



**Memorandum
Township of Plainsboro
Department of Planning and Zoning**

To: Mayor and Township Committee
Anthony Cancro, Township Administrator

From: Bonnie N. Flynn, Director of Planning & Community Development

Date: May 14, 2024

Subject: Sustainable Jersey Recertification
∴ Resolution to Reestablish Environmental Advisory Committee as the
Green Team
∴ Resolution Reaffirming our Sustainable Land Use Pledge

Requested Meeting Date: May 22, 2024 - Agenda Meeting for Action/Adoption

As you may remember, the Township has achieved a Bronze level certification in Sustainable Jersey's rating program and was last certified in October 2021. The Township is required to provide various documents and information in order to apply for renewal of the certification which expires this year. At this time, we need to reestablish our Green Team and reaffirm our commitment with a sustainable land use pledge. These resolutions were both done in 2021.

Certification is based on a point system within various categories and is done every three years. Below is a list of the points we received in 2021 which we hope to achieve for this certification cycle along with the criteria for each level. We always strive for additional points and may be able to achieve beyond what is listed here.

The work to achieve and maintain our certification is done by many departments and staff including Neil Blitz and Lenny Celluro and certainly by the guidance and leadership of the Township Committee.

Action	Action Category	Points
Create Green Team (MANDATORY)	Community Partnership & Outreach	10
Emergency Communications Planning	Emergency Management & Resiliency	15
Energy Efficiency for Municipal Facilities (PRIORITY)	Energy	15
Renewable Government Energy Aggregation	Energy	50
Community Gardens	Food	10
Sustainable Land Use Pledge (PRIORITY)	Land Use & Transportation	10
Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Plan	Land Use & Transportation	10
Tree Protection Ordinance	Natural Resources	10
Community Forestry Management Plan & NJUCF Accreditation	Natural Resources	20
Tree Maintenance Programs	Natural Resources	10
Tree Planting Programs	Natural Resources	10
Green Cleaning Products & Motorized Cleaning Equipment	Operations & Maintenance	10
Green Maintenance Equipment and Materials	Operations & Maintenance	10
Municipal Communications Strategy	Public Information & Engagement	10
Online Municipal Public Service Systems	Public Information & Engagement	15
Prescription Drug Safety & Disposal (PRIORITY)	Waste Management	10
Community Paper Shredding Day	Waste Management	5
Household Hazardous Waste	Waste Management	5
Non-Mandated Materials Recycling	Waste Management	5
Recycling Depot	Waste Management	10
Backyard Composting Program	Waste Management	5
Grass - Cut It and Leave It Program	Waste Management	5
		260

Bronze Certification Requirements

Establishment of mandatory green team
 Implement 2 of 13 priority actions
 Complete actions in 6 of 17 categories
 Total of at least 150 points

Silver Certification Requirements

Establishment of mandatory green team
 Implement 3 of 13 priority actions
 Complete actions in 8 of 17 categories
 Total of at least 350 points

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLAINSBORO REAFFIRMING ITS
SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLEDGE**

WHEREAS, the Township of Plainsboro wishes to obtain Sustainable Jersey recertification in 2024 to demonstrate its ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability, and

WHEREAS, thoughtful land use is an essential component to foster sustainability for a municipality, and

WHEREAS, inappropriate land use decisions can lead to and increase societal ills such as decreased mobility, higher housing costs, increased greenhouse gas emissions, loss of open space, and the degradation of natural resources, and

WHEREAS, well-planned land use can create transportation choices, provide for a range of housing options, create walkable communities, preserve open space, provide for adequate recreation, and allow for the continued protection and use of vital natural resources.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Plainsboro Township will resolve to take the following steps regarding municipal land use decisions with the intent of making Plainsboro a truly sustainable community. Plainsboro Township intends to include the following principles in the next Master Plan revision and Reexamination Report, incorporate the principles in its review of land use applications, and to update land use, zoning, and all other applicable ordinances accordingly:

Regional Cooperation – Plainsboro pledges to reach out to neighboring municipalities concerning land use decisions and to take into consideration regional impacts when making land use decisions.

