



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 21, 2019 with 170 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 2019 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.

Community Partnership & Outreach

Create Green Team

10 Points

 Bronze Required

Program Summary: The Borough of Oakland formally established its first Green Team on May 27, 2009 when the Governing Body unanimously adopted resolution 09-132. New members were appointed by Mayor Schwager to the Green Team in January 2019 new resolution attached. 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

Trex bags to benches program and recycling Styrofoam. Sustainable Oakland Green Team also is a member of the Sustainable Bergen County Hub. A booth is set up every year at the town carnival, Choptoberfest, Fair Lawn Green Fair and other events. Members include: Thomas "Chopper" Russo, Nancy Krause, David Blanke, Dana Vodde, Alison Fleeson, Zuzanna Fahey, Maria Glasson, Sandra Coira, Peter Kikot, Carol Peterson, Linda Schwager - Mayor, Richard Kunze - Boro Admin, Michael Carelli - Asst. Admin, Pasquale Pignatelli - Councilman, Peter Havel - Librarian.

PDF: [GREEN TEAM RESOLUTION](#)

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-](http://www.oakland-nj.org/resolutions/Resolution%2011-91%20Adopt%20Green%20Building%20Policy.pdf)

[91%20Adopt%20Green%20Building%20Policy.pdf](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 DOCUMENTATION](#)

Health & Wellness

Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Public Places

10 Points

Program Summary: The smoking ban ordinance was first passed in 2008. It was updated in 2015 to include electronic smoking devices and additional municipal park and recreation areas to be included in the ordinance. Information regarding the Smoke-Free areas can be found on the borough website and on rec-field use applications. This is being expanded to include signage at the municipal recreational facilities and recreation areas. All sports using the rec-fields will also have it on their application for team sign up. A memo will be sent to the police department and the health department reminding them of this ordinance. In the fall news letter that goes to all residents there will be an article on the ordinance.

PDF: [SMOKE-FREE AND TOBACCO-FREE PUBLIC PLACES DOCUMENTATION {A}](#)

Innovative Projects

Innovative Community Project 1

10 Points

Program Summary: 2 Pollinator Gardens were created in Great Oak Park, Oakland, NJ. A member of the Green Team identified all of the plants that are beneficial to pollinators and educated the team which included members of Oakland Environmental Commission, Sustainable Oakland Green Team and volunteers from the public. Between both locations, over 150 common milkweed was found. In addition, Goldenrod, Columbine, Yarrow and Joe Pye weed were detected and preserved. The team was taught to identify mugwort, poison ivy and poison oak which occupied most of the space. In the newly cleared areas we planted 100 Butterfly Milkweed plants that were in 1gal pots. We hope to add to both areas in the future and create an official Monarch way station. While early in the year, Monarch Butterflies visited us as we were planting. 3 eggs were collected from the property to home raise and release increasing the chances of survival by up to 80%.

IMAGE: [FLYER](#)

IMAGE: [WAYSTATION](#)

IMAGE: [INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY PROJECT 1 DOCUMENTATION](#)

IMAGE: [WAYSTATION 3](#)

IMAGE: [WAYSTATION 4](#)

IMAGE: [WAYSTATION 5](#)

Innovative Community Project 2

10 Points

Program Summary: Oakland was a recipient of the Roots for Rivers Reforestation Grant and Technical Assistance Program. We reforested approx. 2 acre area surrounding Little Pond Brook, A C1 Trout Producing Stream with the help of DEP Watershed Ambassador's program, Restore Native Plants, Ramapo's One Step, Boy Scouts and community volunteers. All plants and trees chosen were native and Plantra stake and tube systems were installed for protection. We faced an exhausting amount of challenges including: thorn bush injuries, poison ivy reactions, plant list changing due to die off during the winter, macadam in very unexpected places (which we took pick axes to), proper tools due to restrictions operating within riparian zones and torrential rain. Despite every difficulty, we chose to have the plantings take place over 2 days. The Green Team with the help of Shade Tree was able to unload trailers of plants, flag all plants and planting area with a color coded system, set up registration / tool area and a demonstration area to show how to plant and install tubes. Day one finished with approx. 350 in the ground and a few Plantra systems installed. Sunday just poured but due to a plea on social media, nearly 40 volunteers came early and completed the planting and tube installation on time.

IMAGE: [PLANTING FLYER](#)

IMAGE: [SITE PHOTO](#)

IMAGE: [SITE PHOTO](#)

IMAGE: [SITE PHOTO](#)

IMAGE: [SITE PHOTO](#)

PDF: [SITE PLAN](#)

Land Use & Transportation

Sustainable Land Use Pledge

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: The pledge was unanimously adopted on August 9, 2017 by passage of resolution 17-232 after the Green Team recommended it. 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. Richard Kunze, Borough Administrator, discussed the pledge with staff members. Copies were distributed to the Planning Board, Zoning Board and Environmental Commission by the borough clerk. A copy of the resolution is attached. Since the resolution was originally passed in 2011, Oakland has invested in developing its open space for recreation, installed bike racks in town parks and installed or improved sidewalks leading to schools. All of these actions have enhanced Oakland's sustainable community for generations to come.

