

ORANGE WINS SUSTAINABLE JERSEY CERTIFICATION AWARD

At the NJ League of Municipalities conference in November, the Sustainable Jersey program announced that Orange has met the rigorous requirements to achieve Sustainable Jersey certification. Orange is one of only 96 out of 350 municipalities registered with the program that have attained certification to date. Sustainable Jersey's participating communities represent over half the state's municipalities and nearly 75% of its population.

Certified towns excel in areas such as improving energy efficiency and health and wellness, reducing waste, sustaining local economies, protecting natural resources, and addressing diversity and equity. The award

comes one year after "Enterprise", the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce magazine, published a cover story featuring Orange's environmentally sensitive revitalization strategies.

The city's green programs and policies helped it achieve Sustainable Jersey certification including Creation of a "Green Team" to coordinate sustainable initiatives, requirements for energy-saving technologies in new development, an energy audit, a community paper shredding day, passage of a sustainable land use pledge, a focus on sustainability in revising the Master Plan, diversity in boards and commissions, and "buy local" promotions. Other sustainable initiatives in Orange include planned

retrofitting municipal buildings with energy saving features, an urban farms program, recycling and waste reduction, public/private health partnerships, and construction of several "green" buildings.

Orange was one of twenty New Jersey municipalities and the only Essex County community to achieve Sustainable Jersey certification in 2011. The cities were honored at the Sustainable Jersey awards luncheon on Tuesday, November 15 at the Sheraton Hotel in Atlantic City with Mayor Eldridge Hawkins, Jr. accepting the award on behalf of Orange.

"Orange is the perfect laboratory for sustainable development because we are a compact city where homes are a short walk or bicycle ride

from our train stations and thriving business district," Mayor Eldridge Hawkins, Jr. said. "In an era of high energy prices, global warming, and heightened environmental sensitivity, it has been my goal as Mayor to make Orange a leader in the movement for sustainable communities."

"These are exceptional towns with outstanding programs," said Donna Drewes, Co-Director of the Institute for Sustainability Planning & Governance at The College of New Jersey and Sustainable Jersey founding partner. "We've been amazed to see how this program has catalyzed community spirit and fostered grassroots leadership, cross-sector creativity and collaboration across New Jersey."