



# Sustainable Jersey Community Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Jersey Certification Report of Springfield Twp (union County) (Union), a Sustainable Jersey bronze certified applicant.

Springfield Twp (union County) (Union) was certified on October 12, 2015 with 225 points. Listed below is information regarding Springfield Twp (union County) (Union)'s Sustainable Jersey efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

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## Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Jersey contact for Springfield Twp (union County) (Union) is:

<b>Name:</b>	Sam Mardini
<b>Title/Position:</b>	Assistant Twp. Engineer / Engineering
<b>Address:</b>	100 Mountain Avenue Springfield, NJ 07081-1729
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# Sustainability Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Springfield Twp (union County) (Union) was approved for in 2015 appears below. Note: Standards for the actions below may have changed and the documentation listed may no longer satisfy requirements for that action. Additionally, points associated with actions prior to 2013 certifications may not be accurate.

## Animals in the Community

### Companion Animal Management Pledge

5 Points

#### Program Summary:

Resolution 2015-76 supporting responsible pet ownership in the Township of Springfield was introduced and unanimously adopted by the Township Committee at the February 10, 2015 meeting. An informational memo was distributed to the Animal Control Officer and various departments and committees within the Township. Both the resolution and the memo are included in the documentation.

 [Companion Animal Management Pledge Resolution](#)

 [Distribution Memo](#)

### Pledge Supporting NJ Wildlife Action Plan

10 Points

#### Program Summary:

Resolution 2015-78 was introduced and unanimously adopted by the Township Committee at the February 10, 2015 meeting. The resolution pledges the Township's support for the New Jersey State Wildlife Action Plan and recognizes that animals are an integral part of all communities and that the well-being of wild animals and wild species are a hallmark of a sustainable community. The Wildlife section in the 2011 NRI emphasizes the importance of wildlife and proactive steps towards wildlife protection. According to Landscape Project mapping, there is habitat for species of special concern where the following species occurrences have been documented: little blue heron, great blue heron, glossy ibis and snowy egret. There is also other habitat suitable for endangered, threatened or special concern wildlife species, but which has no documented occurrences of such species. Most of these patches occur along the Rahway River in or bordering the Rahway River Parkway and Lenape Park and in areas of Hidden Valley Park, Watchung Reservation and Baltusrol Golf Club. There is vernal habitat northwest of 78 on the border between Springfield and Summit. An informational memo was distributed to various departments and committees within the Township. Both the resolution and the memo are included in the documentation.

 [Memo re Pledge Resolution](#)

 [Pledge Supporting NJ Wildlife Action Plan Resolution](#)

## Climate Mitigation & Adaptation

### Wind Ordinance

10 Points

#### Program Summary:

In 2010 Springfield Township passed ordinance 2010-31 entitled “Wind and Solar Energy,” which meets Sustainable Jersey’s minimum requirements as based on the model small wind ordinance provided by NJ BPU. The purpose of the ordinance is to promote the safe, effective and efficient use of small wind energy systems and solar energy systems to reduce the onsite consumption of utility-supplied electricity. The township believes converting wind and solar energy to electricity will reduce our dependence on nonrenewable energy sources, while decreasing the air and water pollution the results from the use of conventional energy sources. Distributed small wind and solar energy systems will also enhance the reliability and power quality of the power grid, reduce peak power demands and help diversify the State’s energy supply portfolio. Enacting the ordinance standardizes and streamlines the requirements for small wind and energy systems so that this clean, renewable energy resource can be utilized in a cost-effective and timely manner within the municipality. In spring 2015, a memo was distributed to key Township personnel, including Planning, Zoning and the Environmental Commission, reminding them of this ordinance. In addition, an article underscoring township support for wind and solar energy was published in the local Patriot Times newsletter that is mailed to residents and posted online and the ordinance was posted on the Green Team Facebook page.

