Sustainable Jersey Certification Report

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

Oakland Boro was certified on December 08, 2022 with 400 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 2022 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

Animals in the Community Education

Program Summary: At the request of a resident, In 2020 and 2021 the Sustainable Oakland Green Team was asked to become an integral part in advising the Borough of Oakland in sustainable best practices in keeping backyard Chickens, with the intent of allowing more residents keep backyard chickens legally. After a year of working with the Borough, they passed an ordinance on May 26, 2021 that we are very proud of. Found here: https://www.oakland-nj.org/sites/g/files/vrflf1266/f/uploads/ordinance_21-code-626_regulate-chickens-amended.pdf. Through the process of getting the ordinance approved, the Borough of Oakland advertised the Board of Health meeting introducing the chicken ordinance. The meeting can be found here: https://www.facebook.com/OaklandBorough/posts/9b8d39c0a0f1x4h294mguh9wqcdt6qati6a288783i3fzrz2h06xly03yf73migq2xkglq. After the ordinance passed, we invited residents for an information sharing meeting regarding the keeping of backyard chickens. Outreach and registration was here: https://www.oakland-nj.org/home/news/scoop-coop-sustainable-oakland-hosting-seminar-backyard-chickens. This education video was broadcast on the Borough’s Oakland’s Local Access Channel and on the Borough’s YouTube Channel and advertised on the Borough’s Social Media Page. The actual video presentation was posted on the Oakland YouTube here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cm8VK-KVvPQ, which was attended by 18 residents and has almost 100 views. The Sustainable Oakland Green Team also created a social media group for residents who have chickens or are interested in having chickens to share best practices for chicken care which can be found here: www.facebook.com/groups/626637049695913/. This spring the Sustainable Oakland Green Team also hosted its first Bird Walk in Great Oak Park, lead by Rick Weinman. (You can also watch this video “Living Safely with Wildlife” (advertising materials attached). This presentation can be found here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VUw9PSCQgQ

IMAGES: CHICKENS TRAINING WEBINAR ADVERTISING
IMAGES: GREAT OAK PARK - BIRD WALK 2021
IMAGES: LIVING SAFELY WITH WILDLIFE
IMAGES: BIRD WATCH EVENT INFO
PDF: OAKLAND CHICKEN ORDINANCE

Pledge Supporting NJ Wildlife Action Plan

Program Summary: On August 10, 2011 the Borough Council adopted resolution 11-182 in support of the New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan. This resolution was adopted again on 5/27/2020. This action and the important reasons for it was communicated to staff by the Borough Administrator at the following Department Heads Meeting. Most importantly, the Department of Public Works, Planning Office and Code Enforcement Department were briefed on the goals of the action plan. In support of the wildlife action plan, the Sustainable Oakland Green Team, in partnership with the Oakland Elks, applied for and was awarded in 2020 3 Grants for Rivers grants at 2 Oakland owned properties and one property owned by the Oakland Elks Club, for a total of 1248 trees and underbrush along the NJ DEP designated C1 Ramapo River at a Borough Owned Property on Rosewell Blvd and the Elks Property, and Little Pond Brook Stream in Great Oak Park. Work for the grants included a series of invasive species removals performed by the Oakland Elks, coordinated with public volunteers in the three properties, and the installation of 1248 plants at all properties to be completed in July, 2020 due to Covid regulations delaying the project. This is the 2nd year the Green Team has been awarded the Rivers for Rivers grant, to give a total of 1746 trees and underbrush in Oakland, Bat and Bird Boxes - the Sustainable Oakland Green Team received a donation of 60 bat and bird habitat boxes to be placed in Oakland’s Great Oak Park. We developed a phased plan of installing the boxes over the spring of 2020 in areas that are least disturbed by the general public with the guidance of Bergen County Audubon Society President Don Torino. The Green Team and Volunteers look to install the boxes starting in July, This was again delayed due to Covid regulations.

