



Sustainable Jersey Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Jersey Certification Report of Oakland Boro, a Sustainable Jersey bronze certified applicant.

Oakland Boro was certified on October 19, 2011 with 160 points. Listed below is information regarding Oakland Boro's Sustainable Jersey efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Jersey contact for Oakland Boro is:

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Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Oakland Boro was approved for in 2011 appears below. Note: Standards for the actions below may have changed and the documentation listed may no longer satisfy requirements for that action. Additionally, points associated with actions prior to 2013 certifications may not be accurate.

Animals in the Community

Pledge Supporting NJ Wildlife Action Plan

10 Points

Program Summary: On August 10, 2011 the Borough Council adopted resolution 11-152 in support of the New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan. This action and the important reasons for it was communicated to staff by the Borough Administrator at the following Department Head Meeting. Most importantly, the Department of Public Works, Planning Office and Code Enforcement Department were briefed on the goals of the action plan.

Community Partnership & Outreach

Create Green Team

10 Points

 Bronze Required

Program Summary: The Borough of Oakland formally established its Green Team on May 27, 2009 when the Governing Body unanimously adopted resolution 09-132. Summary of Activities The Green Team has been active since May 2009. Members have met generally once per month to discuss sustainability matters and plan projects. Subcommittees have been established as needed to work on specific categories of actions, such as solid waste and recycling. Besides specific projects that have been undertaken, the Green Team continually reaches out to the Community to promote sustainable practices and to generate interest amongst the community. These efforts include a televised program on recycling and solid waste reduction and various public service announcements that have run on our cable tv channel and website.

PDF: [GREEN TEAM RESOLUTION](#)

WORD: [GREEN TEAM MEMBERSHIP LIST](#)

Community Education and Outreach

10 Points

Program Summary: Through the efforts of Mr. Peter Marcalus, Green Team member and member of our Communication Commission, several public service announcement were created that have been aired on our cable tv station. Topics include recycling and energy efficiency. We also produced cable tv shows on the sustainability initiative and recycling.

WORD: [SUMMARY OF OUTREACH ACTIONS](#)

Energy

Fleet Inventory

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: Through the work of Anthony Marcucilli, Superintendent of Public Works, the Borough has undertaken a fleet inventory analysis to review fleet fuel efficiency, emissions and to

identify likely approaches to increasing fuel efficiency in the future. The summary narrative and spreadsheets are attached.

EXCEL: [FLEET INVENTORY](#)

EXCEL: [EMISSIONS SUMMARY](#)

WORD: [FLEET REPORT](#)

Green Design

Green Building Policy/Resolution

5 Points

Program Summary: On April 13, 2011 the Governing Body passed resolution 11-91, adopting a Green Building Policy in accordance with Sustainable Jersey's requirements. A copy of the resolution is attached. The resolution is published on our website and can be accessed by going to: <http://www.oakland-nj.org/resolutions/Resolution%2011-91%20Adopt%20Green%20Building%20Policy.pdf>. The policy and goals were communicated to Department Heads by Richard Kunze, Borough Administrator, at a staff meeting held on April 14, 2011 and subsequently distributed to members of the Planning and Zoning Boards.

PDF: [GREEN BUILDING POLICY RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [DISTRIBUTION CERTIFICATION](#)

Health & Wellness

Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement Program

10 Points

Program Summary: For our project, we chose to research car emissions and idling in our town, especially at schools. We were aware that there was idling going on around our schools when parents picked up their children after school. But, we weren't aware of how much time they spent idling or what the dangers of idling are! Vehicle exhaust has been connected to respiratory diseases and cancer. This affects the health of people, especially children, everywhere. Children breathe 50% more oxygen than adults do. We are concerned about this problem since we are children as well. Idling contributes to this problem a lot. Even though it affects the children more, idling cars affects the adults as well so idling parents are really hurting themselves. Car emissions and idling contributes to air pollution very much. We want to stop this problem and improve our environment and our health. We decided to take action in many ways. We are working with the YES, (Youth Environmental Seniors) an international environment club, who has supported us financially throughout the project. We sponsored many events to stop idling and let citizens know just how bad idling is. We took action by doing the following • Visited the district schools and observed/recorded the idling practices of the parents. (the time that they idled for) • Sent out surveys (to see how many teachers knew how