 [Springfield Wind and Solar Ord](#)

 [Wind/Solar Ordinance in Municipal Code](#)

 [Patriot Times Newspaper Article](#)

 [Township Memo](#)

 [Wind and Solar Ordinance Green Team Facebook Post](#)

## Community Partnership & Outreach

### Create Green Team

10 Points

Bronze Mandatory

#### Program Summary:

The Springfield Green Team was first officially established in 2009, the year Springfield

registered with Sustainable Jersey. Sam Mardini, Township Engineer, was appointed to oversee the certification process. The Green Team held its first official meeting on Wednesday, Sept 23rd, 2009 at 7:30 PM in the Fire Training Room at the Firehouse - 24 people attended. Initially, Springfield Environmental Commission members were the first to join. Other volunteers from the community responded to flyers and an article in the Patriot, a local newspaper, and the team grew. In 2013, the Township Committee approved a resolution in support of the Green Team and the certification effort. In 2014, the Township realized it wanted to be able to certify during the 2015 cycle. To help with this, they contracted with The Land Conservancy of New Jersey. Since the summer of 2014, the Green Team has been meeting regularly, with the TLC-NJ representative in attendance. In 2015, the Township Committee again approved a resolution in support of the Green Team and a resolution naming the Green Team members. (See documentation.) Since 2009 many of the GT activities have been supported and/or assumed by the Springfield Environmental Commission. Some are: Springfield Natural Resource Inventory, Quarry Walk, Clean Communities, Community Gardens, Recycling, and other activities to educate residents how to have a more sustainable community. All the activities had support from the Township government. During last year, the Green Team members were able to work more consistently on actions that could receive Sustainable Jersey credit. Many of these focused on support and promotion for new initiatives such as the Green Challenges pledge, Home Performance with Energy Star, anti-idling, prescription drug program and smoke-free public places; and many of them were promotion or enhancement of ongoing actions, such as the wind and solar ordinance, cut it and leave it, rain gardens, community gardens and direct install outreach. The names of the 2015 Green Team members are included in the resolutions document below.

 [Green Team Resolutions](#)

 [Green Team Summary](#)

## **Green Challenges & Community Programs**

**10 Points**

### **Program Summary:**

The Community Challenge household pledge initiative launched during the October 2014 Fall Festival organized by the Springfield Chamber of Commerce. The pledge form asks residents to choose some or all of five pledges by initialing next to the pledge and including household name, address (to confirm they are Springfield residents) and optional telephone number and/or e-mail. The five categories are: turn off lights and unplug electronics, recycle, reusable shopping bags, cut it and leave it, and anti-idling. A PDF of the pledge form was e-mailed to Environmental Commission (EC) and Green Team (GT) members to distribute to friends and neighbors. In February 2015, a link to an online version of the Community Challenge pledge form was posted on the GT and EC Facebook pages and the township

website. Announcements were made during Township committee meetings and paper pledge forms and receiving boxes were placed in the Library, Township Hall, and Recreation Department. The form was modified and e-mailed to the Superintendent of Schools to be distributed among the public schools; to the PTAs and PTO presidents; and to Saint James, a private school in town. Other outreach included the Springfield Residents Forum, Mom's Club website, Patriot Times newspaper, signs in government buildings and stores, and repostings on the Township website and social media. Additionally GT members collected pledges in-person at locations around town. On 05/26/2015 the Township Committee passed resolution 2015-177 proclaiming June as Community Challenge Month and an announcement was posted on the Springfield Township TV station. The Springfield Community Challenge is an ongoing initiative and pledges continue to come in. The Township has 4,977 households and to date, 105 pledges have been collected. A graph included in the documentation shows the breakdown of how many households pledged in each of the five pledge categories.

 [Pledge Forms](#)

 [Green Team Facebook and Email w/Schools](#)

 [Township TV, Website, Patriot Newspaper](#)

 [Graph of Pledges](#)

 [Resolution Declaring June Community Challenge Month](#)

## Direct Install

### Outreach Campaign to Local Business Community

10 Points

#### Program Summary:

The Township of Springfield worked with its Direct Install Participating Contractor, Patrick Lynch of Tri-State Light & Energy, Inc., to reach out to Springfield businesses in 2012 and again in 2015. Between 2012 and 2014, about a dozen businesses completed Direct Install projects. In the spring of 2015, outreach to Springfield businesses included an announcement in the March edition of the Patriot Times newsletter and direct mailing of a letter from the Township Administrator and a flyer from Tri-State to 1450 commercial entities in Springfield (see included documentation below). As of June 5, 2015, Tri-State has received dozens of inquiries as a result of this campaign and is working with ten potential Direct Install Opportunities.