PDF: MEMO - 2020
Arts & Creative Culture

Establish a Creative Team

Program Summary: Bergen County, the most populous county in New Jersey, has a long history of attracting a diverse range of artists and creative people from all over the world. Because of its location as a suburban extension of Manhattan across the George Washington Bridge, the County has evolved a global cosmopolitan ambience and culture of its own. Many prominent museums, galleries, performing arts groups and theatres reside in Bergen County including the African Art Museum in Tenafly, the Hertitage Museum in Ho-Ho-Kus Bergen Performing Arts Center in Englewood, Bergen Philharmonic in Teaneck, Adelphi Orchestra in River Edge, and Gallery Bergen in Paramus to name but a few. There are also organizations such as Arts Bergen, an initiative of the Northern New Jersey Community Foundation, dedicated to supporting art in the County. Some municipalities are undergoing a revitalization of art. An example is Ridgewood Park, a village that had an active arts association from the 1960’s to the 1980’s. To improve the quality of life for its residents and help stimulate economic growth for local artists and businesses, it formed a new arts association in 2017. In Bergen County, a number of municipalities are committed to working together in partnership to advance support for the arts. This group, Creative Bergen, held their first meeting on June 7, 2020. Its mission is to help implement county-wide creative actions to improve the quality of life in Bergen County and support mutual sustainability goals. Member municipalities thus far include Bogota, Fort Lee, Leonia, Oakland, Oradell, Ridgewood, Ridgewood and Wyckoff.

Creative Assets Inventory

Program Summary: Creative Bergen created an open call and asked all Bergen County Artists to fill out a survey as part of our campaign to emphasize all the great artistic things happening in Bergen County. We wanted to get a better picture of who’s doing Art around our community, and are looking for information on local artists, cultural activities and events, buildings/venues/galleries/artist spaces, arts and community organizations, school arts programs, and businesses. Also included in the information we are collecting is resources like parks, local historic buildings, theaters, galleries, restaurants, etc. that also host the arts within the greater cultural context of the community. We’re asked all Artists, Artist Organizations, and Artist Business/ies living or working in the Bergen County to fill out a short survey giving us information about you or your organization, and give us ideas on what we can do to help promote Art in our community. The Survey can be found at https://tinyurl.com/CreativeBergenSurvey Access to the live Full Bergen County Creative Inventory can be found at: https://tinyurl.com/CreativeBergenAssetInventory Attached is the sorted list of Oakland’s assets, which as of 11/20/20 had a total of 22 listings, with some people listed multiple times for different types of work they do.

Utilizing Your Creative Assets

Program Summary: The Borough of Oakland was a participating member of the foundation of the Creative Bergen arts organization, which unites towns all over Bergen County to support the arts. Creative Bergen’s objective of supporting the arts through creative placemaking launched the creation of the Arts Ambie, a county-wide art crawl through Bergen County, set for its inaugural show June 11, 12, and 13th 2021. Oakland’s Sustainable Oakland Green Team holds two board member positions at Creative Bergen, Vice Chair of the Creative Bergen is Pot Weiman (board member to Sustainable Oakland Green Team) and Member of Large Alison nineteen (Chair of SOGT). Additionally the Borough of Oakland is a participating town for the Creative Bergen Arts Ambie, to participate in the Arts Ambie, the Borough of Oakland also Creative Bergen the initial vendors fee, and created its own arts council “Arts in Oakland” to utilize and promote artistic talent within Oakland. The Arts in Oakland will showcase 30 visual and performing artists at the Oakland Public Library and Veterans park. (press release and flyer attached) www.oaklandartsambie.org tbl oaklandartsambie@gmail.com