bad idling was and if they idled their car. If they did for how long, and if they were aware of the idling law.) • Sponsored a poster contest to raise awareness on the affects of idling • Presented our research to a bus driver workshop in our district • Attended a PTO Council meeting on March 19 to present our research • Presented our findings to our districts Board of Education on April 7 • Encouraged our Board of Education to sign the Stop the Soot idling pledge for buses • Wrote articles for all of the schools' parent newsletters • Distributed pens and pencils with our anti-idling slogan • Put up standard 12x18 reflective aluminum no idling signs at the schools and Board of Educations. Procedure: • Researched how idling affects the environment. • Collected idling data from all of the schools • Decided which school contributed the most to the idling in the school area. • Found out how much the gasses from the car exhaust contribute to the air pollution. • Decided on how to raise awareness of idling in our town • Sponsored a poster contest and wrote an article for the schools newspaper that goes home to inform children and parents on how idling affects the environment. • Put an informative note on Channel 77 (local cable news channel) • Submitted bus findings to the Board of Education, PTO Council, and the school bus drivers • Ordered No Idling Signs to put up at the schools

PDF: [ANTI IDLING RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [PRIORITY LOCATION MAP](#)

PDF: [EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND SIGN](#)

Land Use & Transportation

Sustainable Land Use Pledge

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: The Oakland Green Team began discussing the Sustainable Land Use Pledge late in 2010. Mayor Szabo first researched the resolution and advised the Green Team on the benefits to be gained by adopting it. In particluar, elements of the policy fit well with our status as a Highlands community and our current land use goals of open space preservation and downtown redevelopment. The Green Team subsequently decided to recommend adoption of the pledge to the full Governing Body. The Borough Council discussed the topic at a work session in March 2011 and the pledge was adopted on April 13, 2011 by passage of resolution 11-92. Richard Kunze, Borough Administrator, discussed the pledge with staff members on April 14, 2011 and copies were distributed to the Planning Board, Zoning Board and Environmental Commission. A copy of the resolution is attached.

PDF: [SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLEDGE](#)

PDF: [CERTIFICATION OF DISTRIBUTION](#)

Natural Resources

Community Forestry Management Plan and NJUCF Accreditation

20 Points

Program Summary: The volunteers of the Borough's Shade Tree Commission work closely with the Department of Public Works to help maintain the health of our tree stock, which we view as an important asset that has multiple environmental and quality of life benefits for the community. In 2010 the Borough created a Community Forestry Plan, which was approved by the State at the end of 2010. A Shade Tree Volunteer and DPW employee attended the CORE training in April and are registered for a second class in the fall of 2011. Data from the United States Department of Agriculture indicates that tree cover for the Borough of Oakland is 65.9%. This figure is almost 20% higher than the 50% coverage recommended by American Forests for suburban residential zones. In August, the Shade Tree Commission voted to maintain our current percentage as our canopy goal. The end of year status report letter from the NJ Community Forestry Council and documentation establishing the tree canopy goal are attached.

PDF: [STATUS REPORT AND CANOPY GOAL](#)

PDF: [APPROVAL LETTER](#)

PDF: [2011 MID YEAR STATUS REPORT](#)

Tree Planting Programs

10 Points

Program Summary: Through the Shade Tree Commission and Department of Public Works, the Borough has an active annual tree planting program and we are proud to have been designated a 'Tree city' for many years now. The experts on the Commission work to select locations and our DPW employees plant and then maintain the young trees. Some trees are donated and funding for the rest is provided for in the Borough's Shade Tree Trust Fund. We are currently investigating possible areas for the location of our own tree nursery, which will help ensure the future viability of the tree planting program. A report detailing the specifics of the program's activity over the last 18 months is attached.

WORD: [TREE PLANTING PROGRAM SUMMARY](#)

PDF: [AFTER PIC 1](#)

PDF: [AFTER PIC 2](#)

Tree Maintenance Programs

10 Points

Program Summary: The Borough recognizes the importance of taking an integrated approach to maintaining our tree stock and has an active program to both prune tree and remove them when necessary. This keeps the overall tree stock healthier and reduces risks to people and property. The Shade Tree Commission inspects and identifies hazard trees, including those on private property that may be hazardous to the general public. Tree maintenance and removal is performed by DPW staff, private tree companies and the local utility company as warranted. Summary reports from our Tree City USA applications for the last two years are attached.