 [Outreach Campaign to Local Business Community Letter from Township](#)

 [Outreach Campaign to Local Business Community Letter Enclosure \(Flyer\)](#)

 [Outreach Campaign to Local Business Patriot Times Article March 2015](#)

## Municipal Energy Audits and Upgrades

### Energy Audits for One Building

20 Points

#### Program Summary:

The Township of Springfield has been working with the NJ Clean Energy Direct Install program for several years, auditing municipal facilities and reaching out to business owners. Since 2011, several municipal facilities have been audited and upgraded, including: Town Hall, Department of Public Works offices and garage, the Engineering Annex Building and the Chisholm recreation/senior center. Those projects were completed in 2011. Some facilities have had more than one audit or audit review, resulting in multiple projects. These include the Public Library and the Chisholm Center. A second project for the library is currently in the works and the Chisholm Community Center's most recent upgrade was completed in 2013. This Direct Install project took advantage of new offerings that weren't in place when the original audit took place. It is a \$98,000 project that cost the township only \$29,000, or 30% of the cost. Below is documentation for the Chisholm Center audit and scope of work.

 [Energy Audits for One Building Documentation](#)

## Food Production

### Community or School Gardens

10 Points

#### Program Summary:

The Gardens began in 2010 on Wabeno Avenue as a joint project between the Springfield Environmental Commission (Denise DeVone), the Township Administrator (Anthony Cancro), the Springfield Garden Club (Vincent DeGaetano and Lou Stiglitz), the Department of Public Works (Ken Homlish) and the Township Engineer (Hasam Mardini). In 2011 the gardens were dedicated to the 2 residents who lost their lives in 9/11 and renamed the Adler-Heltibridle Gardens. Originally there were 6 raised 8' x 8' plots constructed and installed by the DPW. The general site had been chosen by the Township Administrator, Anthony Cancro, and the exact location by the President and Vice President of the Garden Club, Vincent DeGaetano and Lou Stiglitz. In 2011 through a grant from Clean Air - Cool Planet, the gardens expanded to 12 plots at the original location and 10 plots were started at the Community Pool. The first season at the Community Pool the gardens were a success and the Camp Program included gardening. However, the second season was not successful. The beds were moved from the pool to Wabeno and to the Chisholm Recreation Center where they are used by the Senior Citizens group. The Garden at the Cannon Ball House

has been included in the Community Gardens. At that site the maintenance work is done by the DPW and one volunteer who recruits helpers. The helpers have included Master Gardeners as well as Boy Scouts. The Cannon Ball House Garden is different because there are no individual plots and the plants that are grown there are based on what would have been found in the wild in NJ in the 1770s or imported during that time period. Vegetables and flowers are the main produce grown. The food that is grown is consumed by the gardeners and their families and friends.

 [Community Gardens Qualitative Assessment](#)

 [Community or School Gardens Photos and Plot Map](#)

## Support Local Food

**Farmers  
Markets**

**10 Points**

### Program Summary:

The Springfield Farmers Market has been in operation for many years and consists of local farmers from the nearby area selling produce and homemade goods. Some of these goods include oils, pickles, and nuts along with Jersey Fresh produce and honey. It is centrally located at the corner of Morris Ave and Church Mall, which is a busy thoroughfare and is easily seen from the road. There is ample parking in a municipal lot next to the site. Signage, advertising in local papers and advertisements in the form, of banners, posters, leaflets and a digital sign outside the municipal building on Mountain Ave. are used to inform residents of its hours of operation. The farmers market is included in the municipal code; a resolution in 2014 updated the location of the market and a 2015 resolution confirmed the location and set the dates and times of operation for the 2015 season, which is the Monday following the first Sunday after Independence Day through the Monday before the last Sunday in October, from 11 am to 6 pm. (The 2015 and 2014 resolutions, 2010 ordinance, and municipal code are included in the documentation.) At least five farmers and/or vendors had submitted applications for the 2015 season as of April 2015. The Township budgets about \$1500 for the farmers market, flags, banners, etc. and does not derive any direct income since it waives registration fees.

