



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** November 02, 2011

**Contact:** Bruce McArthur, 908-204-3098, bmcarthur@bernards.org

### **Bernards Township Achieves Sustainable Jersey® Silver-Level Certification Award to be Presented at New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference on November 15**

**Basking Ridge, NJ (November 02, 2011)** – Sustainable Jersey representatives announced today that Bernards Township has met the rigorous requirements to achieve Sustainable Jersey certification at the Silver-level. Bernards Township is one of only eight New Jersey municipalities that have attained the Silver-level certification. Sustainable Jersey's participating communities represent over half the state's municipalities and nearly 75% of its population. Bernards Township will be honored at the Sustainable Jersey awards luncheon on Tuesday, November 15 at the Sheraton Hotel in Atlantic City with Mayor John Malay accepting the award.

To become Sustainable Jersey certified at the Silver-level, Bernards Township submitted documentation to show it had completed a balance of the required sustainability actions, meeting a minimum of 350 action points. In addition to reaching 350 points, each community had to create a Green Team and select at least three out of seven priority action options. Bernards Township did three of the seven priority actions by completing energy audits for municipal buildings, a municipal carbon footprint and a fleet inventory.

"It's quite an accomplishment to become Sustainable Jersey certified, especially at the Silver-level," said Pam Mount, Chair of the Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees. "The 2011 certified towns have joined a first rate group of municipalities that are leading the way with impressive sustainability initiatives in New Jersey while providing a model for towns across the United States."

Certified towns excelled in areas such as improving energy efficiency and health and wellness, reducing waste, sustaining local economies, protecting natural resources, and addressing diversity and equity. "These are exceptional towns with outstanding programs. We've been amazed to see how this program has catalyzed community spirit and fostered grassroots leadership, cross-sector creativity and collaboration across New Jersey," said Donna Drewes, Co-Director of the Institute for Sustainability Planning & Governance at the Municipal Land Use Center at The College of New Jersey (MLUC@TCNJ) and Sustainable Jersey founding partner. Randall Solomon also a Co-Director at the Institute for Sustainability Planning & Governance congratulated the certified towns. "Our certified towns are municipal leaders that are making extraordinary contributions toward the long-term goal of a sustainable New Jersey and world."

The award winning towns will be recognized at the annual Sustainable Jersey awards luncheon on Tuesday, November 15 at the New Jersey League of Municipalities' conference. In addition to the award presentations at the luncheon, key note speakers will include James Florio, the former New Jersey Governor and Trustee of the Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees and project partners Joseph Fiordaliso, Commissioner of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and Michele Siekerka, Assistant Commissioner, Economic Growth and Green Energy, at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

### **About Sustainable Jersey**

[Sustainable Jersey](#) is a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey. Launched in 2009, Sustainable Jersey is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that supports community efforts to reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and improve environmental equity. Sustainable Jersey is empowering New Jersey towns to build a better world for future generations. It provides tools, training and financial incentives to support and reward communities as they pursue sustainability programs. New Jersey is the first state in the nation to have a comprehensive sustainability program for communities that links certification with strong state and private financial incentives, and a fully resourced program of technical support and training. Sustainable Jersey is 100% voluntary and each town can choose whether it wants to get certified and the actions it wants to do in order to achieve enough points to get certified.

Currently, 62% of New Jersey's towns and cities (350 towns across all 21 counties) have registered to become Sustainable Jersey certified. The program has distributed over half a million dollars to New Jersey communities to support an estimated 1,500 actions taken "on the ground" to make communities more livable, environmentally friendly and prosperous. Nearly 75% of New Jersey's population lives in registered/ certified Sustainable Jersey communities.

Sustainable Jersey's partners include the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. The policies and other substantive contents of the program are developed through a transparent participatory process involving NGOs, academics, government, and the business community. Program sponsors include the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, PSEG Foundation, New Jersey Natural Gas, Church and Dwight, Covanta Energy, Elizabethtown Gas, United Water, Verizon, Atlantic City Electric, South Jersey Gas, New Jersey Food Council, Waste Management of New Jersey, Terhune Orchards, EcoMatters, Concord Engineering and Alteris Renewables.

###