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- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

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[TRAININGS](#)
[GRANTS &](#)
[RESOURCES](#)
[MEDIA &](#)
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3. Participating Communities

Sustainable Jersey Community Certification Report

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This is the Sustainable Jersey Certification Report of MOUNTAIN LAKES BORO, a Sustainable Jersey bronze certified municipality.

Mountain Lakes was certified in 2011 at the Bronze level with 195 points. Listed below are the 2011 certified actions and associated materials.

Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Jersey contact for MOUNTAIN LAKES BORO is:

Name: Jackie Bay

Title/Position: Environmental Commission member

Department: Environmental Commission

Sustainability Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which MOUNTAIN LAKES BORO was approved for in 2012 appears below. Note: Standards for the actions below may have changed and the documentation listed may no longer satisfy requirements for that action. Additionally, points associated with actions prior to 2013 certifications may not be accurate.

1. RECYCLING

Recycling Depot

Program Summary:

Mountain Lakes has been at the forefront of recycling in NJ. Residents began recycling in the 1970's, a permanent facility aiding in these efforts was established at the Borough's Dept of Public Works in the 1980's and residential recycling pick up was implemented in 1994. According to the Borough's Master Plan, the recycling program has three primary objectives.

1. Provide all Borough residents with information explaining the environmental and economic benefits of recycling to the Borough and to society at large.
2. Provide a simple, convenient and cost effective recycling collection system that maximizes

recycling and minimizes the amount of solid waste disposal. 3. Match residents' individual costs of solid waste disposal to the amount of solid waste they generate. The Borough has residential pick up of glass, metal, #1 and #2 plastics and paper/cardboard. Additionally, residents can take these items to our Dept of Public Works and put them in specially marked dumpsters. Cameras have been installed at these sites to guard against abuse. The list of materials accepted at the DPW continues to grow with the addition of solid metal this year. The 2011 recycling mailer is included in File #2 and has been emailed directly to info@sustainablejersey.com. It is obvious that this is the 2011 mailer because in the last two pages it provides an application for 2012 pet licenses.

1. excel
[Mtn Lakes 2010 Tonnage Report](#)
2. pdf
[MTN Lakes Solid Waste Program](#)
3. pdf
[Photos of Mtn Lakes Recycling](#)

2.

Community Paper Shredding Day

Program Summary:

Mountain Lakes has held a paper shredding day since 2009. Residents bring boxes of paper to our Dept of Public Works at 400 Boulevard and pay a per box fee. The event is held by volunteers from our Police and/or Fire Department. The moneys collected offset the \$200 fee we pay to Secure Shredding in Morris Plains and the remainder is a donation to the Volunteer Fire Dept. In 2011 two events were held as detailed by the email from Councilman McWilliams who organizes this event each year. We are still determining which hours of operation are most effective. On April 17 the event from 8-9am netted 800 lbs whereas on October 23 the event held from 1-4pm netted only 475 lbs. The Shredding Day is promoted via Borough blast email, on the website mtnlakes.org, and by flyer (see attached).

1. pdf
[Mtn Lakes 2011 Shredding Flyer](#)
2. excel
[2011 Paper Shredding Results](#)
3. excel
[2010 Paper Shredding Day Logis](#)
- 3.
4. **INNOVATIVE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS**
Solar

Program Summary:

In February 2010 the Morris County Improvement Authority (“MCIA”) selected Power Purchase Agreement provider Tioga Energy to develop, install and operate 3.2 MW of solar power systems on 19 Morris County school buildings and county government facilities. The Board of Education of the Borough of Mountain Lakes is part of the MCIA’s Renewable Energy Program, and includes roof systems at the Mountain Lakes High School, located at 96 Powerville Road and the Wildwood Elementary on Glen Road. The High School system consists of 754 Yingli 230 watt solar panels installed on rooftops as well as free-standing units in the parking lot. According to a solar kiosk installed at the school, the high school system has generated 187.01 MWh of electricity to date which equates to 131,159 miles not driven. Under the Tioga Energy SurePath Solar Power Purchase Agreement, the facilities purchase electricity produced by the solar systems for 15 years. For the MLHS system, the rated output is 176.4 kilowatts of electricity, amounting to approximately 203,472 kilowatt-hours of electricity per year that are not purchased from the local utility company. Mountain Lakes High School pays for solar power that is approximately 35% less expensive than energy purchased from the local electric utility in the first year. Solar vs. traditional cost savings are expected to increase to 44% less expensive by the last year of the agreement in 2025. The total estimated cost savings is estimated to be \$234,000 over the life of the agreement. The Borough of Mountain Lakes worked with the developer during

the project to issue permits/approval for the solar installations within the municipality (attached as supporting project documentation). File #3 contains a screen shot from one of the solar kiosks that were installed in the High School.

1. pdf
[ML Solar Project Scope](#)
2. pdf
[Mtn Lakes Tioga Energy Contrac](#)
3. pdf
[Solar Interactive Kiosks](#)

5.

