

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Maple Shade Township Awarded \$10,000 Sustainable Jersey Grant**

**Maple Shade Township, NJ (March 26, 2015)** –Sustainable Jersey representatives announced today that Maple Shade Township has been awarded a \$10,000 Sustainable Jersey Grant. Sustainable Jersey provided grants for proposed projects that provide sustainable solutions to everyday challenges. Food waste recycling, woodlands restoration, energy efficiency outreach, bike and pedestrian paths, green business recognition, water conservation, creative assets inventory and more have been added to the list of initiatives that the Sustainable Jersey Small Grants program is funding. New Jersey is the first state in the nation to have a comprehensive sustainability program for communities that link certification with strong state and private financial incentives, and a fully resourced program of technical support and training.

The Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program funded by the PSEG Foundation is providing \$200,000 in grants to local governments for sustainability projects. Since 2009, Sustainable Jersey has distributed more than \$1.7 million in grants to New Jersey municipalities to help towns make their communities more livable, environmentally friendly and prosperous.

The \$10,000 grant award to Maple Shade Township is for the establishment of a Food Recycling Pilot Project. The Food Recycling Pilot Project consists of the implementation of a program to recycle food waste into compost. The ultimate goals of this project are to reduce the amount of food sent to landfills, reduce disposal costs, reduce resource use associated with food production, create a valuable compost material and improve public health and safety.

**Deputy Mayor Lou Manchello**

**“With this grant, Maple Shade can move forward with a pilot program that will help shape the way we dispose of our organic waste, with sustainability in mind, saving money and preserving other valuable natural resources. At the same time, in our case, it introduces these concepts to future generations.”**

“Environmental, social and economic issues are the cornerstone to the PSEG Foundation’s support and we are committed to leading the communities in which we serve towards a more sustainable future,” said Ellen Lambert, president of the PSEG Foundation. “The impact of these projects will have a lasting impact to neighborhoods throughout New Jersey.”

## **ABOUT SUSTAINABLE JERSEY**

Sustainable Jersey is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support communities as they pursue sustainability programs. Currently, 422 of New Jersey’s 565 municipalities are participating in the sustainability certification program. In October, 2014 the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program was launched in partnership with New Jersey School Boards Association and other statewide educational organizations.

Sustainable Jersey’s partners include the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, The Sustainability Institute at The College of New Jersey, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) Clean Energy Program. Program underwriters include the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Surdna Foundation and BPU. Sustainable Jersey Small Grants program cycles have been underwritten by PSEG, Gardinier Environmental Fund and the New Jersey Department of Health. Sponsors include South Jersey Gas, New Jersey Natural Gas, Church and Dwight, Covanta, Energy Solve, Terhune Orchards, Bayshore Recycling, Good Energy, EcoMatters, Spiezle Architectural Group, Waste Management of New Jersey, Investors Bank, Concord Engineering, Pennoni Associates, Inc. and Gabel Associates. Sustainable Jersey for School’s is underwritten by the New Jersey Association of School Boards and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) Clean Energy Program. The Sustainable Jersey for Schools founding sponsors are South Jersey Gas, New Jersey Natural Gas and NJM Insurance Group. Additional support is provided by the Foundation for Educational Advancement and Bayer.

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