

# Sustainable Jersey

Continued from Page 36

Sustainable Jersey, as a press release explains, "is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support communities as they pursue sustainability programs."

To become Sustainable Jersey certified, municipalities must submit documentation to show completion of "a balance of the required sustainability actions, meeting a minimum of 150 action points to be certified at the bronze level." In addition, communities must create a green team and select at least two out of 11 priority action options, such as energy tracking and management, climate adaptation, creation of a water conservation ordinance, implementation of a prescription drug safety and disposal program, and various other items.

According to Andersen, qualifying projects in Long Beach Township included energy-efficient upgrades at the municipal complex, the installation of public water refilling stations throughout the municipality "to reduce plastic litter and encourage our health-conscious community to be more innovative" and expansion of and improvements to the township recycling depot, as well as more complex long-term planning and resiliency projects.

The rain barrel installed outside town hall and the LBI free shuttle buses were also recognized.

"Becoming Sustainable Jersey certified is a significant achievement," said Pam Mount, chairwoman of the Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees. "The certified towns demonstrate tremendous leadership and are a testament to how much we can accomplish with impressive sustainability initiatives in New Jersey."

"Collectively the 417 participating Sustainable Jersey towns are a powerful force in New Jersey," stated Donna Drewes, co-director of the Sustainable Jersey program.

"That's a nice designation that we recently received," remarked township Commissioner Ralph Bayard at last Friday's board of commissioners meeting. "To tell you how difficult it is ... there's only one other town in Ocean County that has become a Sustainable Jersey municipality, and that's Manchester."

As Andersen remarked, "We have always worked, and will continue to work, toward sustainability, but it is nice to be recognized in a state platform for all of the hard work and dedication.

"We continued working on actions through Sandy - a time which shifted our gears but made our resolve that much stronger to rebuild and unify our community. Sustainability and resilience are new words in our everyday language now.

"I would encourage other towns on the Island to participate in Sustainable Jersey as an amazing resource, including grants, webinars and professional networking across the state," she added. —J.K.-H.

## Long Beach Achieves Sustainable Jersey Certification

Long Beach Township was informed last week it has met the rigorous requirements to achieve Sustainable Jersey certification. The township is one of 142 towns, out of 417 registered municipalities, to attain bronze certification, and will be honored at the Sustainable Jersey awards luncheon in Atlantic City on Tuesday, Nov. 18.

"A lot of effort by a lot of people went into getting this certification," said township recycling/Clean Communities coordinator Angela C. Andersen, who registered the municipality with Sustainable Jersey in 2009, shortly after it launched.

"The mayor and commissioners are very supportive of the work that is generated in my office, which made implementing the sustainable actions for Long Beach the easy part," she continued. "Assembling the application for Sustainable Jersey is time consuming, which is why it took so long to get the certified designation."

Continued on Page 54