Brownfields

Brownfields Inventory & Prioritization

Program Summary: Downloaded from NJDEP Datarminer Report and Stennett lists of properties in Oakland. The properties were designated “Municipality Owned”, “Residence”, “School”, “Utility” and “Industrial/Commercial”. Completed Block, Lot, Acres, Zoning, and Ownership data from njact.org for all non-residences. Report Completed by Green Team Co-Chairs Carol Peterson and Alison FreeBSD with the help of Borough Administrator Richard Kunde. Reviewed all addresses on the list with the Borough Administrator to confirm properties designations assigned and tax status. All sites that were designated residence, school, municipality owned or utility owned were considered to not be brownfields. A google map was created of all 20 Industrial/Commercial sites and Co-Chairs All FreeBSD and Carol Peterson performed site visits of the list on 3:15:20 to determine current usage status. All Industrial/commercial sites visited on the list are currently in use and not considered
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. Since its inception, the Borough Council has reestablished the Sustainable Oakland Green Team annually. Please find attached most recent resolution from 2022. 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 tree 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, ChurchFest and other community events. Our Members list, Resolution Establishing a Green Team, and other activities can be found at https://www.oakland-nj.org/sustainable-oakland-green-team.

PDF: RESOLUTION 22-33 ESTABLISHING SUSTAINABLE OAKLAND GREEN TEAM

Emergency Management & Resiliency

Vulnerable Populations Identification for Emergencies

**10 Points**

**Program Summary:** The Police Department, through Operation Reassurance, maintains a database for direct communication with residents and from what we see/experience when we enter homes maintains address alerts in our CAD system. The purpose of Operation Reassurance is to provide Oakland residents with an opportunity to share unique or critical Information with the police department regarding themselves, a household member or a loved one. This information sharing process will allow officers and other first responders to more efficiently respond to residences and interact with individuals because they will have this important information on hand ahead of time. Information or conditions that may prove helpful to provide the police department with is if you, a household member, or a loved one has a medical condition (e.g., Alzheimer's, dementia, autism spectrum disorder), a psychological disorder, physical or mental handicap, elderly or is a senior with a mobility issue, use oxygen in the home or other special medical necessity is in the home or used by the resident, or other issue you would like the Police Department to know about. Additionally, the Oakland Senior Center maintains a complete database of the vulnerable population in Oakland. This list is used when there is severe weather, power outages, flooding and other emergencies when we need to contact vulnerable populations. Operation Reassurance mailing can be found here: https://www.oakland-nj.org/police-department/pages/operation-reassurance Advertising for registration can be found on our Borough website, distributed to all residents, a copy found here (page 10): https://www.oakland-nj.org/sites/g/files/vrhile1026/files/borough_calendar_2022.pdf and on social media here: https://www.facebook.com/OaklandBorough/posts/pfbidZ2MJJ5eJdx3pQKEtY5uHeTaJZg0ymcKXUlTf5J.lUt3gnoueVYvubBLhralPVW7Oy

WORD: OAKLAND VULNERABLE POP CHECKLIST 2022

Energy

Energy Efficiency for Municipal Facilities

**50 Points**
Bronze Priority, Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** In late 2019 and early 2020, the Borough of Oakland has undertaken an Energy Efficiency Project for all Municipal Facilities. The Borough had NJ Direct Install Clean Energy audit of all Municipal owned Facilities, which includes the Library, Borough Hall, DPW Building, Recreation Storage Shed, Danny O’Hara Recreation Building, Firehouse 1, Firehouse 2, Firehouse 3, Senior Center, Municipal Court, Council Chambers, and the Police Department Headquarters. Each audit was completed and submitted to the Borough from Lime Energy, the State’s Bergen County representative for Direct Install Program. Each audit was taken into consideration, and the Borough decided based on the annual savings in electricity and gas, to pursue the project for all facilities in 2020. The Borough has received a utility analysis for each location which shows the percent savings in gas and electricity. The Borough’s applications to the NJ Clean Energy Direct Install Program was received by the State and the State approved our applications to Filehouse 1, 2, 3, and the Police Station. The total project cost was $191,386.56 with the incentive amount from the State of $74,542.26, and the Borough was responsible for $44,843.86. These installations are complete as of November 2020, and the Borough expects the real energy savings to kick in almost immediately. Wanting to pursue more energy efficiency upgrades, the Borough then applied for the PS&G Direct Install Program for the Borough Hall, DPW Building, Buildings and Grounds Facility, Senior Center, and Recreation Facility. On November 9th, the Oakland Governing Body approved the Borough’s applications to PS&G, and the Borough has since submitted those applications. This work is on schedule to take place in December/January of 2021. The total PS&G upgrades project cost is $102,808.62 with a $71,966.04 incentive, and the Borough is responsible for $30,842.88. This project includes lighting, HVAC, and boiler upgrades. The total energy % savings from this project is 43.91% as outlined in the attached spreadsheet which has been reviewed by Sustainable Jersey prior to uploading. As this project shows, the Borough of Oakland is committed to energy savings and a Sustainable future for the community.