 [Farmers Markets Publicity](#)

 [Farmers Markets Resolutions, Ordinance, Municipal Code](#)

## Health & Wellness

## Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement Program

10 Points

### Program Summary:

The Township of Springfield passed an ordinance in October 2014 amending Section VII, Traffic, of the municipal code to restrict idling to 2 minutes or less on all municipal and Board of Education property. "No Idling" signs have been placed at every school in town and 5 more signs have been ordered for places that have been identified as "common idling areas." An Email has been sent to every parent who has a child attending the Springfield public Schools. Flyers have been passed out with information about Idling all over town. We have posted digital flyers all over Springfield Social Media pages (Springfield's Mom's Group, Dad's page, The Environmental Commission FB page, Springfield, NJ Resident's Forum, Temple Sha'arey Shalom FB page, Greening Springfield FB page, Springfield Soccer Club FB page, Springfield Pool Camp page). Articles have been written and posted regarding Idling and The Springfield PD has begun enforcement. The Springfield PD has been knocking on doors of parent's on the pickup line for children (they arrive 45 minutes before school gets out) and has given final warnings that tickets will now be issued. Currently No Idling signs are placed at: Edward V. Walton School Early Childhood Center 601 Mountain Avenue Springfield, NJ 07081 Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School 75 South Springfield Avenue Springfield, NJ 07081 James Caldwell Elementary School 36 Caldwell Place Springfield, NJ 07081 Jonathan Dayton High School 139 Mountain Avenue Springfield, NJ 07081 Thelma L. Sandmeier Elementary School 666 South Springfield Avenue Springfield, NJ 07081 Signs have been ordered for streets with frequent complaints of Idling: 1. Caldwell Place 2. Keeler Ave. 3. Stiles Street 4. Diven St. 5. South Springfield Avenue

 [Anti-Idling Resolution](#)

 [Anti-Idling Map](#)

 [Anti-Idling Signs](#)

 [Anti-Idling Principal's Email](#)

 [Anti-Idling SEC Reminder](#)

 [Anti-Idling Ordinance Amendment](#)

## Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Public Places

10 Points

### Program Summary:

Initiated by the Springfield Township Board of Health, an ordinance making all municipal parks smoke free was passed by the Township Committee on Tuesday, March 10, 2015. The Green Team immediately jumped on board to include this in the list of planned actions for Sustainable Jersey. Signs were ordered and posted in the municipal parks by Township staff.



Outreach included an article in the April 2015 issue of the Patriot Times newsletter, mailed to all residents and available online, as well as posts on the Township website and the Township and Green Team Facebook pages. See documentation below.

 [Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Public Places Ordinance](#)

 [Smoke-Free Tobacco-Free Signs](#)

 [Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Public Places Outreach](#)

 [Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Public Places Patriot Times newspaper article](#)

## Innovation & Demonstration Projects

### Raingardens 10 Points

#### Program Summary:

The Township of Springfield is within the Rahway River watershed. The Township has a long history of flooding due to a high water table and because some areas are in Flood Hazard Zones according to FEMA flood maps. Hurricane Floyd in September 1999 illustrated how bad certain areas of Springfield Township could flood. That was even more evident when Tropical Storm Irene impacted Springfield and certain areas in Springfield flooded again, with as much as 42" of rain on the first floor of some homes. To help alleviate the flooding, Springfield implemented many flood control projects including the installation of several raingardens. One of the first rain gardens in the state was built in Springfield in front of the Engineering Building in 2007. Springfield has joined in the Rahway River Watershed Storm Water Advisory Board 1,000 rain gardens campaign, which was conceived by Aly Miller, a Springfield Township volunteer who is a member of the Environmental Commission and Green Team, and who also created an outreach brochure around the campaign and the benefits of rain gardens. In 2014, Springfield received a \$10,000 grant from Sustainable Jersey (SJ) to build up to 6 gardens throughout the Township. The first rain garden installed utilizing the SJ grant was at James Caldwell Elementary School. The second garden is at the Raymond Chisholm Community Center, where our seniors and youth activities occur. The third garden is installed at Jonathan Dayton High School. Three other rain gardens are currently being installed at different schools. When these installations are complete, the Township will have contributed \$8,000 in in-kind services to complement the \$10,000 SJ grant. The in-kind services are primarily professional time, services and labor towards the rain garden construction.

 [Engineering Annex Demonstration Rain Garden](#)

 [1000 Raingardens Campaign](#)

 [Raingardens Model Innovations in Sustainable Communities SJ Presentation](#)

 [SJ Grant Rain Gardens Patriot Newspaper Coverage](#)

## Land Use & Transportation

### Sustainable Land Use Pledge

10 Points

Bronze Priority

Silver Priority

#### Program Summary:

On February 10, 2015, the Springfield Township Committee unanimously approved Resolution 2015-77 supporting the Sustainable Land Use Pledge. The item was submitted for consideration by Deputy Mayor Margaret Bandrowski, who is a member of the Springfield Green Team, representing the Township Committee. The Sustainable Land Use Pledge was also distributed to various boards, commissions and organizations (File 1), along with the attached memo (File 2).

