

Hopewell Township Environmental Newsletter

A Publication of the Environmental Commission

Environmental Commission Members

Jerry Lewis - Chair

Jane Hankins - Vice Chair

Beth McClain - Secretary

Ken Strait - Liaison to Land Use Board

Burt Doremus

Marion Carll

Public Meetings

The Hopewell Township Environmental Commission meets the second Wednesday of each month @7:00 PM except for the November and December meetings which are held on the first Wednesday of the month. All are welcome to attend.



<https://www.bagupnj.com>

Pathways to Sustainable Communities

What is a Sustainable Community?

There are different approaches to meet present and future environmental, social and economic needs. Elements of a sustainable community include leadership, civic engagement and responsibility, ecological integrity, economic security, and social well-being.

Environmental efforts at the local level can go a long way to foster sustainability. For example:

- Land use decisions that discourage sprawl development, conserve open space and reduce the burden on natural resources caused by commuting, land clearing, construction, road building and maintenance
- Protecting trees and other vegetation helps absorb carbon emissions and insulate buildings to reduce cooling loads
- Protecting natural water bodies helps ensure the continued availability of drinking water while reducing the need for energy-intensive processing and transportation of drinking water supplies
- Public education programs on energy conservation, vehicle emissions reduction, recycling and other ways people can reduce their carbon footprint
- Designing communities with energy efficient, green buildings
- Protecting habitat and preventing invasive species from degrading biodiversity and planting native species that require fewer resources to thrive helps to foster a healthy, resilient ecosystem

What Can Environmental Commissions Do?

- Help prepare and develop a Sustainability Action Plan
- Adopt Sustainable Policies along with the Township Committee and the Land Use Board
- Create a Green Team with Sustainable Jersey Certification Program
- Conduct Audits and Assessments and Environmental Resource Inventories
- Help educate and encourage residents in ways they can help with sustainability

ANJEC Sustainable Grant for Open Space Use



HTEC received an ANJEC Grant

The Hopewell Township Environmental Commission is working on several projects this year to encourage and educate the public. See the list below and find us on the township website under Departments/Boards & Commissions/Environmental Commission/Newsletters:

- ❖ Plans for a Pollinator Garden @ the Pocket Park on Sewall Road
- ❖ Newsletter _What's Happening Environmentally in the township

- ❖ Continued improvements to the Barrett’s Run and Piney Point Trails and The Open Space Area
- ❖ Hopewell Day
- ❖ Providing continued information regarding the NJ Plastic Pollution Reduction Law

NJ Clean Communities Overview

New Jersey Clean Communities is a statewide, comprehensive, litter-abatement program created by the passage of the Clean Communities Act in 1986. The mission is to reduce litter in public places, promote the volunteer cleanup of public lands and sustain a reduction in litter through education. The Act provides a funding source for the program by placing a tax on fifteen categories businesses that may produce litter generating products. Clean Communities Grant funding is used for educational programs, supporting clean up events and implementing adopt-a-road and mini-grant programs. For more information on the state program visit www.njclean.org.



What can you do to help?



Plastic Pollution harms sea life



Rutgers Environmental Stewards

