

Madison 'green team' wins bronze

MADISON - The statewide program Sustainable Jersey disclosed Nov. 4 that the Borough of Madison has been recognized as a "sustainable" community, achieving a bronze level of certification.

The official award will be presented to the municipality on Nov. 16 at the New Jersey State League of Municipalities' convention in Atlantic City.

Sustainable Jersey is a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey that want to "go green," save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term.

Madison is now one of 65 certified communities in New Jersey; 34 were certified in the first round last year.

Madison's "green team," officially known as Madison 2020, numbers more than 50 sustainability-focused residents led by three members of the Environmental Commission: James Greene, Betsy Uhlman and James Burnet, the borough's assistant business administrator.

During 2010, its focus has been on obtaining Sustainable Jersey certification by amassing points toward a comprehensive application that covered a seven-month process. To reach just the "bronze" level, the borough needed to achieve at least 150 award points for its Madison 2020 activities. Madison 2020 sought recognition in categories totaling 240 points, and was recognized for 230 of them.

Actions contributing to the point total included:

- Creating a "green team," officially "Madison 2020, A clear vision for a sustainable future;"
- Inaugurating a "Green Fair" with environmentally-friendly and energy-saving practices and products;



Members of Madison 2020, also known as "the green team," gathered in October to celebrate their submission for certification. From left are C.K. Khanna, Sandy Kolakowski, Chris Kellogg, Madison Borough Council President Jeanni Stephan Stocker, Betsy Uhlman, James Greene, Borough Councilwoman Astri Baillie, and Paul Allocco, head of the

• Promoting an anti-idling program, conducted as an Eagle Scout project, in Madison schools and throughout the community;

• Developing Madison's tree planting, inventory, canopy and hazardous tree program;

• The volunteer project that installed an "outdoor education classroom" at the Madison Junior School on Main Street as a setting for "sustainable" education;

• Promoting the adoption of sustainability-related land use ordinances;

• Starting a backyard composting program and hosting composter and rain barrel sales;

• Conducting an energy audit of a municipal building and initiating a contract to make recommended energy improvements that will pay back Madison's investment in a year and save up to \$30,000 annually thereafter;

• Continuing and promoting programs already in place, such as the Madison Farmers' Market; the "If You Love Madison, Shop Madison" campaign to encourage buying locally; the Mayors Wellness Campaign that includes the Rose City Steppers walking club; and the Joint Meeting Sewer Authority shared with Chatham Borough.

"We are delighted to be recognized as a Sustainable Jersey community," said Madison 2020

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Inc

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cial as well with a few new energy improvements.

"For instance, Madison 2020 identified a possible \$30,000-a-year savings following an audit and proposed upgrade of just one of our municipal facilities," she added. "There's so much more to do."

'Thrilling' Success

Mayor Mary-Anna Holden concurred. "This is an effort that attracted so many volunteers collaborating their individual interests in a community-wide conservation effort. It is thrilling to see success in such a short time.

"I envision the day when the 2020 team has its own squad corps potential for each interest - whether solar, recycling, community gardening, preservation, trees, rain gardens," the mayor said. "I may be biased but Madison is the quintessential sustainable community with its combination of work opportunities, access to transit and good health care, walkability, a vibrant downtown, exceptional cultural institutions - schools, library, arts, theatre - great active and passive recreational prospects, superior government services and its valued volunteers - all contained right here at home.

"I salute the volunteers and the leadership of Betsy, Jim and Jim, on this achievement and look forward to even greater community involvement in 2011 and obtaining Silver certification," Mayor Holden added. "We're a mere 120 points away."

Increasing certification levels improve Madison's chances of winning grants to implement programs. For information, visit www.Madison2020.org or e-mail buhlman@aol.com.

also known as "the green team," gathered in October to celebrate their submission for Sustainable Jersey Certification. From left to right: Mayor Mary-Anna Holden, Sandy Kolakowski, Chris Kellogg, Madison Borough Council President Jeannie Tsukamoto, Nancy Kuster, James Greene, Borough Councilwoman Astri Baillie, and Paul Allocco, head of the Parks Advisory Committee.

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co-chairperson Betsy Uhlman. "Madison has a wealth of resources, starting with its residents, who can continue to have an extraordinary quality of life, in a sustainable way. Finding ways to save money while implementing 'green actions' is the win-win we seek with Madison 2020. Working closely with the mayor and council and the borough administration will bring us more opportunities to find not only energy savings, but finan-

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