

Going Green in New Jersey

Triad Associates

Sustainable New Jersey is a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey that want to go green, control costs and save money and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term. The innovative new program is an initiative of the New Jersey League of Municipalities Educational Foundation, the NJLM Mayors' Committee for a Green Future (MCGF), the Municipal Land Use Center at the College of New Jersey, the New Jersey Sustainable State Institute at Rutgers University, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the Rutgers Center for Green Building, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and a coalition of New Jersey non-profits, state agencies and experts in the field.

According to Sustainable New Jersey, the program:

- Identifies concrete actions that municipalities can implement to become "certified" and be considered leaders on the path to sustainable community;
- Provides clear guidance and tools to enable communities to make progress on each action; and
- Provides access to grants and identifies existing and new incentives for municipalities to make progress toward the actions.

Grant access includes Sustainable New Jersey Small Grants funded by Wal-Mart along with funding and grants provided by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Office of Clean Energy. The Sustainable New Jersey website also lists resources not formally affiliated with their program in the "General Resources" link.

The first step to becoming a Sustainable New Jersey Certified™ municipality is to register online. Registering does not commit a municipality, but it is required to satisfy eligibility requirements for the Sustainable New Jersey Grants program and to provide priority access to State funds, such as the Municipal Energy Audit program. Registering for the program includes passing a resolution stating your intent to seek certification, indicating the actions that your municipality is thinking of implementing and listing any training assistance needs.

After registering, municipalities can begin the process of documenting and preparing their certification application. Municipalities that complete the certification requirements will be recognized at an annual awards event held at the New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City in November of 2009.

For more information and to register your municipality, visit <http://www.sustainablejersey.com>.