Transportation Choices – Plainsboro pledges to create transportation choices with a Complete Streets approach by considering all modes of transportation including walking, biking, transit, and automobiles when conceiving transportation projects and reviewing development applications. Further, the Township will reevaluate parking standards with the goal of limiting the number of required spaces, promoting shared parking and other innovative parking alternatives, promote electric vehicle charging stations, and encourage less land consumptive structured parking alternatives where appropriate. Plainsboro will include the above in its updated Circulation Plan Master Plan element that will be updated in 2024.

Natural Resource Protection – Plainsboro pledges to take action to protect the natural resources of the State for environmental, recreational, and agricultural value to avoid or mitigate negative impacts to these resources. Further, the Township pledges to complete a Natural Resources Inventory, when feasible, to identify and assess the extent of the Township's natural resource management and protection to carrying capacity analysis, land use, and open space planning.

Mix of Land Uses – Plainsboro pledges to use its zoning powers to allow for a mix of residential, retail, commercial, recreational, and other land use types in areas that make the

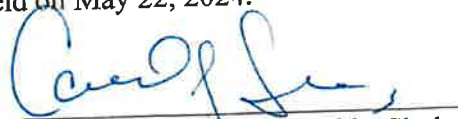
most sense for our multi-family, for sale, and rental options to meet the needs of all people at a range of income levels. Plainsboro has been working with three different developers to create vibrant mixed-use neighborhoods, and site plans are expected in 2024. These plans will include housing, retail, office, hotel and various recreational amenities and open space.

Housing Options – Plainsboro pledges, through its use of zoning and revenue generating powers, to foster a diverse mix of housing types and locations, including single and multi-family and for sale and rental options, to meet the needs of all people at a range of income levels. The anticipated mixed-use communities will include various housing types along with affordable housing options.

Green Design – Plainsboro pledges to incorporate the principles of green design and renewable energy generation into municipal buildings, to the extent feasible, and when updating our site plan and subdivision requirements for residential and commercial buildings.

Municipal Facilities Siting – Plainsboro pledges, to the extent feasible, to take into consideration factors such as walkability, bike-ability, greater access to public transit, proximity to other land use types, and open space when locating new or relocated municipal facilities.

I certify the above to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Plainsboro at a meeting held on May 22, 2024.


Carol J. Torres, Township Clerk

**REESTABLISHING THE TOWNSHIP'S ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE AS THE SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GREEN TEAM**

WHEREAS, the Township Committee strives to save tax dollars, ensure clean air and water, and improve working and living environments to build a community that is sustainable economically, environmentally, and socially; a community which would thrive well into the future; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee wishes to build a model of government which benefits our residents with green initiatives which are easy to replicate and affordable to implement; and

WHEREAS, to focus attention on environmental issues, the Township Committee wishes to re-establish a Green Team Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Advisory Committee was created by the Township Committee in 1985 as described in Chapter 16 of the Township Code; and

WHEREAS, as stipulated in Chapter 16, the Environmental Advisory Committee shall consist of seven members representing a broad range of environmental interests; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Advisory Committee, will, to the extent practical, provide a direct liaison to the Township's Planning Board; and

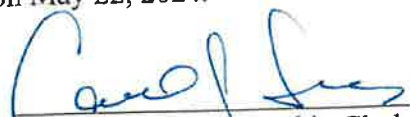
WHEREAS, the Environmental Advisory Committee will also have a member of the Township Committee as a member; and

WHEREAS, the purpose and function of the Environmental Advisory Committee is to serve as a community advocate for environmental issues, working within the framework of established procedures in the community;

WHEREAS, the Environmental Advisory Committee shall be deemed to be in, but not part of, the Department of Planning and Zoning.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Plainsboro Township Committee designates the Environmental Advisory Committee to assume the role as the Green Team for purposes of becoming and sustaining certification as a Sustainable Jersey community in accordance with the goals and objectives set forth by Sustainable Jersey.

I certify the above to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Plainsboro at a meeting held on May 22, 2024.


Carol J. Torres, Township Clerk