Sustainable Gloucester Township

Camden County
Freeholder Michelle Gentek-Mayer
September 17, 2015
Core Green Team

- Mayor & Councilwoman
- Public Works Director
- Township Business Administrator
- Township Grants Coordinator
- Mayor’s Chief of Staff
- Chair of Environmental Committee
- Township Webmaster
- Green Business Owner
- Students & Interns
- Resident Representative
Sustainable G.T. Organizational Model

- Mayor & Sustainable Chairperson
  - Actions & Grant Submissions
  - Mayor's Chief of Staff
    - Green Team
      - Business Partners
      - Community Organizations
      - School Youth Groups
    - Community Members
Actions = 195 points
Bronze Level

• Create a Green Team
• Community Visioning Process
• Green Challenges & Community Programs
• Hold A Green Fair
• Green Your Green Fair
• Energy Efficiency
• Support Local Businesses
• Water Conservation Education Program

• Farmer's Markets
• Community Garden
• Community Education and Outreach
• Green Fleets
• Solar Array
• Community Paper Shredding Event
• Energy Master Plan
• LED Traffic Lights
Actions = 370 Points
Silver Level

• Sustained all Bronze Level Actions
• Energy Tracking and Management (additional info needed)
• Building Healthier Communities
• Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement
• Complete Streets Program
• Green Business Recognition
• Purchase Alternative Fuel Vehicle (additional info needed)
• Adopt Behavioral Policies
• Grass-Cut It and Leave It Program
• Rain Garden
• Companion Animal Management Pledge (additional info needed)
• Companion Animal Management Plan (additional info needed)

Actions were submitted on August 8, 2012. We heard back August 23, 2012 and corrections were due by September 12, 2012.
Partnerships

• Partner with pre-existing sectors of the community
  – County
  – Environmental committee
    • Community Garden
  – Farmer’s Market
  – Blackwood Lake Advisory
  – Youth Groups
  – Rotary
    • Field of Dreams
    • (Mayor’s Wellness Campaign)
  – Faith Groups
    • Green Faith Project
    • Showing of “Renewal”
  – Businesses
    • Support Local Businesses
  – G.T. Scholarship Committee
    • Green Fair
Community Visioning

Community Visioning = Support for Municipal Masterplanning = County Masterplanning

Sustainable Gloucester Township Mission Statement

Sustainable Gloucester Township (SGT) aims to improve the conditions of our only home, Earth, not just for ourselves but for future generations to come. This can only be attained by beginning the laborious journey to sustainability with one step forward. By organizing and encouraging community-based task forces such as the Green Team and educating our residents on important matters regarding sustainability, we strive to assist our community in achieving a more sustainable environment.

SGT is a neighborhood-oriented group, and due to this, we understand that it will take the effort of every single person to reach this crucial goal. Therefore, it is essential to launch and cherish relationships with all those involved in the South Jersey area: governments, businesses, schools, faith establishments, and all other community groups and individuals. However, grassroots cannot solely complete the marathon to sustainability. For change of the large scale variety to become realized, governments and corporations must provide leadership and pave the way. To do this, input from educated and passionate communities must be applied to those entities. For a brighter tomorrow we must begin today by working together as one community.
Green Fair

- Advertised on marquee, Facebook, Twitter, website and flyers.
- The event was held in our park, using natural sunlight which reduces emissions associated with the use of an indoor facility.
- Encouraged walking, bicycling, or carpooling to the event
- Displayed new recycling bins
- Collected shopping bags for recycling and handed out a reusable bag as a replacement
- Collected shoes for Souls 4 Souls
- Held a composting demonstration.
- Several green vendors attended our event and all vendors were asked to be responsible with recycling.
- Signs encouraging recycling were placed at each vendor station visible for fairgoers.
- Highlighted information on the township recycling program, the upcoming new recycling bins, our Farmer’s Market and our Community Garden.
- Participants were asked to sign our Green Challenge pledge. Teen Greens volunteered time and collected signatures.
G.T. Green Challenge

1. To set my thermostat 2 degrees higher in the summer and lower in the winter.

2. To change the five most used lightbulbs in my home to energy efficient CFL bulbs.

3. To kick the disposable water bottle habit for one month.

4. To pack my groceries in a reusable bag and just say NO to plastic bags.
Community Garden

- Mayor partnered with the Environmental Committee, the Green Team, and the Public Works Dept. to organize a community garden on historic land.
- Plots are available to residents for a small fee to offset some costs.
- Raspberry and herb patches for all to share.
Large Scale Municipal Projects

• Single stream or no-sort recycling program
  – Initiated in Gloucester Township at the end of the 2011 year.
  – Reduces amount of trash by increasing the amount of recycling. This, in turn, increases revenue.
  – 40% anticipated increase in recycling.

• Energy Master Plan
  – LED Traffic Lights
  – Solar Panels
    • Kiosk in lobby displaying power generation.
    • Website displays same information online.
    • Purchased through a grant.
Sustainable Gloucester Township: 
*Bringing Government and Community together to Create a cleaner, greener Gloucester Township...*
The Role of Camden County

• From Councilwoman to County Freeholder
• Liaison to Sustainable Camden County
• Using examples from successful towns to help those not yet engaged
• Shared services to reduce cost/workload
• Community visioning/green fairs/ordinances/resolutions