



## TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM

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A Sustainable Jersey™ Certified Municipality



Chatham Township Environmental Commission (CTEC)  
Website: [www.chathamtownship.org/CTEC/index.html](http://www.chathamtownship.org/CTEC/index.html)  
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### MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 8, 2010

Contact: Pat Collington, Chatham Township, [ctec@chathamtownship.org](mailto:ctec@chathamtownship.org), 973-635-4600

## Chatham Township Wins 2010 Sustainable Jersey™ \$25,000 Grant to Fund Chatham Township's School Food *On-Site Composting Program*

**Chatham Township, NJ (September 8, 2010)** – Sustainable Jersey representatives announced today that Chatham Township has been awarded a Sustainable Jersey Small Grant. Chatham Township is one of only four municipalities in New Jersey to receive a Sustainable Jersey Small Grant at the \$25,000 level. The 2010 Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program funded by Walmart is providing \$220,000 in grants to local governments for sustainability projects.

“We are very excited and thankful to be awarded the \$25,000 Sustainable Jersey Grant, and to immediately be able to reduce our food waste by funding the purchase of a “Rocket® Composter” from NATH *Sustainable Solutions*,” said Chatham Township Mayor Nicole Hagner. “This grant will allow educational and outreach opportunities in addition to improving our community recycling. As a Bronze Level Sustainable Jersey Certified Municipality, we look forward to the economic and environmental benefits of this project. The members of our Green Team have been very successful in meeting Chatham Township's commitment to being a Sustainable Community. I would like to recognize and congratulate our resident volunteers of the Green Team for all their hard work.”

The first of its kind in the nation, the *Chatham Township On-Site School Food Composting Program* will help to set an example for other municipalities, school districts, and institutions wanting economical, efficient, and educational composting programs in their communities.

Chatham Township Green Team member and Environmental Commissioner Pat Collington explained that the Chatham Township Program “will be twofold: purchase of an institutional size, indoor composter from NATH *Sustainable Solutions* for our public school district, and expansion of our present composting education and outreach program for both our school population and our community members. Chatham Township’s current residential backyard composting program-- “Save it to Spade it Program”—has been very successful and we are now ready to bring large scale on-site composting to our public schools.”

“On-site composting is seen as the next frontier in recycling and waste management,” said Chatham Township Environmental Commission Vice Chairwoman Kathy Abbott.

“The school district expresses appreciation and support for this municipality grant opportunity” said School District of The Chathams’ Superintendent Jim O’Neill. “The *Rocket Composter* is expected to be a unique hands-on addition to the curriculum of the district and a step forward in our reducing our contribution to the waste stream.”

Gerardo Soto, Managing Director of NATH Sustainable Solutions, said “This is a great opportunity to create sustainable habits for our future generations. When giving compost back to the soil, students learn and develop the habit of sustainability, a valuable practice for the rest of their lives.”

For more information about Chatham Township’s On-Site School Food Composting Program contact the Chatham Township Environmental Commission at [ctec@chathamtownship.org](mailto:ctec@chathamtownship.org) or call Commissioner Pat Collington, CTEC Community Education & Outreach Committee Chair at 973-635-4600.

This is the second year that Walmart has funded the grants program, bringing their total contribution over two years to \$420,000. “As a result of the success of this grant program last year, Walmart is proud to again sponsor the Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program,” said Jennifer Hoehn, Walmart Senior Manager of Public Affairs for the state of New Jersey. “These grants are a perfect example of the public and private sectors working together for the greater good and there is no greater good than improving the environment.” Ms. Hoehn added.

Sustainable Jersey program partner Randall Solomon, of the [Municipal Land Use Center at The College of New Jersey](#), congratulated the winning towns. “These communities will implement sustainability projects that will serve as practical models for the rest of the State while making measurable contributions toward the long-term goal of a sustainable New Jersey.”

The Sustainable Jersey grants are intended to help local governments make progress toward a sustainable future in general, and specifically in the Sustainable Jersey certification. Half of New Jersey’s municipalities (50%-or 285 towns across all 21 counties) are registered and now working on becoming Sustainable Jersey certified. “The impact that these projects will make in New Jersey is incredible. Funding green initiatives at the community level will have a ripple effect that will benefit us all,” said Fred Profeta, Jr., Chair of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities’ Mayors’ Committee for a Green Future

Chatham Township achieved the Sustainable Jersey certification in 2009 and is currently a Bronze Level Sustainable Jersey-Certified Municipality.

### **About Sustainable Jersey**

[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. 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. Half of New Jersey’s municipalities (50%-or 285 towns across all 21 counties) have registered to become Sustainable Jersey certified. By supporting community efforts to reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and improve the environmental daily, Sustainable Jersey is empowering New Jersey towns to build a better world for future generations.

Sustainable Jersey is a collaborative effort between the New Jersey State League of Municipalities’ Mayors’ Committee for a Green Future and the Municipal Land Use Center at The College of New Jersey, in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. The policies and other substantive contents of the program are developed through a transparent participatory process involving NGOs, academics, government, and the business community. Program sponsors include the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, PSEG Foundation, New Jersey Natural Gas, Church and Dwight, Covanta Energy, Elizabethtown Gas, Nautilus Solar, the Smart Energy Group, United Water, Verizon and CDS-Xerox.

For more info, visit [www.sustainablejersey.com](http://www.sustainablejersey.com).

**2010 Recipients of \$25,000 Sustainable Jersey Project Grants**

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Project</i>
CHATHAM TOWNSHIP <i>Sustainable Jersey Certified</i>	Morris County	School Food On-Site Composting
LONG BRANCH CITY	Monmouth County	Model Green Ordinances
MONTCLAIR TOWNSHIP <i>Sustainable Jersey Certified</i>	Essex County	Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
RUTHERFORD BOROUGH <i>Sustainable Jersey Certified</i>	Bergen County	Community Teaching Garden



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