MEDIA RELEASE

Sustainable Jersey Announces 2014 Municipal Champions
Cape May, Cherry Hill, Hightstown, Princeton, Summit, Warren Twp. and West Windsor

Trenton, NJ (November 11, 2014) – Today, Sustainable Jersey announced the recipients of the 2014 Sustainable Jersey municipal awards in four categories: 1) Sustainability Champions, 2) Creativity & Innovation, 3) Leadership and 4) Collaboration. Award recipients are selected from the 81 municipalities that achieved certification in 2014.

The Sustainability Champion award recognizes municipalities that have scored the most points in the Sustainable Jersey certification program in three population categories. These towns far exceeded the minimum requirement of 150 points for bronze-level certification. The 2014 Sustainability Champion award recipients are:

- SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION (SMALL CATEGORY) with 545 points: Cape May City (Cape May County)
- SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION (MEDIUM CATEGORY) with 475 points: Summit (Union County)
- SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION (LARGE CATEGORY) with 410 points: Cherry Hill (Camden County)

The 2014 Sustainable Jersey special award winners are:

- LEADERSHIP AWARD: Princeton (Mercer County)
- CREATIVITY & INNOVATION AWARD: Warren Township (Somerset County)
- COLLABORATION AWARD: Hightstown and West Windsor (Mercer County)

Mayors from these outstanding municipalities will accept their awards at the Sustainable Jersey Annual Luncheon during the New Jersey League of Municipalities’ Conference on Tuesday, November 18, 2014. “The Sustainable Jersey municipal awards recognize the outstanding work being done at the local level,” said Randall Solomon, who co-directs Sustainable Jersey with Donna Drewes. “We are extremely impressed by the innovative and effective sustainability programs and initiatives of these towns. They deserve to be commended for their accomplishments and we’re looking forward to sharing their work at the awards luncheon.”

Over three hundred people will attend the ceremony to see the town mayors accept their awards; the Sustainable Jersey Annual Awards Luncheon at the New Jersey League of Municipalities’ Conference will take place on Tuesday, November 18, 2014. The event is open to the public, but reservations are required, as it usually sells out.

MUNICIPAL WINNERS

Cape May City - 2014 Sustainability Champion

Cape May City has scored the most points in the Sustainable Jersey certification program in the small population category, and has the most points overall with 545 points for this certification cycle. Cape May City has previously earned this distinction in 2011 and 2012.

“The Sustainable Jersey program has provided the City of Cape May with the opportunity, technical assistance, and resources to plan, develop, and implement a long-range, comprehensive, and integrated program to ensure the sustainability, affordability, and resiliency of “The Nation’s Oldest Seashore Resort.”” - Dr. Edward J. Mahaney, Jr., Mayor, Cape May City
**Summit – 2014 Sustainability Champion**

Summit has scored the most points in the Sustainable Jersey certification program in the medium population category with 475 points for this certification cycle. Summit has previously earned this distinction in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

“It is wonderful to be in a City where we are working together to create a sustainable future. Being awarded Sustainable Jersey Champion status for the fourth time and a Silver Certification for the third time is recognition of our outstanding work toward this important goal. We are thankful to Sustainable Jersey for its support and recognition, and this award.”

- Ellen Dickson, Mayor, Summit

**Cherry Hill – 2014 Sustainability Champion**

Cherry Hill has scored the most points in the Sustainable Jersey certification program in the large population category with 410 points for this certification cycle.

“Cherry Hill Township is proud to be named a Sustainable Champion for 2014. Over the last several years, our entire community – our residents, businesses, community groups, and government – have come together and truly embraced the concept of sustainability, and this is the wonderful culmination of those efforts. From Cherry Hill’s robust recycling and e-waste program, to our Mayor’s Wellness Campaign, to our support of local businesses, “sustainability” is about so much more than just recycling. We are building a healthier, more vibrant community, in all senses of the word, and we work hard to incorporate the principals of sustainability into everything that we do. Cherry Hill is a wonderful place to live and raise a family, and we want it to stay that way for generations to come.”

- Chuck Cahn, Mayor, Cherry Hill Township

**Princeton – 2014 Sustainable Jersey Leadership Award**

Princeton is a role model for towns. It has been an early adopter in the Sustainable Jersey program, demonstrating commitment and leadership by developing innovative waste reduction programs, fostering collaboration with local organizations and neighboring towns, and providing inspiration, mentoring, support and leadership to advance sustainability. Princeton was selected as the Leadership Award recipient based on their commitment and dedication to community education and outreach initiatives within their town. A variety of events, such as the Great Ideas Breakfasts, Sustainable Leadership Awards, and regular use of social media and website announcements keep residents informed and engaged in sustainability initiatives in the town.

“Princeton is thrilled to be the recipient of this year's Sustainable Jersey Leadership Award which recognizes our efforts to reduce waste and energy use to conserve resources, improve the environment, and save money. Princeton is proud to be the first municipality in the state to offer residents curbside pickup of compostables. Hundreds of tons of valuable organic material have been converted into compost instead of taking up space at the landfill. We have facilitated savings on the utility bills of our residents and businesses through low cost energy audits. Earlier this year we were named a Bike Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists in recognition of our efforts to make Princeton a great place to get around by bike. Princeton is fortunate to have passionate volunteers and community organizations working in partnership with the municipality to move sustainability to the forefront of our agenda. And while we are proud to receive the award, we recognize we still have much to do. It is through continued partnerships and working together that we will continue to make progress towards sustainability.”

