

## Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School

Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School (TEECS) has met the requirements to achieve Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification. TEECS is part of a group of 108 schools that achieved the Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification in 2019.



Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School achieves sustainability certification. (Photo: ~Courtesy of Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School)

"We are so glad to be part of this amazing program and be part of a healthy environment that enhances the happiness of the community," said Oguz Yildiz, lead person.

Sustainable Jersey for Schools, a program for pre-kindergarten through twelfth-grade public schools in New Jersey, is voluntary, but achieving certification takes commitment and collaborative effort. 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, attaining a minimum of 150 points. This year, ten schools achieved certification at the more advanced silver level which requires a minimum of 350 points of sustainability actions.

Currently, a total of 872 schools and 337 school districts are participating in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program overall.

"I commend the teachers, administrators, staff, parents and students for their hard work and dedication — it's truly paying off," said Randall Solomon, executive director of Sustainable Jersey. "The 2019 schools that have achieved Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification are leading the way to a more sustainable New Jersey. I've seen time and again, when schools and our young people are given direction and support, they're powerful catalysts for change. Becoming certified with Sustainable Jersey for Schools is a significant achievement."

To date, 5,079 sustainability actions were completed by schools and districts participating in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program — from performing energy audits and boosting recycling efforts to integrating sustainability into student learning and promoting student and staff wellness.

"Sustainable schools provide a healthy environment, conserve resources and improve the well-being of the community," said Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod, New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) executive director. "Attaining certification is a significant accomplishment that reflects the leadership of the boards of education and their superintendents, as well as the contributions of principals, teachers, education support professionals and parents in this effort." On Tuesday, Oct. 22, the certified schools and their districts will be celebrated at a reception held during NJSBA Workshop 2019 in Atlantic City.

Student and School news appears on Fridays. Email: [hntmetro@mycentraljersey.com](mailto:hntmetro@mycentraljersey.com)