

Municipal Adoption of Smart Growth Tools: Sustainable Jersey and Transit Villages

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. The program, which was launched in 2009, is run by a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support and reward communities as they pursue sustainability programs. The Bronze Level of certification requires the establishment of a mandatory Green Team, implementation of 2 out of 12 Priority Actions, and a total of 150 points. Actions must be completed in 6 of 18 categories. The Silver Level of certification requires the establishment of a mandatory Green Team, implementation of 3 out of 12 Priority Actions, and a total of 350 points. Actions must be completed in 8 of 18 categories. More information at: <http://www.sustainablejersey.com/>

The Transit Village Initiative, spearheaded by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) and NJ TRANSIT, designates transit villages in New Jersey that have met criteria showing a willingness to grow around transit. Municipal applicants must have an adopted Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) ordinance or TOD redevelopment plan, specific TOD sites and projects, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and placemaking around the station, among other criteria. More information at: <http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/community/village/>