PDF: [SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLEDGE 2017 WITH DISTRIBUTION](#)

Natural Resources

Natural Resource Inventory

20 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: In July 2012, the Environmental Commission hired Kratzer Environmental Services to complete the Oakland Natural Resource Inventory (NRI). The NRI is being funded by the 2012 Sustainable Land Use Planning Grant being awarded to the Borough by the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (AJEC) and the Oakland Municipal Budget. We were awarded \$8000 for the matching grant. Since July 2012 we have met with Ms. Kratzer several times to provide data for the report. We held a public comment period last summer and are in the final review stages of the Natural Resource Inventory. A link to the draft report is provided here: http://www.oakland-nj.org/PDF/Oakland_NRI_FinalDraft_April_2014.pdf At the Environmental Commission meeting on August 5, 2014 an update schedule for the NRI was approved (see meeting minutes). The NRI was presented to the Planning Board on 9/11/14 for inclusion in the Master Plan (see email).

PDF: [NRI UPDATE](#)

PDF: [NRI ADOPTION](#)

PDF: [NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [NRI PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES](#)

Environmental Commission

10 Points

Program Summary: Ordinance 2-7.3 created the Oakland Environmental Commission in 1972. 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. The EC members contribute in Environmental Education and annual town wide cleanups. A sample of our newsletter is attached. A copy of the Commissions' 2018 annual report and a copy of the relevant code section are attached.

PDF: [BOROUGH CODE SECTION](#)

IMAGE: [ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER](#)

IMAGE: [ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEMBERS 2019](#)

IMAGE: [ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS](#)

Environmental Commission Site Plan Review

10 Points

Program Summary: Oakland Environmental Commission is sent all upcoming projects monthly that may have environmental significance for review and comment. One of our members is also on the Planning Board and serves as the liaison to the Planning Board. Water quantity and quality is of the utmost importance in the borough, so issues such as run off, steep slopes, contamination, aquifer recharge, impervious surface coverage and tree removal are among the areas of focus. The Commission uses our Natural Resource inventory to keep comments science based and objective.

PDF: [ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION SITE PLAN REVIEW DOCUMENTATION A](#)

PDF: [2018 SITE PLAN REVIEWS](#)

Open Space Plans

10 Points

Program Summary: Oakland has long demonstrated a commitment to preserving and appropriately using open space, having acquired close to 100 acres in the last ten years. Our original Open Space and Recreation Plan was adopted in 2006 and a new plan is currently being developed that will guide future decision making. The Land Conservancy of New Jersey was retained for this project and the OSRP was adopted by the Planning Board in November 2017 (uploaded). The many goals of the report include: a) Promote the permanent conservation of the Borough's natural resources and scenic landscapes. b) Encourage the preservation and protection of steep slopes, high recharge areas, and forested land within the Borough. c) Remove the structures from the most vulnerable flood prone areas in town to allow the land to be returned to a more

natural state, provide flood storage, remove people and property from harm's way, and mitigate the impacts of severe flooding events. d) Provide opportunities for "active" (facility-based) and "passive" (resource-based) recreational facilities to meet the needs of present and future Borough residents. e) Protect the ecological integrity of the Borough's landscape by stewarding and managing open space and recreation lands to ensure their long-term viability, health, and sustainability. f) Expand and encourage the use and accessibility of trails on public open space lands in the Borough. g) In partnership with others, support the development and protection of greenways and blueways to expand contiguous open space.

PDF: [OPEN SPACE PLANS DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [OPEN SPACE PLAN RESOLUTION](#)

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](#)

Public Information & Engagement

Municipal Communications Strategy

10 Points

Program Summary: The following forms of media are managed by the Borough Administrator Assistant and the Oakland Communication Commission: Twitter Facebook Youtube Print Monthly Newsletter Municipal Email Lists Recycle Coach - App Burbio - App Public Access Channel #77 Senior & School E-Blast

WORD: [MUNICIPAL COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY DOCUMENTATION](#)

Improve Public Engagement in Municipal Government

10 Points

Program Summary: In the fall of 2016 the Borough of Oakland rolled out its updated and much improved website. Current actions for certification include the ability to sign up for e-mail

announcements, publicizing meetings via e-mail and the online calendar, posting of agendas by the Friday before Council Meetings, holding a public comment period at the beginning of our Council Meetings and publicizing the e-mail addresses of Governing Body members on the website. Meetings are streamed on youtube.com and can also be watched after the meeting, Public Access Channel 77. Boro Hall has flyers with all of the meeting information posted for the year including date, time and location. Facebook and Twitter is also used for meeting notifications and announcements. Mayor Schwager has a Facebook page to communicate with the community and Councilmen have also reached out via facebook town groups. Sign up for emails - <https://www.oakland-nj.org/subscribe>

WORD: [IMPROVE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT CHECKLIST](#)

