

Middle Township Gazette

[Middle Township on its way to being Sustainable Jersey certified](#)

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MIDDLE TOWNSHIP – The township’s involvement with Sustainable Jersey has brought the community together, according to Mayor Susan DeLanzo.

“And that’s so important today,” she said.

In late October, the township held a cleanup day, as part of the process in becoming Sustainable Jersey certified. The event included residents helping to beautify several areas of the township.

Sustainable Jersey is partly focused on cost-savings realized through energy efficiency, conserving natural resources and having a strong economy, according to township planner Elizabeth A. Terenik, of Terenik Land Use Consulting of Cape May Court House.

Middle Township is expected to receive the bronze certification next year. Terenik said paperwork needs to be sent in by early January.

To reach the bronze standing, the township needs 150 points. The township earns points through projects, for example.

“They’re really good goals and good actions,” Terenik said.

Among the township’s accomplishments have included having an energy audit, which was completed earlier this year; its recycling programs, such as paper-shredding events; and a renewable energy ordinance. That ordinance aims to promote “the safe, effective and efficient use of small scale wind, solar and other renewable energy systems to reduce the on-site consumption of utility-supplied electricity.”

“Many of the sustainable actions outlined in the program are activities that the township has done for a long time, like having a recycling depot and the memorial tree planning program, or recently completed, such as the energy audit of Township Hall, and the adoption of wind and solar regulations,” according to a document prepared by Terenik.

The township registered with Sustainable Jersey in April 2009, and the Environmental Commission has pushed toward the certification goal.

Being certified bring will mean the township will gain access to grant money, DeLanzo said.

The township won’t stop at a bronze certification, though. The long-term goal is 350 points for the silver certification, according to Terenik.

Besides Middle Township, Upper Township, Dennis Township, Avalon, Stone Harbor, Cape May Point and West Cape May are in the process of being certified, according to the Sustainable Jersey website.

Meanwhile, Lower Township, Woodbine, Ocean City and Cape May are already Sustainable Jersey certified.

Sustainable Jersey was the developed by the State League of Municipalities, the College of New Jersey, the state Department of Environmental Protection and the state Board of Public Utilities.

For more information about Sustainable Jersey, see www.sustainablejersey.com.
