

Green Initiatives Advisory Committee: 2009 Annual Report

Mission:

The Committee recommends to the Mayor and Council ways to reduce the Borough's "carbon footprint" and suggests methods by which our Municipal Government can become more energy-efficient thus reducing operating expenses. In addition, the Committee is charged with providing Borough residents guidance and information on how they can become even more responsible stewards of our environment.

Meetings:

The Committee meets on the third Thursday of each month at 8:00 P.M. in the 3rd Floor Conference Room at Borough Hall. All meetings are open to the public.

2009 Accomplishments

1. Worked with both Drew and Fairleigh Dickinson Universities, to identify candidates for a Committee intern. Mark White and Len Resto developed a "job description" and subsequently asked Chris Sentmier of Drew University to be the Committee's intern. Chris was instrumental in assisting with grants, developing the "Sustainable Chatham" website and coordinating the "Project Porchlight" initiative to local merchants. Chris will be studying abroad in 2010 and the entire Committee wishes him well and thanks him for his valuable service. Replacing Chris in 2010 will be Jarod Grossman, also a student at Drew University.
2. Enrolled in the "Sustainable Jersey" program with the goal of having Chatham recognized as a certified sustainable community. Much work was done throughout the year in developing materials for uploading onto the Sustainable Jersey website. While we did not reach certification status, we were recognized as a community expected to reach certification in 2010. We will be working with Sustainable Jersey in those areas we were deemed deficient.
3. Stan Serbanica, Mark White and Len Resto worked with New Jersey Transit (NJT) to explore ways in which it could work together on sustainability initiatives. It had been thought the buildings at the train station might be good candidates for solar panels; however, upon meeting with David Gillespie of NJT, the buildings had been studied for solar panels and they had been deemed not suitable due to not enough "land mass" to make solar feasible. Mr. Gillespie mentioned the potential of using the parking lot for solar purposes such as is the case in Trenton. We will look at this again in 2010.

4. The Morris County Improvement Authority (MCIA) initiative on Solar Panels did not come to fruition in Chatham Borough; thus, the Committee has moved on to other energy projects such as energy audits, conservation, etc.
5. The Committee, with assistance from Janice Piccolo, applied for a Wal-Mart Grant of \$10,000. This grant was to be used for Community Outreach which the Committee felt was the first step in getting the word out about sustainability. The grant required a Council resolution of support and this was fast-tracked by Janice Piccolo and Susan Caljean. Chris Sentmier, Mark White and Len Resto used all Committee ideas to incorporate into the grant application. Wal-Mart provided a grand total of \$200,000 in grant monies with only 10 grants of \$10,000 and 4 grants of \$25,000. We submitted a detailed proposal; however, competition was stiff and we did not achieve the grant we had sought. Despite this relative setback, the Committee continued its outreach efforts in other ways.
6. We were allowed participation in the 4th of July parade which became for the Green Initiatives Committee its first major “community outreach”. We utilized a Prius and Smart Car as “floats” and we handed out green cards which could be redeemed at the weekly Farmers’ Market for a free Compact Fluorescent Bulb courtesy of Project Porchlight. Thanks to Mark White, Chris Sentmier, Len Resto and Ann Frommer (Art League of the Chathams) for making our debut in the parade such a success. The initiative itself resulted in over 150 cards being returned for light bulbs over several Saturdays where the Committee manned a table at the Farmer’s Market in conjunction with Project Porchlight. In addition, we garnered new committee members as a result.
7. Upon completion of our involvement in the parade, we unveiled our “Sustainable Chatham” web page as required by the Sustainable Jersey program. Developed by Chris Sentmier, the web page became a focal point of sustainability information for Borough residents, see www.sustainablechatham.com.
8. A resolution was passed where we agreed to work together with the Chatham-Madison Joint Meeting in the Sustainable Jersey Joint Meeting program as described at www.njmel.org (see the sustainable joint meeting page on the website).
9. Members of the committee attended various seminars, workshops and lectures on matters of interest to the committee. Each activity continued to expand our network contacts as well as allowed the Committee to learn of additional grants of benefit to Chatham. (See Attachment 1 for meetings, seminars attended during the year).