Waste Management

Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: Project Medicine Drop has been a highly successful way of removing prescription drugs from the waste stream as well as being kept out of the hands of those who may be harmed by them. Oakland has one of the many participating New Jersey police departments. The Oakland Police Department keeps the locked metal box inside the lobby with the “Project Medicine Drop” logo clearly visible and recognizable. It was installed on October 3, 2014. Project Medicine Drop allows the public to dispose of unused and expired prescription medications safely, securely, and anonymously. The opportunity is available seven days a week, 365 days a year. Project Medicine Drop provides the opportunity to discard unused expired prescription medications, every day throughout the year. Our department maintains custody of the deposited drugs and disposes of them according to their normal procedures for the custody and destruction of controlled dangerous substances. We report the quantity of discarded drugs to the Division of Consumer Affairs on a quarterly basis. Waste is disposed of at Covanta in Newark, NJ. Information regarding the program and location of the box is available to anyone at: a: <http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/meddrop/Pages/default.aspx> b: <http://rxdrugdropbox.org/> It has been advertised on the borough website (<https://www.oakland-nj.org/police-department/pages/project-medicine-drop>), at flyers given out at Environmental Commission events, and written up in the borough newsletter (<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Borough-Newsletter-April-2019.html?soid=1130631354072&aid=FDS86pRRCYU>). The physical location of the drop box is in the lobby of the Oakland Police Department. 295 Ramapo Valley Road, Oakland, NJ 07436. The Police Station is open 24 hours, 7 days a week.

IMAGE: [PRESCRIPTION DRUG SAFETY AND DISPOSAL PHOTO](#)

PDF: [PRESCRIPTION DRUG SAFETY AND DISPOSAL TOTALS](#)

PDF: [PRESCRIPTION DRUG SAFETY AND DISPOSAL DOC TRIFOLD](#)

Community Paper Shredding Day

5 Points

Program Summary: The recycling coordinator from the DPW for the Borough of Oakland organizes a Confidential Paper Shredding Event once a year. This year it was on Saturday May 11, 2019, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM in Borough Hall Parking Lot Across From Library located at 1 Municipal Plaza, Oakland, NJ 07436. Bergen County gives all their Municipalities one free paper shredding event per year. It is paid for by a grant given to them from State of NJ. Shred-It is the name of the company they contracted with and we schedule the date directly with them. In Borough Hall parking lot, we send two DPW workers to unload and handle the material for shredding. The event is well attended and in total we have over 200 participants. 4 tons of paper is collected. The event is advertised in the Suburban Newspaper, Boro website, Boro Newsletter " Crossroads ", Local Access TV Station, Facebook, Twitter and paper flyers for the library bulletin board, senior center and Boro Hall lobby. We do not allow businesses because they could fill up the truck fast while residents are still waiting in line with their own material. Once the truck is full that day it is all over and we want to make it to 1pm. Mobile Paper Shredding Truck for Oakland Residents Only. Observe All Personal Documents Immediately Shredded On Site. Accepted: Bills, Receipts, Tax Returns, Medical Records, Legal Documents, Etc. Paper Clips and Staples are acceptable. Not Accepted: Non-Confidential Papers, Newspapers, Magazines, Catalogs, Etc. (Recycle These Items for Curbside Pickup). No binders or binder clips. No X-Rays or Photographs.

IMAGE: [COMMUNITY PAPER SHREDDING DAY DOCUMENTATION](#)

IMAGE: [COMMUNITY PAPER SHREDDING DAY DOCUMENTATION](#)

IMAGE: [COMMUNITY PAPER SHREDDING DAY DOCUMENTATION](#)

Construction and Demolition Waste Recycling

15 Points

Program Summary: Oakland has an ordinance regarding Construction and Demolition Waste which is attached in the documents section. Attached is a log of all the recycling violations which include construction material in recycling or garbage. Paper notices have been given and no fines have been issued.

PDF: [CONSTRUCTION WASTE RECYCLING ORDINANCE](#)

EXCEL: [VIOLATIONS LOG](#)

Backyard Composting Program

5 Points

Program Summary: We have used various literature and promotional pieces from ANJEC and BCUA to encourage residents to do backyard composting online and at events. At the three day town carnival and Chopperfest, the Green Team displayed information and answered questions regarding composting. In October, 2018, Oakland's DPW began to sell composting units at a discounted rate. This was advertised at Council Meetings, Boro website & official Facebook page, The Rambler - Oakland's Garden Club Newsletter As part of an environmental documentary series, the events will feature zero waste which included bring your own cup and all paper napkins, plates and food waste will be composted. A composter unit was displayed and sold on site. In less than 2 weeks of launch, 13 units were sold. 43 have been sold to date. To increase sales, DPW is now offering home delivery.

IMAGE: [GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER](#)

IMAGE: [OAKLAND'S WEBSITE & FACEBOOK GRAPHIC](#)

IMAGE: [COMPOSTING FLYER](#)

IMAGE: [WEBSITE FLYER](#)

IMAGE: [CARNIVAL BOOTH](#)