6. **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Natural Resource Inventory

Program Summary:

In 2009 the Environmental Commission of Mountain Lakes undertook the updating of the existing Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) dated 1979. A Smart Growth Planning Grant was obtained from ANJEC to assist in the development of an interactive NRI containing links to digital GIS maps. These maps contain data layers that provide rich information about Mountain Lakes topography, lake bathymetry, steep slopes, soil types, etc. These maps will be hosted on the Morris County Planning Department site as a county pilot program. The Morris County Planning Department has created an interactive database for use by the public known as the Morris County Public Resources Interactive Mapping Application (MCPRIMA). Live links for this resource are found throughout the NRI. Because we have created a \\\"living\\\" rather than a traditional static document, the Mountain Lakes Planning Board has determined that the NRI cannot be \\\"adopted\\\" as was done in the past. Instead, the NRI will be referenced within the Mountain Lakes Master Plan (currently under construction) and will be available on a new website, [MLenvironmental.org](#), which is currently under construction in wordpress as a project of the ML High School computer class. It is estimated that it's completion

required approximately 3,000 hours of volunteer time primarily on the part of the Environmental Commission. The Borough Engineer also made significant paid contributions as did Rick Radis who was hired to do inventories of both flora and fauna. These reports were edited and included within the NRI. The Environmental Commission and the Borough Engineer has committed to updating the NRI text and maps as needed per the resolution in file #3.

1. excel
[NRI Reviewed by Planning Board](#)
2. pdf
[NRI Review Resolution](#)

7.

Environmental Commission

Program Summary:

The Mountain Lakes EC was established in 1975 when the Borough passed a resolution I-75 to adopt a "Council-Manager Plan" type of government. The rules for appointments and the power and duties were outlined in Part 1, Chapter 9 of the Council-Manager Plan. The current commission is Chaired by Jackie Bay with Vice Chairman Margaret Gossett. Member Todd Terhune serves on both the EC and the Planning Board. The Council liaison is x. The EC members are: Todd Terhune, Bill Albergo, Jackie Bay, Marnie Vyff and Margaret Gossett. Plans to fill 2 vacancies commence in January 2012. The EC meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm at the Borough Hall. EC priorities for the last two years have focused upon creating a new Natural Resource Inventory and applying for Bronze level certification under the Sustainable Jersey program. We have uploaded the first page of Ordinance I-75, the first page of Part 1 Chapter 9 and the 2010 EC Accomplishments Report. The Ordinance covered the entire Borough government and is thus very large. Additional pages are available upon request. Further information including recent

meeting minutes, can be found on Mtnlakes.org under "Committees and Commissions".

1. pdf
[Mtn Lakes Resolution Re. Borou](#)
2. pdf
[Mtn Lakes Gov't Part 1 Chapter](#)
3. excel
[2010 EC Accomplishments Report](#)

8.

9. **HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement Program

Program Summary:

In March of 2010 the Wildwood Elementary School Green Team undertook the challenge of stopping idling at pick up and drop off points throughout the school district. They found a donor to fund 6 anti-idling signs that were posted at all 4 schools in the Borough. See map and photos in File #1. The Police Chief has reported that they no longer need to distribute information as the Anti Idling signs are doing the work for them. See File #2. The Team also created an educational flyer that was distributed electronically to all Wildwood families via "Virtual Backpack" on March 12, 2011. In May the Team gave an in-school presentation to all 3, 4 and 5 graders and distributed an Anti Idling Pledge for their parents. Of the roughly 240 pledges distributed, 65 were returned signed. See File #3.

1. pdf
[No Idling Sign Photos & Map](#)
2. pdf
[Anti Idling Enforcement](#)
3. pdf
[Anti Idling Education Campaign](#)

10.

11. **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP & OUTREACH**

Create Green Team

Program Summary:

In June of 2009 the Borough of Mountain Lakes passed a resolution to pursue certification under the Sustainable Jersey program. A Green team was set up as a sub-committee of the Environmental Commission. Borough Council minutes establishing this structure are included in File 2 (pink highlighted text). A community meeting was held in September 2009 at the Mtn Lakes High School to solicit feedback about current environmental needs/issues in the community (hand out available). The Green team worked with Borough clubs and commissions to pull together documentation to support Bronze level certification. Our Mission, members and minutes are available at the site in File 3. With the achievement of Bronze level certification, the EC intends to re-form the Green team to include middle and high school science teachers and curricula advisors. The new focus will be around school-related environmental initiatives.

1. pdf

[Mtn Lakes Green Team Resolutio](#)

2. excel

[Borough Council Minutes Appoin](#)

12.

13. CLIMATE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION

Municipal Carbon Footprint

Program Summary:

The Green Team worked with the Acting Borough Manager to calculate the municipal carbon footprint for the year 2011. Gas and electric bills were obtained for all municipal facilities, street and traffic lights and wells. Our municipal carbon footprint is 908.09 metric tons. I would be very interested in knowing how this compares on a per capita basis with other towns in the program.

1. excel
[Carbon footprint calculator](#)
2. pdf
[Backup 2011 Utility Bills](#)
3. pdf
[Municipal vehciles](#)

14.

