

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School Achieves Sustainability Certification

*108 New Jersey schools added to 2019 certified schools list released by Sustainable Jersey for Schools*

**Somerset, NJ** – Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School (TEECS) has met the rigorous 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.

"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." – 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.

Review the complete list of schools that achieved certification in 2019: [2019 Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certified Schools](#). 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 October 22, 2019, the certified schools and their districts will be celebrated at a reception held during NJSBA Workshop 2019 in Atlantic City.

### **About Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School**

The Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School (TEECS) is a tuition-free public school and the first K-12 School in the state of NJ to focus specifically on green/renewable energy. TEECS' mission is to offer a safe, secure, structured and stimulating educational environment to develop students' academic, technical, personal, and critical thinking skills necessary to meet the standards that will enable them to succeed in a global economy, predicated on knowledge and innovation. TEECS will instill in every student the desire to continually expand their intellect and use the content knowledge and skills they've acquired to participate and responsibly shape the direction of a complex world with ever-increasing climate challenges and energy demand.

TEECs accepts students from three area school districts including Franklin, North Brunswick and South Brunswick Townships.

TEECs offers a high quality education program that:

- Supports new instructional models focused on green/renewable energy
- Offers various world languages including French, Spanish, Turkish and Hindi
- Integrates community resources into the education program through services and support
- Provides a rigorous STEM curriculum
- Includes weekly offerings of not just phys. ed., art and music (including choir and band), but also character education, computer science and SmartTech (green technology)
- Encourages parent involvement through home visits, PTO and school surveys
- Highlights and supports our teachers through ongoing educational opportunities in-service, online and off-site courses
- Offers a unique dual enrollment high school program in affiliation with Raritan Valley Community College, which allows our students to graduate with a diploma, as well as college credits
- Offers NJIT classes to high school students wanting to earn college credits

### ***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, an organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support and reward municipalities and schools as they pursue sustainability programs. To date, 336 school districts and 872 schools are participating in the program. The full list of participating and certified schools and school districts is available: [Participating Districts and Schools](#). Sustainable Jersey for Schools has awarded over \$1.8 million in grants to schools and school districts. In 2019, Sustainable Jersey is celebrating its 10th Anniversary with a year-long campaign that will include special events to educate and engage the Sustainable Jersey community and create a vision for the future.

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, the PSEG Foundation and the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA). The 2019 Sustainable Jersey for Schools grants program is underwritten by the PSEG Foundation, NJEA and the Gardiner Environmental Fund. Platinum and founding sponsors are South Jersey Gas and New Jersey Natural Gas. The gold and founding sponsor is NJM Insurance Group. The silver sponsor is Investors Bank. The bronze sponsors are BioShine, Gabel Associates, Maschio's Food Service Inc., Jersey Central Power & Light and Schneider Electric.

Program partners include: NJSBA, 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).

Website: [www.SustainableJerseySchools.com](http://www.SustainableJerseySchools.com)  
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