PDF: AUDITS FROM LINE ENERGY - 2020
PDF: BOROUGH FACILITY LETTER - 2020
PDF: PROPOSALS, Direct Install Proposals, Scope of Works, and Resolution - 2020
EXCEL: PROPOSALS SPREADSHEET REVISED - 2020
PDF: NJ CLEAN ENERGY DIRECT INSTALL PROPOSALS, SCOPE OF WORKS, AND RESOLUTION - 2020
EXCEL: NJ CALCULATED SPREADSHEET - 2020
Community Gardens

Program Summary: In 2019 the formed a Green Team subcommittee and began assessing several town properties to determine the viability of a community garden on each property. The site was evaluated on the basis of environmental location, sun, access to water, and preparation required of the site. The first few properties were eliminated, and a site was chosen. The subcommittee then began reaching out to various town organizations to help determine the needs of the community. The senior center stood out as a part of the community that would utilize the garden on a regular basis. The Green Team worked with the Senior Center director to come up with a design concept that would accommodate those members with mobility issues by coming up with a plot design to be ADA compliant in addition to offering beds of various heights and sizes for accessibility for all ages and physical needs. In February 2020 the GT applied for the Sustainable Jersey/PSEG 20k grant and at award was granted building the garden in June 2020, with a completion date of July followed by an opening ceremony. The Sustainable Jersey/PSEG grant allowed us to bring water to the lot. Build 27 annually purchaseable plots including 22 4' x 6' plots, 5 ADA plot 960 and 2 community seated tables, and to surround the area with deer proof chain link fence. The GT has retained a teaching plot that is currently donating all food to Ponds Church Food Bank, and will members are offered a discount to future plots by donating to the food bank as well. Grant Press Release: https://www.oakland-nj.org/home/news/borough-oakland-awarded-20000-sustainability-grant-new-oakland-community-garden-Garden-into-on-the-borough-website-can-be-found-here;

Buy Fresh Buy Local Programs

Program Summary: The Borough of Oakland launched their Buy Fresh Buy Local campaign in May 2020 with flyers posted weekly on local media, and continues to update and maintain a directory which can be found on the borough website. The initial list was created in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and our flyer included pickup and delivery options for local farms to provide fresh produce to residents, with a complete list of farms, CSAs, local honey, farmers markets and local restaurants providing food from local farms available on our borough website. The flyer was also shared in the borough’s monthly E-newsletter monthly, and Borough social media and the Sustainable Oakland Green Team’s Social Media Account to remind residents to buy local. To provide residents with a link to the borough website. Since then, the Borough and Green Team have been promoting the buy fresh campaign on our social media pages. The most recent posting can be found here, https://www.facebook.com/sustainableoaklandgreenteam/photos/pcb.162643695924652/162706635085082. Buy Fresh Buy Local Website: https://www.oakland-nj.org/buy-fresh-buy-local