 [Sustainable Land Use Pledge](#)

 [Distribution Memo](#)

## Buy Local Programs

### Buy Local Campaign

10 Points

#### Program Summary:

In 2011, the Springfield Business Improvement District (BID) and the Springfield Chamber of Commerce launched a program providing businesses with a way to reach Springfield residents, and residents with a resource to help them find local businesses to meet their needs. The program has been actively promoted and expanded each year since. It currently includes a website, a Facebook page, a Twitter account, a mobile app available for free download, and an annual business directory mailed to residents. Promotions include a Loyalty Rewards Program and special discount offers. Residents and businesses are reached on a continuing basis through marketing programs including postcards, articles included in the free weekly Patriot newspaper delivered to residents, ads, and flyers mailed to residents and handed out at township events such as Fall Fest. Samples of these outreach materials are included in the documents uploaded below. Excerpts from Patriot articles: • We are averaging a weekly total reach of almost 2000 people through these posts. A "promoted post" for the Savor Springfield reached over 13,000 people in July. (November 2013) • Our Facebook page is very "hot" with every contest reaching 5-9,000 people and weekly posts reaching over 6,000. (November 2014) • Business Directory BIG Hit!! Great response to the 2015 Business Directory....remember, you can go to our app or website for up to date listings of our businesses. (March 2015)

 [BID App Promotional Materials](#)

 [Patriot Times Newspaper Articles](#)

## Natural Resources

### Environmental Commission **10 Points**

#### Program Summary:

During the year 2014 the Springfield Environmental Commission continued its mission of being a watchdog for the welfare of the citizens. Various annual projects were successfully completed and new ones were undertaken. Annual projects were: art contest with 346 participants; clean-up of rivers and parks with the help of 62 volunteers for celebration of Clean Communities' Day and Earth Day; Quarry Walk had largest group in years, 77 adults and children (the walk highlights one of the largest open spaces in the township and one of the major composting facilities for the county - used by Springfield and 12 neighboring towns); and took up the Walk to School initiative again. New projects and actions included: more anti-idling signs at the schools with the idea of expanding this to other town locations; publication of flyers and articles for landscapers and citizens about the use of legal pesticides and the dangers of using the carcinogen Antracine; successfully helped citizens protest the development of a BOE plot in a flood zone; reviewed and updated the NRI; strongly suggested that the township adopt a new storm water ordinance - result = taken up by the Planning Board and a new ordinance being written; asked for and received a medicine drop-off box at Police Station; and helped the Township create 2 Rain Gardens.

 [Environmental Commission 2014 Annual Report](#)

 [Ordinance/Code re Environmental Commission](#)

### Natural Resource Inventory

**20 Points**

**Bronze Priority**

**Silver Priority**

#### Program Summary:

In 2011 the Springfield Environmental Commission undertook a major revision of the previous NRI, prepared in 1976. In late 2014-early 2015, per 2-66.8 of the municipal code, the Springfield Environmental Commission performed its annual review of the NRI, making minor changes. The revised NRI was posted to the Springfield Township website. In addition, it was presented to the Planning Board for review and adoption on April 7, 2015, as an amendment to the 1997/2005 Master Plan, which is undergoing a major update in 2015. PDFs of the ERI, the municipal code that requires the annual review, the minutes documenting the adoption by the Planning Board, and the link on the Township website have been uploaded as supporting documentation for this action.

-  [Policy for Updating NRI](#)
-  [Natural Resource Inventory](#)
-  [Planning Board Adoption of NRI as Master Plan Element](#)
-  [NRI Link on Website](#)

## Natural Resource Protection Ordinances

### Tree Protection Ordinance

10 Points

#### Program Summary:

Springfield Township has had a Tree Ordinance since 1991. In order to remove trees, residents of Springfield must obtain a permit. Without a permit, a resident can incur a \$ 250.00 fine per tree removed. Included in the ordinance are guidelines for planting of trees to mitigate the removal, as well as a list of preferred trees (those trees best adapted to the climate, soil and topography of the Township of Springfield). The Township realized that uncontrolled cutting of trees had negative environmental consequences such as increased soil erosion and drainage problems that incur additional municipal costs, and that such negative impacts have resulted in lower property values and, if allowed to continue, will result in future deterioration of conditions affecting Springfield's environment and the health, safety and general wellbeing of the inhabitants of the Township. A tree removal and planting plan is required as part of the permitting process for tree removal. In addition, through the continuous efforts and energy of the Department of Public Works, Springfield has become a Tree City USA municipality and a member of the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation. The DPW plants and maintains all shade trees in the parks and along the streets. At present, the township employs a certified tree expert whose arboreal responsibilities and activities include the removal of dead trees and the pruning and removal of hazardous conditions caused by dead limbs, low limbs, broken limbs, etc. The Department averages approximately 60 removals, 100 prunings, and at least 25 plantings at a cost of \$150,000 each year.

