Sustainability & Health

An initiative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
A Framework for Action

Sustainable Jersey, circa 2009
Sustainable Jersey for Schools, circa 2014

• Coordinate priorities, resources, and policy among public and private, state and local actors to identify actions to achieve their sustainability goals

• Collaboratively develop **tools, resources, and guidance** to make progress
Benefits of the Sustainable Jersey Program

- Technical assistance
- Connecting communities with existing resources
- Sharing success between communities
- Grants program
- Recognition throughout the year
Grassroots Meets Top-Down

- Municipalities / Schools choose from menu of actions to accumulate points
- Actions created by issue-based Task Forces:
  - subject matter experts
  - local leaders
  - state / federal agencies
  - stakeholders
SUSTAINABLE JERSEY COLLECTIVE IMPACT

89% of NJ population lives in a registered or certified community.

204 municipalities certified
- 55 silver certified
- 149 bronze certified

242 schools certified
- 15 silver certified
- 227 bronze certified

13,000 sustainability actions completed by both municipalities and schools.

55% of NJ public school districts registered with Sustainable Jersey for Schools.

$4.9 million in grants for municipalities, schools, & school districts.
Regional Hubs

- Network of Leaders
- Quarterly Events
  - Trainings
  - Social
  - Service projects
- Shared Models
- Increased Collaboration
- Help Peers Get Certified
- Online Communication Platform
Going for Gold

Gold Star Standards:

✓ Highest level of certification
✓ Recognizes that a municipality is on course to becoming sustainable
✓ Has actions that are linked to needed levels of performance
✓ If every municipality were to perform at the Gold level, collectively municipalities would be “doing their part” to achieve our goals

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Current Gold Stars

• Energy
  – Reduce GHG emissions every year to meet state and global targets

• Waste
  – Achieve state target recycling rate & reduce solid waste every year

• Up next ... Water & Health
“Health Gold” will ...

- Build a Culture of Health
  - Municipal decision making through a health lens
  - Collaboration with community stakeholders
  - Institutionalize procedure

- Address ‘Upstream’ Determinants
  - Tackle the issues impacting public health
  - Influence individual behavior where appropriate
  - Develop programs & policies

- Address Issues of Health Equity

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Foundation of “Health Gold”

• Provide evidence based actions to address a community’s priority issues

• Must be w/in authority & influence of local governments

• Action development
  ✓ Improve existing Sustainable Jersey actions
  ✓ Identify existing best practices to fold into Gold
  ✓ Develop new standards

• Resources to help municipalities implement actions
Steps in the Gold Star Standard in Health (proposed)

STEP 1
Municipal Health Needs Assessment

STEP 2
Municipality Develops Roadmap

STEP 3
Implements Short-Term Slate of Actions

STEP 4
Complete 1st Round of Actions

STEP 5
Gold Star Issued

STEP 6
Re-Certification for Gold Star
Framework of the Gold Star Standard in Health

Municipal Health Needs Assessment

Health Gold Roadmap

*Some sort of evaluation will take place at this stage, TBD

Municipal Governance & Decision-Making

Development Patterns & Built Environment

Environmental Quality

Indiv Wellness & Commun Health

Quality of Life & Local Economy

- Housing
- Transportation & Land Use
- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Other
- Food Access
- Public Safety
- Physical & Mental Wellness

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Questions?

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