Health & Wellness

Building Healthier Communities

Program Summary: The Borough of Oakland is dedicated to all four strategy areas of Building Healthier Communities Action Submission: Youth. The Borough of Oakland hosts a variety of programs geared towards the youth of Oakland. These programs are mostly sporting activities. The Borough of Oakland has a very active Recreation Program which includes sports such as football, soccer, cheerleading, lacrosse, wrestling, and much more. These programs allow for Oakland’s youth to be active outside of school while making new relationships with fellow athletes. All Recreation programs are run on a voluntary basis by Commissioners and the Chair of the Commission, Senior. The Borough of Oakland hosts a variety of health and wellness programs for Oakland senior aged 55+. Programs are offered on a weekly basis at the Oakland Senior Center. Programs include yoga, zumba, tai chi, and health screenings. Furthermore, the Senior Center hosted a FREE Flu Clinic in 2019. The Senior Center also hosts financial and mental health programs, too. Employees: The Borough of Oakland has a very active Employee Wellness Program. The program was launched in 2019 and the program now has over 20 participants. Employees are required to complete a variety of tasks to earn points and then cash those points in at the end of the year for an incentive. These requirements include flu vaccine, physical, dental cleaning, biometric screening, nutritional counseling, walking clubs, educational seminars, and cooking classes. This program is funded by a grant and the Borough has an Employee Wellness Committee that oversees the program. Attached to this submission is the program announcement for 2022. Overall Community: The Borough of Oakland hosts a variety of programs offered for the entire Oakland NJ Community. The first program is the Franklin Lakes-Oakland-Wyckoff Living Healthy Journey. This is an 8 week fitness/wellness program which provides free classes and seminars to all residents of these 3 towns. There is a $25 registration fee in which residents receive a t-shirt, journal, and stickers. The Borough also hosts several screenings and classes throughout the year, most notably flu clinics and health screenings such as a Skin Cancer Screening on May 19, 2022. Mayor’s Wellness Pledge: Signed New Jersey Healthcare Quality Institute Pledge attached to this submission. Signed May 19, 2022. The Borough of Oakland is committed to offering more health and wellness programs in 2022 as part of the Mayor’s Wellness Campaign,

Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Public Places
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 in 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: NIK Elias and Tobacco Free Public Places Documentation (4)

Innovative Projects

Innovative Community Project 1

Program Summary: Building upon the existing ‘Styrofoam Free Business Program’ implemented in Leonia a few years ago, Sustainable Oakland Green Team launched a new iteration of the program. With impending legislation around Polystyrene/Plastic Bags/Straws, there wasn’t a better time to get in front of our local businesses, drive awareness of the legislation, but also provide recommendations for environmentally friendly alternatives - otherwise, they could switch to single use plastic which we’d like to avoid. Our grassroots program bridged the gap between the state-level communications and the local businesses in town that this the legislation would go on to affect. The program provided actionable recommendations for alternatives too - we worked with Sysco (one of the largest national restaurant supplies vendors in the US) and also Webrestaurant.com to gather pricing for alternatives. We ended up visiting 23 local businesses in our town, mostly independent businesses including restaurants and grocery stores, and having individual convos about the legislation, alternatives, etc. Large chains were excluded with exception being Dunkin Donuts - I ended up making contact with their Head of Sustainability in the US and having a great chat about how they are pivoting away from plastic straws to PLA in NJ. We captured inputs via Google forms and have a database of all visit details. We kept in touch with the businesses, shared a NUBAC Webinar and reminders about the legislation ahead of May 4th. Most businesses liked the idea of switching to environmentally friendly products and alternatives, but cited cost and supply issues as barriers. Several businesses did switch away from plastic straws to fiber based ones - we are also seeing more fiber clamshells in town. Have not seen plastic bags since May 4th. We have seen a few businesses continue to use Styrofoam and have reminded them that this is now illegal. In doing this, we socialized it through the HRB several times - Lauren Skowronski was in the loop on this program specifically. We were invited to share the full program during a Monthly Mayor’s Meeting (Northwest Bergen County Mayors - 10 Mayors there). We also were invited to speak to the Wyckoff Chamber of Commerce on the program and legislation, as well as the Sustainable Jersey City (two different sessions) to educate on our program and legislation.

The program was mentioned in an article too in the Suburban News (North Jersey Media Group weekly paper). Estimated time spent on this program collectively with all involved exceeded 100+ hours.

