



## NEWS RELEASE

### Wayne Township Board of Education

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For Immediate Release

**Contact Information:**  
Mark Toback  
Superintendent of Schools  
(973) 633-3000  
[mtoback@wayneschools.com](mailto:mtoback@wayneschools.com)

### **All Schools in the Wayne Township Public School District Achieve Sustainability Certification**

*83 schools across NJ recognized as sustainability leaders with certification from Sustainable Jersey for Schools*

**Wayne, NJ** – 14 schools in the Wayne Township Public School District have met the rigorous requirements to achieve Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification. These schools join a group of 83 schools that achieved the Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification in 2016. A total of 509 schools and 204 school districts are participating in the program overall.

The 14 schools that have achieved “Bronze” certification are: Albert P. Terhune Elementary School; Anthony Wayne Middle School; Fallon Elementary School; George Washington Middle School; John F. Kennedy Elementary School; Lafayette Elementary School; Packanack Elementary School; Pines Lake Elementary School; Randall Carter Elementary School; Ryerson Elementary School; Schuyler Colfax Middle School; Theunis Dey Elementary School; Wayne Hills High School; and Wayne Valley High School.

Superintendent of Schools Mark Toback commented, “We are extremely proud to receive the prestigious Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification for the second consecutive year. You cannot help but to be impressed with the many ways that the school district has addressed issues of sustainability over the past few years. From traditional efforts like the installation of solar panels and high efficiency furnaces to reduce our carbon footprint, to less visible projects like the installation of school composting equipment, healthy food initiatives, green cleaning, and other educational programs, the Wayne Township Public Schools demonstrated a comprehensive approach to reduce our environmental impact in all of our areas of operation. This certification also qualifies the district for grant funding, and we are happy to report that we have already received a number of grants the past two years to further extend our good work with sustainability.”

Sustainable Jersey for Schools is voluntary, but achieving certification is not easy. Schools collaborate with their school district to complete actions, upload documentation and achieve certification. “Becoming certified with Sustainable Jersey for Schools is a significant achievement for schools and their school district,” said Donna Drewes, co-director of Sustainable Jersey. “They are leaders in implementing sustainability measures that save money, improve the learning environment, and prepare today’s students to address the

challenges of tomorrow.” Each school that is certified at the bronze-level must submit documentation to show it has completed a balanced portfolio of the program’s sustainability actions, achieving a minimum of 150 points. Silver-level certification requires that a school attain 350 points or more.

Certified schools excelled in areas such as improving energy efficiency and health and wellness, integrating sustainability into student learning and reducing waste. Randall Solomon, co-director of the Sustainable Jersey program congratulated the certified schools, “I commend the schools that have achieved certification for their demonstrated commitment toward the long-term goal of a sustainable New Jersey.”

“We are proud of the leadership provided by the boards of education and their superintendents, as well as the contributions of principals, teachers, education support professionals and parents, that made this important milestone a reality,” said Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod, New Jersey School Boards Association executive director. “We congratulate the schools on achieving Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification.” Wayne Township Public Schools and the certified schools will be honored at a reception during the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) Workshop 2016 Conference on October 25 in Atlantic City.

### ***About Sustainable Jersey for Schools***

Sustainable Jersey for Schools is a certification program for public schools in New Jersey. It was launched by Sustainable Jersey, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support and reward municipalities and schools as they pursue sustainability programs. A total of 509 schools and 204 school districts are participating in the program overall.

Sustainable Jersey for Schools is underwritten by the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Clean Energy Program, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA). The 2016 Sustainable Jersey for Schools small grants program is funded by the PSEG Foundation, NJEA, the Gardinier Environmental Fund and the New Jersey Department of Health. Founding Sponsor contributors are South Jersey Gas, New Jersey Natural Gas and NJM Insurance Group. Bayer Foundation is a Silver Sponsor and Jersey Central Power and Light and Spiezle Architectural Group are Bronze Sponsors.

Sustainable Jersey for Schools Program partners include: New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), New Jersey Education Association (NJEA), New Jersey Association of School Administrators (NJASA), New Jersey Association of School Business Officials (NJASBO), New Jersey Parent Teacher Association (NJPTA), New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association (NJPSA), New Jersey School Buildings and Grounds Association (NJSBGA) and The Sustainability Institute at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ.)

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