.](#)*
  - b. <http://sealevel.climatecentral.org/>



Sustainable Jersey Categories	Sustainable Jersey Sub-Categories	Sustainable Jersey Actions that count as Blue Star Actions	Number of Points	Completed
Climate Mitigation & Adaptation		Climate Action Plan	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Partnership & Outreach		Community Education & Outreach	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Education for Sustainability Programs	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Green Challenges & Community Programs	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Green Fairs	Green Your Green Fair	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Hold a Green Fair	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency Management and Resilience		Climate Adaptation: Flooding Risk	20 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green Design	Green Design Municipal Buildings	Upgrade/Retrofit Water Conservation	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Green Roofs	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
Innovation & Demonstration Projects		Innovative Community Project 1	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Rain Gardens	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Green Building and Environmental Sustainability Element	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land Use & Transportation		Green Business Recognition Program	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Economies		Environmental Commission	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Natural Resource Inventory	20 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Open Space Plans	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Water Conservation Education Program	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Water Conservation Ordinance	20 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Natural Resource Protection Ordinance	Environmental Assessment Ordinance	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Habitat Conservation Ordinance	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Tree & Woodlands Management	Community Forestry Plan and Tree Cover Goal	20 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
		i-Tree Assessment of Municipal Trees	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Operations & Maintenance	Green Purchasing Program	Adopt a Green Purchasing Policy by Ordinance	10 Points
Adopt a Green Purchasing Policy by Resolution			5 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy Efficient Appliances or Equipment			10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green Cleaning Products			10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green Maintenance Equipment and Materials			10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grounds and Maintenance		Create a Policy	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Efficient Landscape Design	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Integrated Pest Management	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Minimize Water Consumption	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Recycled Materials and Composting	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sustainable Jersey Categories	Sustainable Jersey Sub-Categories	Sustainable Jersey Actions that count as Blue Star Actions	Number of Points	Interested, but not yet started	Started	Completed
Waste Management		Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Recycling	Bulky Rigid Plastics	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Recycling Education & Enforcement	5 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Shrink Wrap	10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Waste Reduction	Backyard Composting Program	5 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Grass - Cut It or Leave It Program		5 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Materials Reuse Program		10 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reusable Bag Education Program		5 Points	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COA Additional Actions (choose 1 of 5)		Climate Adaptation: Flooding Risk*		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Innovative Water Quality Project*		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Model Stormwater Control Ordinance for Municipalities*		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Plastic Bag Fee or Ban*		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Stormwater Utility Support Resolution		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<b>Total Points</b>	420 Points			
*may receive Sustainable Jersey points; please contact Sustainable Jersey prior to starting the project to confirm						

*Please download the complete 'Intent Form + pre-application checklist' and the 'Final application checklist' from Clean Ocean Action's website ([www.cleanoceanaction.org](http://www.cleanoceanaction.org))*



**Sustainable Jersey provides clear “how to” guidance and tools to enable communities to make progress on each action listed above. For more information, visit [www.sustainablejersey.com](http://www.sustainablejersey.com).**

**Clean Ocean Action will make every effort to provide materials and support at no cost; however, depending on volume and need COA may request a donation.**

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