 [Tree Protection Ordinance](#)

## Operations & Maintenance

### Adopt Behavioral Policies

5 Points

#### Program Summary:

After discussion among the Green Team about what to include in this policy, the Township Engineer (a member of the Green Team) worked with the Township Administrator to develop

the email and memo that are uploaded below. The policy, outlining actions to reduce energy use, is embedded in the body of both the email, which was distributed to all Township employees, the library and the first aid squad on March 30, 2015, and the memo, which was distributed to all employees also on March 30, 2015.

 [Adopt Behavioral Policies Email](#)

 [Adopt Behavioral Policies Memo](#)

## Sustainability Planning




### Community Visioning 10 Points

#### Program Summary:

In 2013, the Township of Springfield received a Local Demonstration Project (LDP) grant from Together North Jersey for a community vision plan for its downtown. The project followed the Oregon model. The objective was to create a plan that the Township can use in preparation of a Redevelopment Plan and that addresses concerns regarding walkability, bikeability, bus routes, integration of the arts and flooding. Project partners: Township of Springfield, Union County, Springfield Business Improvement District. Project contributors: Springfield Township Committee, Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Union County Division of Planning and Community Development, Union County Division of Strategic Planning & Intergovernmental Relations, Springfield Business Improvement District, Springfield Patriot Chamber of Commerce, Springfield Free Public Library, Springfield Township Environmental Commission, New Jersey Department of Transportation, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, McManimon, Scotland and Baumann, and Phillips Preiss and Grygiel. An Advisory Committee meeting was held in October 2013; an open house workshop was held at the “Sarah Bailey Senior and Civic Center” on November 12; and additional feedback was collected online into February 2014. The team met with DOT and the local Business Improvement District in December and conducted informal field interviews with individuals who live, work in and traverse the study area. On March 11, the project team gave their final presentation with recommendations to the township government and other interested individuals. The final report, released in January 2015, included recommendations on the following: • Traffic Calming and Traffic Flow • Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements • Relocations and improvements for Transit Stops • Parking Management, Maintenance and Enforcement • Stormwater Management • Design and Redevelopment Standards On May 12, 2015, the Township Committee approved resolution 2015-159 accepting the Morris Avenue Vision and Mobility Plan and recognizing the input of various entities including the Springfield Green Team and residents of the community.

 [Morris Avenue Vision and Mobility Plan Part 1](#)

 [Morris Avenue Vision and Mobility Plan Part 2](#)

-  [Community Visioning Documentation](#)
-  [Resolution Approving Vision and Mobility Plan](#)
-  [Community Visioning Outreach](#)

## Waste Management

### Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal







10 Points

Bronze Priority

Silver Priority

#### Program Summary:

In June 2014, Springfield applied to the Attorney General's Office to participate in the Project Medicine Drop program. Citing the Township's commitment to improving the quality of life and public safety within the community, Police Chief John Cook said the intent was to increase public awareness of the potential for abuse of expired prescription medications and make a positive decision to dispose of them under controlled circumstances. By locating the permanent dropbox in an accessible and secure area under 24 hour surveillance in the police lobby and under video surveillance, a stringent requirement for approval was met. The police department was also required to develop a Standard Operating Procedure (see documentation) for the use of the box as well as the processing and disposal of the material. A Memorandum of Understanding outlining the program and the responsibilities of all parties was signed by Chief Cook and the AG's office. Once all the paperwork was submitted, Springfield was approved and received two boxes in late November. One box was permanently installed in the lobby of the Police Department, 100 Mountain Avenue; the other is a portable version that the Chief is able to take to events such as Senior Citizen programs as well as to residents not able to travel to the PD. As of late March there have been two events at which the mobile box was available. Chief Cook is working with local businesses who wish to reserve a day for their employees to bring medications for protected disposal, reaching even further into the community. The program has proven very successful; in just a few short months well over 200 pounds of unused prescription drugs have been collected, and another initiative was planned for April 27, 2015.