10. In August, we successfully coordinated a program involving incoming Drew University freshmen in conjunction with United Way and Project Porchlight to distribute CFL bulbs to local area merchants. The program was enthusiastically received.
11. Worked with the Chatham Borough and Chatham Township Environmental Commissions to coordinate the Second Annual Green Fair of the Chathams. With over 20 vendors and several hundred attendees, the Fair was a success. At the Sustainable Jersey luncheon during the League of Municipalities Atlantic City Conference in November, the first ever Collaboration Award was granted to Chatham Borough and Chatham Township for their collaboration on the Green Fair.
12. The Borough applied for an Energy Audit Grant through the New Jersey Clean Energy Program and the New Jersey Local Government Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant program. Out of the 5 state pre-approved energy audit firms, 3 submitted proposals and the Committee recommended to Borough Engineer, Vincent DeNave, that we proceed with one of the 3 proposals. The Energy Audit is poised to take place during 2010. The grant effort was spearheaded by Mark White and Len Resto.
13. Began work on seeking improvements/enhancements to our recycling programs as well as looking at composting as a sustainability initiative. Chatham Township is looking at the same issue and this could be an area of collaboration for 2010. Carl Cappabianca and Michele Hudec are coordinating this effort for the Committee.
14. Began work on creating a Master Sustainability Plan as part our 2010 goals. JR Buzzelli will spearhead the planning effort in 2010.
15. Gained 4 new members and 1 "non-member" participant for the Committee, which allows us the flexibility to create sub-committees for various projects. See Attachment 2 for our Committee membership roster.
16. Mark White took advantage of speaking opportunities before the Kiwanis Club, which has thus far generated interest around involving students in our activities. He also presented at the Stanley Congregational Church to support their efforts of Green Faith, a religious program similar to the requirements of Sustainable Jersey.
17. In an effort to increase community outreach, the Committee obtained excellent results by the issuance of press releases during the year.
18. The Committee began exploring with the Planning Board the future adoption of the non-binding Sustainable Jersey Land Use Pledge.

Attachment 1: Meetings/Seminars Attended 2009

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Date</u>
Drew University – Green Economy – Continuing Education	Mark White	February 4, 11, 18, 24 and March 4, 2009
Morris County Chamber of Commerce	Mark White	March 24, 2009
Morris County Chamber of Commerce – Sustainability at CCM	Mark White	March 24, 2009
ISE/CHRMS Fairleigh Dickinson Breakfast Presentation: “Green Jobs: Fueling the Green Economy”	Mark White	March 27, 2009
ANJEC Meeting and Tour of LEED Building at 14 Maple Street, Morristown	Mark White	March 30, 2009
Green Fest at Garden State Exhibition	Len Resto, Mark White, Bruce Harris? (See link below)	April 3-5, 2009
New Jersey Transit (Chatham)	Mark White, Stan Serbanica, Len Resto	April 6, 2009
Sustainable Jersey Overview of Grants (Maplewood)	Stan Serbanica, Len Resto	April, 2009
ISE/CHRMS Fairleigh Dickinson Breakfast on Sustainability	Carl Cappabianca, Mark White	April 17, 2009
Summit Greenfest	Mayor Vaughan, Mark White	May 9, 2009
ISE/CHRMS Breakfast Presentation: "Beyond Green: Operational-izing Sustainability in a Changing Environment"	Mark White	May 15, 2009
Green Ventures Conference – Fairleigh Dickinson–Madison, NJ	Mark White – Volunteer	May 19, 20 and 21, 2009
Sustainable Energy Joint Meeting (East Hanover)	Mayor Vaughan, Len Resto	May, 2009
Hess Webinar: “Demand Response Pays”	Mark White	June 3, 2009
Transition to Green Collar – County College of Morris – Professors Kujan and Cecala	Mark White	June 4, 6, 9, 11, 2009
LEED Building Tour – The Willow School, Bedminster, NJ	Mark White	June 7, 2009
ISE/CHRMS Breakfast Presentation: "Proven Strategies for Making Existing Buildings Energy and Operationally Efficient"	Mark White	June 19, 2009
Private Group Tour of 14 Maple	Mark White	June 24, 2009

Virtual Energy Forum – An energy conference with expo and live sessions but all happening on-line.	Mark White	June 24, 25, 2009
Sustainable Grant Recipient meeting of NJ DEP and NJEDA at Passaic County Public Safety Academy, Wayne, NJ	Janice Piccolo, Mark White	June 29, 2009
Wind Symposium – The College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ	Len Resto, Mark White	July 23, 2009
Tour Montclair State LEED Building, University Hall a recently built addition to the campus – Frank Cunha Head	Dick Young, Mark White	August 12, 2009
ANJEC Sustainable Jersey Training at Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Morristown, NJ	Janice Piccolo, Mark White	August 25, 2009
NJ Progress on Energy – NJ BPU and the State Energy Council - The Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy	Mark White	October 1, 2009
Transitioning to Green – A World of Possibilities Forum – FDU	Mark White	October 4, 2009
Policy Research Institute. NJ Smart Growth. “Where are we Growing?” at Princeton Univ. Wilson School	Mark White (See link below)	October 16, 2009
ANJEC at Cook College Environmental Congress	Bruce Harris, Mark White	October 17, 2009
NJ Clean Energy Conference	Mark White (See link below)	October 21-22, 2009
Passaic River Coalition (Summit)	Len Resto	November, 2009
NJ League of Municipalities	Janice Piccolo, Mark White (See link below)	November 17-18, 2009
Green Team Presentation with Fred Profeta of Maplewood at Mountain Lakes - Jackie Bay	Mark White	November 30, 2009

<http://www.pseg.com/greenfest2009/>

<http://uc.princeton.edu/main/index.php/component/content/article/5103>

<http://www.nicleanenergy.com/main/clean-energy-conference/clean-energy-conference>

<http://www.njslom.org/94thconf/index.html>

<http://greenventuresconference.org/>