



MEDIA RELEASE

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Contact: North Jersey

River Edge Earns Prestigious Sustainable Jersey Certification

River Edge, NJ – Sustainable Jersey representatives announced that River Edge has met the rigorous requirements to achieve Sustainable Jersey certification. River Edge is one of is one of 100 towns that have attained certification in 2019. Sustainable Jersey's participating communities represent over half the state's municipalities and nearly 90 percent of its population.

Mayor Thomas R. Papaleo

As your Mayor, I recognize, as do our residents that it is in all of our best interests to create a more sustainable New Jersey. Few efforts reap the benefits of clean air, fresh water, waterways filled with fish, garbage in its proper place, clean energy options, parks and open space and a healthy place to work and live. The big question is how do we achieve this as a state? Sustainable Jersey program provides a framework for municipalities to follow to become more sustainable. Our River Edge Green Team has been working on our behalf to help promote and achieve this goal. There are so many to thank and to acknowledge, but a few stand out. Many thanks to Bonnie Stewart, who is the Chair of the Green Team, Elizabeth "Liz" Steward from the Shade Tree Commission, Laura Hoogstrate from Environmental Commission, and our elected town council who had to provide ordinances, especially Councilwoman and past mayor Ellen Busteded

To become Sustainable Jersey certified, River Edge submitted documentation to show it had completed a balance of the required sustainability actions, meeting a minimum of 150 action points. In addition to reaching 150 points, each certified community had to create a green team and select at least two out of 12 priority action options. River Edge did complete 3 of the 12 priority actions by completing a Green Team, Prescription Drug safety and disposal program, Recycling and Waste reduction education and compliance. River Edge earned a total of 175 points of the 150 mandatory for the Bronze award. Other points earned were for, Environmental Commission, Community Forestry Management Plan NJUCF accredited, Tree Planting programs, Tree hazard programs, Community paper shredder day, Recycle Deport, Waste Reduction, Recycle and waste reduction education and compliance, Innovative Community project (Montclair State College survey), Building healthier communities, Community Gardens which we received a Sustainable Jersey Grant for

"Congratulations to the municipal staff, green team volunteers and community members who have worked hard to achieve Sustainable Jersey certification," said Randy Solomon, the executive director of Sustainable Jersey. "The Sustainable Jersey certified towns demonstrate leadership and are a testament to how much we can accomplish toward the long-term goal of a sustainable New Jersey." Certified towns excelled in areas such as improving energy efficiency and health and wellness, reducing waste, sustaining local economies, protecting natural resources and advancing the arts. Collectively, the 453 participating Sustainable Jersey towns are a powerful force in New Jersey.

About Sustainable Jersey

Sustainable Jersey provides tools, training and financial incentives to support communities as they pursue sustainability programs. Currently, 80 percent or 453 of New Jersey's 565 municipalities are participating in the

municipal certification program and 345 school districts and 896 schools are participating in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification program.

Sustainable Jersey's partners include the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, Sustainability Institute at The College of New Jersey, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Clean Energy Program. Program underwriters include the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Clean Energy Program, the PSEG Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The Sustainable Jersey Grants program for municipalities is funded by PSEG Foundation and the Gardinier Environmental Fund. Platinum sponsors are South Jersey Gas, New Jersey Natural Gas and PSEG. The Gold Sponsor is Elizabethtown Gas. Silver Sponsors are NJM Insurance Group, Bayshore Recycling, Northfield Bank, New Jersey American Water, Jersey Central Power & Light, Atlantic Health System and Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey. The Bronze Sponsors are Covanta, Greener by Design, Ørsted, Florio, Perrucci, Steinhardt & Cappelli LLC, First Environment, Roux Associates, Republic Services, The ECG Group, Bryan Electric and Red Oak Power.

Website: www.SustainableJersey.com; www.SustainableJerseySchools.com

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