- Liz Lempert, Mayor of Princeton

**Warren Township – 2014 Sustainable Jersey Creativity and Innovation Award**

Warren Township was selected for the creation of the mobile Hazard Tracker App to proactively identify utility hazards as an emergency management tool prior to the arrival of a significant weather-related event. This app can be used by other municipalities to become a more resilient community.

“On behalf of the Township Committee and the residents of Warren Township, I wish to extend my appreciation to Sustainable Jersey for recognizing the work of the Warren Township Utility Advisory Committee in establishing the
Hazard Tracker app. The results of the work of the Utility Advisory Committee will insure that Warren is safer and storm resilient. The Hazard Tracker application was developed by the Utility Advisory Committee appointed by 2012 Mayor Carolann Garafola and under the leadership of Committeeman George Lazo. The Committee was chaired by Robert Morrison and Judy Weiniger. The committee in conjunction with Dr. Janne Lindqvist and his team at the Rutgers University WINLAB and the department of Computer and Electrical Engineering developed the application. I also wish to thank the Warren Township Green Team under the leadership of Laura Mandell without their work in achieving the silver-level of certification recognition by Sustainable Jersey would be unlikely.” - Gary DiNardo Mayor Warren Township

**Hightstown and West Windsor – 2014 Sustainable Jersey Collaboration Award**

Hightstown Borough and West Windsor Township were selected for this award to recognize their inter-local agreement to share health care services. As part of this agreement, the towns' health department informs residents about the safe disposal of prescription drugs, and provides a centralized drop off site at the West Windsor Police Station. Introduced as a new action in January 2014, to help keep harmful drugs out of the waste stream, the "Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal" action is one of 11 Sustainable Jersey priority actions.

"On behalf of the West Windsor Health and Human Services Department and Health Officer Jill Swanson, it is an honor to receive this award. The sharing of Public Health Services between communities has proved, by exemplary performance and results, that shared services is a cost effective and efficient way of carrying out the day to day operations of our Health Department.” - Shing-Fu Hsueh, Mayor of West Windsor

**ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE JERSEY AWARDS**

**Sustainability Champion Award**
This award recognizes municipalities that have scored the most points in the Sustainable Jersey certification program in three population categories: small (0-4,999), medium (5,000-39,999) and large (40,000+).

**Leadership Award**
This award recognizes one municipality that contributes most to the Sustainable Jersey program through demonstrated regional or statewide leadership. This award recognizes sustainability efforts that make the most of local resources through exceptional dedication and leadership.

**Creativity and Innovation Award**
This award recognizes one municipality that contributes most to Sustainable Jersey by pioneering or testing a significant innovation and/or incorporating creativity and the arts into their sustainability efforts. The award recognizes the development of community and social capital through creation of a culture of creativity, originality, and forward-thinking that can lead to new best practices and strategies by which we pursue sustainability.

**Collaboration Award**
This award recognizes municipalities that worked together or a municipality that partners with other organizations to implement a program or project. This award recognizes that many sustainability issues must be addressed on a regional scale or require the pooled resources of more than one partner.

**6th Annual Sustainable Jersey Awards Luncheon: Tuesday, November 18, 2014**
Sheraton Atlantic City Convention Center Hotel; THE CROWN BALL ROOM, 2ND FLOOR
12 noon to 1:30 pm (Doors open at 11:45 am); For more info on the luncheon: [www.sustainablejersey.com](http://www.sustainablejersey.com)

**Networking Session:** Arrive at 11:00am and enjoy informal conversation over coffee with others working to improve the quality of life in New Jersey. The networking session sponsor is Good Energy.

**About Sustainable Jersey**
Sustainable Jersey is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support communities as they pursue sustainability programs. Currently, 417 of New Jersey’s 565 municipalities are participating in the sustainability certification program. In October, 2014 the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program was launched in partnership with New Jersey School Boards Association and other statewide educational organizations.

Sustainable Jersey’s partners include the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, The Sustainability Institute at The College of New Jersey, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) Clean Energy Program. Program underwriters include the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Surdna Foundation and BPU. Sustainable Jersey Small Grants program cycles have been underwritten by Walmart, PSEG, Gardinier Environmental Fund and the New Jersey Department of Health. Sponsors include South Jersey Gas, New Jersey Natural Gas, Church and Dwight, Covanta, Energy Solve, Terhune Orchards, Bayshore Recycling, Good Energy, EcoMatters, Spiezle Architectural Group, Waste Management of New Jersey, Pennoni Associates, Inc., Investors Bank, Concord Engineering and Gabel Associates. Sustainable Jersey for School’s is underwritten by the New Jersey Association of School Boards and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) Clean Energy Program. The Sustainable Jersey for Schools founding sponsors are South Jersey Gas, New Jersey Natural Gas and NJM Insurance Group. Additional support is provided by the Foundation for Educational Advancement, Bayer and Pennoni Associates.

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