PDF: ATTENTION RETAIL STORE AND RESTAURANT OWNERS (4).pdf
Powerpoint:巫戏CHAMBER MEETING 20131/29 PPTX
Excel: POLYSTYRENE AND ALTERNATIVE COST WORKBOOK.XLS
Powerpoint: STYROFOAM FREE BIZ UPDATE - OAKLAND NJ 2/11/13.PPTX

Innovative Community Project 3

Program Summary: The Borough of Oakland has a single conference room which is used during the day for all staff meetings and at night for committee and commission meetings. Meetings use an excessive amount of paper for all agendas, meeting packets, schedules, and supplemental documents. The room is often used for meals which add to the waste production. Due to the heavy use of the room, we wanted to modernize standards for the biggest impact. The biggest impact to the room is from the addition of a large monitor. Situated above the conference table, all in attendance can now see agendas and digitized items without the need for printing. As paper is often used only for an hour and has a large carbon footprint for its time used, this modernization was critical. Sustainable Oakland Green Team, one of the smaller committees, saves approximately 48 pages per meeting using this system. Project meeting for 4 hours charging stations contained 37 pages per individual pocket which had been avoided because of this upgrade. In addition to the monitor, a recycling station was added. It includes bins for paper, commingled, trash and coffee pods which can be recycled through the Subaru partnership with Teracycle. A water cooler is available in the room for those that bring reusable drinking containers and reusable cups are available for those without. Plants have also been added to the room to improve air quality. Spider plants are low maintenance and filter out contaminants and VOC’s.

Image: CONFERENCE ROOM MONITOR
Image: CONFERENCE ROOM CUPS
Image: RECYCLE BINS

Land Use & Transportation

Sustainable Land Use Pledge

Program Summary: The pledge was unanimously adopted on March 11, 2020 by passage of resolution 20-110 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 for their information.

PDF: RESOLUTIONS 2020
PDF: MEMO 1
Natural Resources

Natural Resource Inventory

Program Summary: In July 2012, the Environmental Commission hired Krater 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 (ANJEC) and the Oakland Municipal budget. We were awarded $8,000 for the matching grant. Since July 2012 we have met with Mr. Krater 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 minutes).

Environmental Commission

Program Summary: Ordinance 27-3 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: a) Help protect and develop our natural resources; b) Enforce the acquisition of open space and green acres; c) Raise the consciousness and educate all residents in daily conservation practices; d) 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 Commission's 2021 annual report and a copy of the relevant code section are attached.

Environmental Commission Site Plan Review

Program Summary: The Oakland Environmental Commission is provided plan reviews for upcoming public hearings from both the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment. The Commission then has the opportunity to comment and recommend changes on specific site improvements and proposed plans. 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.

Open Space Plans

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 forestland 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.

Tree Protection Ordinance
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 the 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.

**Tree Protection Code**

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**Tree Maintenance Programs**

**15 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 trees 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. Street trees are those trees approximately 10 feet from the curb onto a property are the trees we actively prune and remove if necessary. Residents must get a permit to have trees inspected for removal on the remainder of their property. If a live tree is removed residents are required to provide replacement trees on their own property for funding for planting elsewhere in town. Tree maintenance and removal are performed by DPW staff, private tree companies, and the local utility company as warranted. Attached are the tree removal receipts for 2018, 2019 had only emergency tree removal and some pruning. The RFQ that went out at the end of 2019 failed to get any bids and went out again in early 2020 successfully and is now waiting for the municipal budget approval to be awarded.

**PDF:** [Tree Removal Receipts for Hazardous Street Trees](#)

**PDF:** [2018 Tree City Application](#)

**PDF:** [2020 Winter RFC Request for Tree Removal and Pruning](#)

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**Tree Planting Programs**

**15 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. In 2020 we have set a high goal of having 100 new trees a year planted in town every year for the next 10 years and hopefully more. The experts on the Commission work to select cluster locations that our DPW employees plant and then maintain the young trees. In 2019 we did a spring and fall planting totaling $6,417 (see tree planting receipts). Some trees are donated, some are funded through money paid by resident's tree removal permits, some by replacement tree fees for taking down live trees and the will be funded by the new adopt a tree program (see adopt a tree program flyer). Two of our Shade Tree members are professional landscape architects who donate their talent to select the proper trees for the proper locations (see tree planting plans). We then notify residents that (see letter to residents). We have set the path for achieving this new goal with a revised ordinance that put more value on having to replace healthy trees.