PDF: [MAINTENANCE PROGRAM REPORTS](#)

Environmental Commission

10 Points

Program Summary: Ordinance 2-7.3 created the Oakland Environmental Commission. This Commission is funded by the Borough's annual budget. In addition the Commission seeks grants from the state and other sources to fund specific projects. The Environmental Commission was created to: Help protect and develop our natural resources Encourage the acquisition of open space and green acres Raise the consciousness and to educate all residents in daily conservation practices Protect water resource management, to study and make recommendations concerning air pollution control, solid waste management, noise control, soil and landscape protection, environmental appearance to protect the flora and fauna of Oakland. The Environmental Commission provides valuable input to the Oakland Planning Board and Oakland Zoning Board of Adjustment regarding commercial and residential developments. A copy of the Commission's 2010 annual report, a link to the online version of the Borough Code and a copy of the relevant code section are attached.

PDF: [ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT](#)

PDF: [BOROUGH CODE SECTION](#)

Tree Protection Ordinance

10 Points

Program Summary: For several years Oakland has actively maintained a strong Tree Protection Ordinance. Oakland's Shade Tree Commission carries out the ongoing review process, inspections and enforcement duties of this ordinance. They actively visit residential properties to review their applications for tree trimming and tree removal. The STC also monitors tree trimming, removal and planting requirements of the town along streets, schools, other public properties and on commercial properties.

WORD: [TREE PROTECTION CODE](#)

Waste Management

Community Paper Shredding Day

5 Points

Program Summary: To provide another opportunity for residents to recycle paper, the Borough held a paper shredding event on May 21, 2011. Five tons of paper were collected and the event was attended by approximately 175 residents. Supporting documentation is attached.

PDF: [PAPER SHREDDING EVENT DOCS](#)

Backyard Composting Program

5 Points

Program Summary: In 2009-2010, we asked 3 residents to carefully separate and weigh their garbage so we could determine the reality of how much household waste was really recyclable versus what the state was suggesting. The 13 and 26 week process showed just over 51% was recyclable materials. Since our recycling rate was only running about 28%, we notified residents we were losing over \$100,000 by residents not recycling properly, along with the environmental impact it was having. To take it one step further, residents asked, "What if we were composting our food scraps, what would we save?" Based on the average of 20-25% of household garbage being food scraps, we determined we could save another \$100,000 if all residents' composted food scraps, plus the environmental impact. This began our initiative for backyard composting in the Fall of 2010. Since our DPW and municipal storage areas are very small and tight, we elected to try and promote the purchasing of composting bins with our local Garden Center, and Mail Order Catalog company www.mastergardening.com. We also promoted the county program Earth Machine through BCUA. (see pdf) One of the workshops was organized by working with our local Garden Center. They hired the famous author Colleen Plimpton who gave a lecture and workshop called "The Bins and Outs of Composting" (see pdf) We have used various literature and promotional pieces from ANJEC and BCUA. At the three day town carnival, the Environmental Commission displayed several types of composting units, along with examples of ways to handle food scraps in the kitchen. (pictures attached.) Approximately 85 people took information, and 15 signed up to be on the email list to continue to receive more information. What was interesting is how many residents were already composting, and offered thoughts and ideas for us to spread around. A presentation was done to the Garden Club. Many members already were composting. To support us in our efforts, they encouraged us to promote at their annual may Plant Sale in May. Recently, the local Boy Scout troop has expressed interest in a door-to-door campaign to sell composters. We are looking at the possibilities of working with them to organize a program and promote. The momentum is building and growing. Although it is difficult to put a figure on our amount of diversion from the landfill, our tonnage of garbage to the landfill has decreased by 6%, of which ¾'s of that appears to be just better recycling by residents. Our best estimate is about 100 residents are composting, diverting about 70 tons from the landfill. Promoting composting continues. We are in discussions with the Oakland Communications Committee to produce a video documenting actual residents who are composting, including how they are doing it, the rewards of composting and some the challenges they have overcome.

PDF: [COMPOSTING INFORMATION](#)

PDF: [COMPOSTING WORKSHOP](#)

PDF: [COMPOSTING AT CARNIVAL](#)

Grass - Cut It and Leave It Program

5 Points

Program Summary: During June 2011, The Oakland Department Public Works began a "Cut It & Leave It" program for all municipal properties. The Director of Oakland's DPW educated town and Board of Education staff on the environmental and cost savings benefits of this program. Copies of the "Keep Oakland Greener and Cleaner Cut It & Leave It" brochure were made available at Oakland Town Hall for residents to pick-up, distributed at town sports events, available in the Oakland Public Library, distributed to the town's retail landscaping and nurseries and distributed to the public at civic events. PSA advertising was posted on Oakland-NJ.org and aired Oakland TV for general viewing.

WORD: CUT IT WEBSITE LOGO

PDF: CUT IT BROCHURE