



MEDIA RELEASE

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Contact: Susan Lapkin, 732-446-8303, slapkin@mtnj.org

Manalapan Township Achieves Sustainable Jersey™ Certification

Manalapan, NJ (December 14, 2009) – Sustainable Jersey representatives announced that **Manalapan** has met the rigorous requirements to achieve Sustainable Jersey Certification. **Manalapan** is one of 32 towns out of the 240 registered municipalities that have attained certification in the first year of the program. **Manalapan** was recently honored at the Sustainable Jersey awards luncheon on Tuesday, November 17th. Members of the Governing Body and Manalapan Township Green Team were in attendance to accept the award.

“We are so proud to be one of the 1st towns in New Jersey to receive this award and one of only three in Monmouth County. Our Green Team is dedicated to continue to bring innovative and sustainable solutions to control costs, save money, and take steps to maintain the quality of life over the long term in Manalapan Township. This is a great honor”, said Committeeman and Green Team member Andrew Lucas

To become Sustainable Jersey certified, **Manalapan** submitted documentation to show it had completed a balance of the required sustainability actions, meeting a minimum of 100 action points. In addition to reaching 100 points, each community had to create a Green Team and select at least 2 out of 4 priority action options. **Manalapan** accomplished this by completing a Township Energy Audits of all Municipal Facilities, and fulfilling a Sustainable Land Use Pledge.

“The 2009 certified towns are the Sustainable Jersey pioneers that can forever boast that they were the first, having achieved certification in the year one of the program,” said Fred Profeta, Maplewood’s Deputy Mayor for the Environment and Chair of the New Jersey League of Municipalities’ Mayors Committee for a Green Future. “We had more than two-hundred and fifty people attending the awards luncheon to salute the first-rate municipalities that have led the way in developing sustainability initiatives in New Jersey.”

Certified towns excelled in areas such as improving energy efficiency and health and wellness, smart land use and transportation, reducing waste, sustaining local economies, protecting natural resources, and addressing diversity and equity. "These are exceptional towns with outstanding programs that set an example for all of us because they have taken the responsibility to cultivate a better environment," said Randall Solomon, Sustainable Jersey program partner and Executive Director of the New Jersey Sustainable State Institute at Rutgers University. Sustainable Jersey program partner Donna Drewes, of the Municipal Land Use Center at The College of New Jersey, congratulated the certified towns. "Our winners are municipal leaders that are making extraordinary contributions toward the long-term goal of a sustainable New Jersey and world."

New Jersey is the first state in the nation to have a comprehensive sustainability program for communities that links certification with strong state and private financial incentives, and a fully resourced program of technical support and training.



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