**PDF:** [2019 Tree Planting Plans](#)

**PDF:** [2019 Tree Planting Receipts](#)

**PDF:** [Adopt a Tree Flyer](#)

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**Public Information & Engagement**

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**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, and the website. The media is used 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:** [Municipal Comm Strategy Checklist.docx](#)

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**Improve Public Engagement in Municipal Government**

**15 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

**IMAGE:** [Meeting Calendar - 2015](#)

**PDF:** [Sample Agenda - 2015](#)

**WORD:** [Checklist - 2015](#)

**IMAGE:** [Email Alerts Registration - 2015](#)
Online Municipal Public Service Systems

Program Summary: The Borough of Oakland has various online municipal public service systems in place. This includes online payment options for Recreation, Tax Bills, Utility Bills, and Permits. The Borough recently rolled out in 2020 Online Tax and Utility Payments for all residents. Detailed instructions for online tax and utility bills may be found here: https://www.oakland-nj.org/home/pages/online-payments. The Borough of Oakland also had a system in place where residents can submit a service request online (https://www.oakland-nj.org/service-requests/webforms/service-requests) which allows residents to submit a request to a Borough Department and their request is then routed to the correct Department Head. Residents may also sign-up for non-emergency email blasts and notifications for Borough Departments in which a Department may announce a change in a service, new service, news announcement, event, etc. At this time, there is no tracking mechanism for service requests, but the Borough plans to have this in the near future using our website vendor Civic Plus.

Waste Management

Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal

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: http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/meddrop/Pages/default.aspx or http://meddropbox.org/. It has been advertised on the borough website: https://www.oakland-nj.org/police-department/pages/project-medicine-drop It is also shared on social media and written up in the borough newsletter and in our borough calendar. (page 10) https://www.oakland-nj.org/sites/sites/vyhif11026/?pages/ finalized_draft_2021_borough_calender_dec_9_2020_council_meeting.pdf. 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 between 10am and 2 pm. The amounts collected are as follows: 2000-248 lbs. 2021-319 lbs.

Recycling and Waste Reduction Education and Compliance

Program Summary: Oakland has taken substantive efforts to utilize a multi-faceted approach to promote recycling and waste reduction through education and enforcement. The Borough switched to dual stream recycling in 2018. The recycling code was comprehensively updated in 2014. Written warnings are given out and no fines have been issued. The recycling enforcement is performed during the Summer months when it is hotter to be out in the roadway and easier to see violations from 8am-7am due to increased daylight. Education is a collaborative effort between the Recycling Coordinator, Borough Administrator’s Assistant and Sustainable Oakland Green Team. The Recycling Collection, including all flyers is listed on the Borough Website, in print at multiple location, shared on social media via Facebook and Twitter and Oakland’s public access channel. In 2018 the Borough also began using the Recycle Coach app which has been a great tool for the community to use. App information is shared in the recycling newsletter and on the borough website and social media account. The Green Team shares information about all events including Compost, Chopoberfest, Film Festivals, Speaker Engagements etc. https://www.oakland-nj.org/public-works/pages/recycling/Sustainable Oakland Green Team had two programs for waste reduction: Backyard Composting and Grass Cut It and Leave It. Graphics were advertised in the monthly Borough Newsletter, Facebook, Twitter, Borough Website, town calendar and on Public Access TV. Sustainable Jersey Bergen County Hub held a zoom class on backyard composting including how to compost grass clippings and how to obtain a compost unit sold by the Borough with delivery from the DPW. One member of Sustainable Oakland prepared slides and lectured on the call. This was promoted to watch via social media live and replayed on YouTube and Public Access TV.