-  [Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal Photos](#)
-  [Prescription Drug Program Patriot Times Articles](#)
-  [PDP on Police Department Web page](#)
-  [Prescription Drug Disposal Receipts](#)
-  [Township Website Announcements and Press Releases](#)
-  [Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal Program SOP](#)

## Recycling

## Community Paper Shredding Day

5 Points

### Program Summary:

Despite terrible weather more than 200 people attended the shredding event held on Saturday March 14, 2015 at the Springfield Municipal Pool Parking Lot. Three (3) members of the Springfield DPW assisted residents the entire day with their materials. This event was available only to Springfield Residents; proof of residency was required. Each resident was allowed to bring 4 boxes or bags of documents not weighing more than 10 lbs. apiece. The Township of Springfield contracted the shredding event with NEXCUT Shredding 443 Schiller Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07206. 3200 LBs of confidential material were shredded. A "Certificate of Destruction" provided by the vendor is uploaded below. This amount will be included in our annual tonnage report and grant application. The monetary payout of our annual tonnage grant is contingent upon the amount of material we recycle throughout the year. Many reasons contributed to the success of this event: 1. Residents were given the opportunity to protect themselves from identity theft and consumer fraud by shredding personal documents 2. The event was very well publicized via many media sources that the Township utilizes including website, Facebook, local paper, electronic message board and flyer distribution (copy of flyer and other outreach materials are uploaded below). 3. The event was funded by grants; therefore no costs were incurred by the Township 4. The event contributed to maintaining the earth's resources for future generations and to making us more environmentally sustainable. Some relevant facts; Instead of using virgin wood fiber, recycling one ton of paper would: ??Save approximately 17 trees ??Save enough energy to power the average American home for six months ??Save 7,000 gallons of water ??Save 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space Considering the popularity of the event and the environmental and monetary, we will probably hold another event in the fall.

 [Community Paper Shredding Day Outreach](#)

 [Certificate of Destruction](#)

## Waste Reduction

### Grass - Cut It and Leave It Program

5 Points

### Program Summary:

The Township of Springfield has promoted using the cut it and leave it approach to grass clippings for quite a while. Articles are periodically run in the Patriot newspaper and information about this practice is included on the DPW page of the Township website under a tab about the Grass Collection schedule. In the fall of 2014, a pamphlet was prepared for distribution at the township Fall Fest. The pamphlet was also uploaded to the Township

website and posted on social media. The most recent article about cut it and leave it appeared in the May 2015 issue of the Patriot Times newspaper, which is mailed to all residents and available online. Cut It and Leave It was also included as one of the pledges in the Community Challenge, which continues to be promoted around town, as part of the Green Challenges action. See documentation.

 [Cut It and Leave It Brochure](#)

 [Grass - Cut It and Leave It Articles in Patriot Times](#)

 [Grass - Cut It and Leave It Pledge](#)

 [Grass - Cut It and Leave It Website and Social Media](#)

## Reusable Bag Education Program

5 Points

### Program Summary:

For the past 3 years the Township of Springfield's Green Team has been working with the Chamber of Commerce to develop a way to provide the citizens with reusable grocery bags. This past winter the Township of Springfield's Environmental Commission and Department of Public Works decided to spearhead the printing of the bags as part of the Annual Clean Communities' Day Art Contest. In years past the contest has been to design Car Magnets to remind people to recycle, posters advertising Clean Communities' Day and Garbage Can Stickers to delineate the recycling cans from the regular trash cans. Working with the Board of Education, entry forms were sent home physically and/or electronically to all public school students in Kindergarten through 8th grade, as well as to the students in the local private school. Five hundred three (503) entries were received. From those entries 3 Designs were selected to be printed on reusable bags. Certificates of Excellence, Honorable Mention and Special Mention (76) were given out to the students at a Town Hall Committee meeting where the winning designs were announced. Also, all of the entries were displayed at the Public Library for part of April and the month of May 2015. The contest winners were also listed in the May issue of the Patriot Times and on the township's TV station. The bags will be distributed to all of the students in grades Kindergarten through 8th in both the public schools and the private school. During the Fall Festival in October of this year, 2015, the remainder of the bags will be distributed from the Environmental Commission's table where the DVD of "BAG IT" will be shown.

 [Reusable Bag Education Program Documentation](#)