15. **TREE & WOODLANDS MANAGEMENT** **Community Forestry Plan and Canopy Goal**

Program Summary:

The Shade Tree Commission of Mountain Lakes is one of the best organized and most active groups in town. The STC has engaged in active tree-planting programs in the past and has recently changed focus from planting on public right of ways to maintaining the current cover. The manner by which this will be accomplished is to educate residents about the value of planing shade, vs. ornamental, trees on private property. Examples of residential outreach include: a.) In 2010 in honor of the Borough's Centennial, the STC challenged residents to plant 100 shade trees. Trees could be purchased at wholesale prices from an identified nursery. The end result of this program was a net 55 new trees; b.) The annual Arbor Tree celebration at Wildwood Elementary in which children write and read poems about trees and receive a small sapling of their own; c.) The Woodlands Committee partnership with the High School Environmental Club to plant 250 native trees in Borough woodlands in 2012. Attached is a copy of Mountain Lakes 2010 Approved Status Letter. Our new application is currently under review and approval is expected very soon.

1. pdf
[Mtn Lakes Year End Status Lett](#)
2. pdf
[Tree Canopy Resolution](#)

16.

Tree Maintenance Programs

Program Summary:

The Mountain Lakes Shade Tree Commission consists of 7 members. The Borough is divided into 7 districts and each member is responsible for an annual inspection of all the shade trees located on Borough streets, publicly owned land and right of ways in their district. Each volunteer is armed with a computer print out by location, size, species and general health. Every tree must be inspected and assessed for overhanging branches, rot or other adverse conditions. Any trees that need to be pruned or removed are recorded and any questions are forwarded to an arborist. The Borough tree inventory is maintained on the Tree Source database and is available at the mtnlakes.org under Shade Tree Commission. The inventory contains 35 reports detailing tree location by species, tree removals by tree diameter, tree pruning by priority designation, trees by condition - good, fair or poor, trees with surface root problems, etc. The front page of the Inventory listing all the reports available is uploaded in File 3. A plan for shade tree maintenance is assembled based on an assessment of the annual updates. Maintenance work is competitively bid. In 2010, Class III pruning work was undertaken on 106 trees and 57 trees were removed in the annual Prune and Remove program. Total expenditures on this program were approximately \$40K. Final invoices from the service provider have been uploaded.

1. excel

[Vendor bills for tree removal](#)

2. excel

[Tree Source Database Cover Pag](#)

17.

Tree Planting Programs**Program Summary:**

Mountain Lakes planted 54 shade trees on Borough property in 2009. Funding was provided by a CSIP grant that required a match from the Borough. See the Planting Report for project

details, including a tree inventory, competitive bidding information, verification of volunteer hours delivered and an after planting inspection report.

1. excel
[Mountain Lakes 2009 Tree Plant](#)
2. excel
["After" Tree Photos](#)

18.

19. ENERGY AUDITS FOR MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

Inventory and Upgrade All Buildings

Program Summary:

In 2010 Mountain Lakes performed an energy audit of both municipal buildings under the NJ Office of Clean Energy Direct Install Program. Estimated annual savings for the Borough Hall, a 9,340 sq foot office building built in 1970, is \$8480 driven primarily by the installation of new energy-efficient lighting. Estimated annual energy savings for the Department of Public Works, a 10,300 sq ft warehouse built in 1955, is \$6,140 driven almost equally by the installation of energy efficient lighting and electronic fuel-use economizers. The vendor used was Donnelley Energy Solutions and all proposed work contained in files #1 and #2 was completed as confirmed by the letter from the Borough Manager in file #3.

1. pdf
[Direct Install Energy Assessme](#)
2. pdf
[Direct Install Energy Assessme](#)
3. pdf
[Confirmation work completion](#)

20.

21. WASTE REDUCTION

Pay-As-You-Throw Program

Program Summary:

A Solid Waste Committee was created in 1992 to investigate a new solid waste collection system and to award a contract. The Committee started with a community survey assessing current garbage and recycling practices and attitudes. Over 50% of the residents returned the survey and the Borough learned that there was considerable support for a "pay as you throw" program. A rate analysis was done in 1995 to support the pricing of \$1.00 and \$2.00 for 15 gallon and 30 gallon custom disposal bags. The bags would be sold at local merchants and the price was designed to cover the actual cost of disposal of both garbage and recyclables as well as the running of a Borough recycling depot. See File #1. After its first year in existence, an annual report was prepared that showed that the levels of waste collected, revenues and expenses were very close to prediction. One disappointing finding was that recycling levels did not seem to have increased from their survey levels of 46% of solid waste. Fast forward to 2012, the program is still running, however, the per bag charges have risen to \$1.25 and \$2.50, respectively. The cost increases were taken because it was believed that the program revenues were no longer covering expenses when in fact, it was later discovered that one bag vendor was stealing from the Borough. Based upon the Annual Survey (file #2), it appears that this is not the first time that this has happened. The cost increase was never rescinded and the bags are a Borough revenue source. This year the Borough is creating a new Solid Waste Committee and is taking a fresh look at the program finances, operations and will award a new contract in 2013.

1. pdf
[Solid Waste Utility Rate Analy](#)
2. pdf
[Solid Waste Utility Annual Rep](#)
3. excel
[Waste reduction public educati](#)