Community Paper Shredding Day

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 its 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 had 100 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 1 pm. 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.

**COMMUNITY SHREDDING DAY 2021**

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**Non-Mandated Materials Recycling**

15 Points

**Program Summary:** Plastic Bags - This program began as a periodic collection during our Borough styrofoam drives in April 2019, the green team then added a permanent small box leaving collection plastic bags, the Oakland Public Library in May 2019, but due to the program’s popularity and the large quantities the Green Team was collecting, the Borough purchased a periodic bin to collect at a heavily-trafficked parking lot adjacent to sports fields in town. All of these programs were advertised on the Borough website, digital flyers in social media, in the Recycling Annual Newsletter, monthly Borough E-Newsletter, and by council meetings. To-date, we have collected 3000+ lbs of plastic and have received three (3) benches through the Tree bench program. Textiles - The Borough of Oakland has been participating for 10 years in the textiles collection program. Several textiles Collection bins can be found at the Borough Municipal building. Program is advertised in the Borough Annual Recycling newsletter (insert In the Borough Calendar) and also within the calendar itself. Online version can be found here: https://www.oakland-nj.org/sites/g/files/tyhr11236/files/Upcrops/borough_calendar_2022.pdf. The total collected in 2021 was 65,740 pounds. Styrofoam - The Green Team hosts two (2) styrofoam drives per year. For the last two that we have done, we have had to do two runs to the recycling center with the materials as we are averaging 450 lbs of styrofoam diverted from landfill per drive. Plastic film - 8/21/22 - 1.560 lbs

**PDF:** SOCIAL AND EMAIL MARKETING FOR STYROFOAM, TEXTILE AND PLASTIC COLLECTION PDF

**PDF:** STYRO FOAM FEBRUARY - OAKLAND NJ JANUARY 2022 PDF

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**Backyard Composting Program**

5 Points

**Program Summary:** The Borough of Oakland and its residents constitute the community and the environmental conservation. By composting food waste, the City of Oakland will reduce the amount of trash sent to landfills and divert nutrients back into the soil.

**Image:** SOCIAL MEDIA POSTING

**Image:** COMPOSTING FEBRUARY 2021

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**Grass Cut It and Leave It Program**

5 Points

**Program Summary:** The Oakland Department Public Works is continuing its “Cut It & Leave It” program for all municipal properties including the schools, PD, Fire station, and Police Department. This program is designed to reduce the work load of the Department and also to promote a greener environment.

**Image:** SOCIAL GRAPHIC - GRASS CYCLING

**Image:** GRASS CYCLING 1.png

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**Reusable Bag Education Program**

5 Points

**Program Summary:** To drive awareness of the May 4th legislation, we launched a student-focused art contest where we asked our students to create a piece of art representative of the ban and what it means to them. We had 50+ submissions from all of our public schools. Winning art is going to be printed on reusable shopping bags and distributed at the town Carnival in June. At the end of 2021 and into 2022 we posted 8+ times on social media about Bag Up NJ and the impending May 4th legislation. We also teamed up with Franklin Lakes and Wyckoff (FLOW Towns) to host the screening of four (4) films in May and June 2022. On May 17th at the Wyckoff Public Library, multiple short films were screened that focused on plastic single-use plastic is - a discussion followed. Lastly, we communicated Bag Up NJ messaging on our town LED sign in the center of town (on rotation with other messaging for ~2 months) and also were able to leverage billboard space that our town receives along the 287 corridor. Impressions for a 4 week flight were upwards of 1.4 million and we had the Bag Up NJ ad up since Mid-March - generating several million impressions for the campaign. Billboard 470 - 625,668 impressions - GeoPath OOH Ratings A1B - Billboard 471 - 792,800 impressions - GeoPath OOH Ratings A1B.

**Image:** SOCIAL POST 1.png

**Image:** BAG UP NJ ART CONTEST POST.png

**Image:** SOCIAL POST 4.png