



## FANWOOD BORO

### I. Introduction

This is the Sustainable Jersey profile of the municipality of FANWOOD BORO. FANWOOD BORO is a Sustainable Jersey Bronze Certified municipality.

Fanwood Borough was certified in 2012 with 195 points. Listed below are the municipality's 2012 certified actions and associated materials.

### II. Contact Information and Local Leaders

The designated Sustainable Jersey contact for FANWOOD BORO is:

Name: Donna Dolce

Title/Position: Committee Chair

Department: none

Address: 75 Martine Avenue, Fanwood, NJ 07023

### III. Sustainability Actions Implemented

Each Category that FANWOOD BORO implemented appears below, with a list of the implemented actions below that.

#### Community Partnership & Outreach

##### Create Green Team

##### Program Summary

The Fanwood "Green Team" became an extension of the Fanwood Environmental Commission and as a result of their recommendation to extend the excellent work being done related to Sustainability recommended to the Mayor and Council that we participate in this state program and create a "Green Team." The Mayor of Fanwood initiated the development and creation of the Green Team by first appointing former Councilwoman, Donna Dolce, attend the annual Sustainability meeting at the League of Municipalities in 2009. As a result of that exposure, Ms. Dolce proceeded to recruit members of the community and representatives from existing committees and commission to provide a broad based representation of membership. These community volunteers represented the Environmental Commission, Shade Tree Commission, Recreation Commission,

Department of Public Works, local YMCA staff, and interested volunteers, to name a few. The Mayor appointed the original "Green Team" as a Mayoral appointment at a regular meeting of the municipal council in August, 2011 and the Green Team had their first official meeting in September of that same year. As a result of the action taken by this initial group, the "Green Team" membership was formalized by resolution in May, 2012 in order to be in compliance with the Action Items suggested through the program and to affirm continuation of their work and recognize their efforts.

##### Program Documents

File 1 : [Fanwood Green Team Initial App](#)

File 2 : [Fanwood Green Team Activities](#)

File 3 : [Fanwood Green Team Formal Reso](#)

## Green Fairs

### Hold a Green Fair

#### Program Summary

December – The Fanwood “Green Team” commits to hosting a “Green Fair” as part of the Sustainable NJ initiative. It is determined that to ensure the broadest turnout for this event, both with vendors and attendees, it would be best held in collaboration with an existing and long standing event currently hosted by the municipality. Fanwood Recreation Director, Bob Budiansky suggested that the Fair be held with the annual “Party in the Park” which combines food, activities for children and families and would be a complement to the Green Fair. June 26, 2012 is targeted as the event date. January – vendor recruitment flyers and initial solicitation efforts and media promotion begins for the Green Fair. Copies of the letter and form attached. Form sent to municipal committees/commissions and known “green” vendors. Information posted to municipal website and announcements made at council meetings. April/May – Press releases sent to local media promoting the event. Response is greater than anticipated and will include representatives from the Union County Nature Center, Shade Tree, Environmental and Recycling Commissions, plus Green Vendors e.g. Solar, Greennovation, up-cycling art and design, Rain Barrel demonstration by the Master Gardeners; to name a few. (complete list of vendors attached) June – Posters are distributed in local businesses (copy attached) separately promoting the Green Fair. The Green Fair was held with great success on Tuesday, June 26th from 5:30 to 8:00 pm in LaGrande Park. Organized by the Green Team, the fair had the support of the local Recreation Commission that supplied food and beverages, the Public Works Department that supplied technical support. ATTACHMENTS Green Fair Vendor Recruitment letter Green Fair Vendor form Green Fair poster List of vendors Event photos

#### Program Documents

File 1 : [Fanwood Green Fair Promotional](#)

File 2 : [Fanwood Green Fair Vendors & P](#)

File 3 : [Fanwood Green Fair Qualitative](#)

## Energy Efficiency

### Energy Audits for Municipal Facilities

#### Inventory and Upgrade All Buildings

#### Program Summary

The Borough of Fanwood and the municipal Engineer utilized the services of T & M Associates to complete a total Energy Audit of all of its current and existing buildings owned by the municipality. These buildings include; the Municipal Administration building/Firehouse, Library, Public Works buildings, Historic Fanwood Train Station/Museum, Carriage House, LaGrande Park and Forest Road Park Activity Centers. Upon completion of the audits, the borough elected to participate in the New Jersey Clean Energy Program's Direct Install Program in 2010 and 2011. The Borough submitted Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant and Direct Install applications for all of its municipal facilities during the 2010 Direct Install funding cycles, and was approved for funding by the New Jersey Office of Clean Energy to conduct energy improvements to Borough Hall for the 2010 funding cycle. The Borough was approved to upgrade lighting, HVAC, and natural gas equipment within Borough Hall at a total estimated project cost of \$38,367.36 as part of its 2010 funding award. EECBG grant funding covers \$23,020.42 of the total cost of the project, while the Borough is responsible for the remaining \$15,346.94. The Borough is currently working with Hutchinson Mechanical Services to install the energy upgrades contained in the scope of work provided by NJ clean energy. The Borough chose the Direct Install program over the Local Government Energy Audit program because of its minimal cost to the Borough, ease of implementation, and quick turnaround and return on investment. The Borough will continue to pursue funding to complete the necessary changes and upgrades to its remaining facilities as time and funding sources permit.

#### Program Documents

File 1 : [Fanwood Bldg Inventory](#)

File 2 : [Fanwood Bldg Inventory Letter](#)

File 3 : [Fanwood Bldg Inventory Scopes](#)

## Health and Wellness

### Building Healthier Communities

#### Program Summary

After Fanwood partnered with the Scotch Plains Fanwood YMCA to work on the Pioneering Healthier Communities initiative, the town adopted a Resolution of Support and helped conduct the municipal baseline measurements using the CHLI. Together we evaluated the needs of the community and decided to focus on certain initiatives that benefit the community. • The YMCA ran a pedometer initiative called America on the Move. By giving pedometers to children, their families and school staff, the Y hoped to motivate, support and create healthy lifestyles. The focus of the program was to increase awareness of activity and motivate children, families and staff to make more steps in their daily lives. The Y brought the program to 6 elementary and 2 middle schools involving over 1600 participants. Because there was greater success with faculty involvement, the Y will offer the program to the faculty in 2012 working with the “Teachers Association.” Working on an initiative with just the adults will hopefully bring more awareness of daily activity with the staff and they will subsequently transfer those learnings to their students. • Building on a Senior Health Fair done by the Chelsea in Fanwood, a senior living facility, in 2011, the YMCA, the

JCC of Central Jersey and the Chelsea are planning a Senior Health and Wellness day for 10-24-12. We will have vendors and specialists promote health and wellness in all aspects...nutrition, fitness and wellness of the mind. • The YMCA partnered with Livestrong to design a program to meet the needs of those whose lives have been affected by cancer. This program has benefitted so many and will continue to do so. • The YMCA hosts overlook hospital health screenings and lecture series once a month for the community. • The YMCA will contribute volunteers and advertising to assist in the annual Fanwood 5K

### Program Documents

File 1 : [Fanwood Health & Wellness Reso](#)

File 2 : [Fanwood CHILI Assessments](#)

File 3 : [Fanwood Healthy Communities Im](#)

### Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement Program

#### Program Summary

The Fanwood Green Team worked collectively to bring about the Anti-idling program to the borough. The first step was creating and drafting an anti-idling resolution that was submitted to and adopted by the municipality. As part of the development of the resolution, the committee identified key strategic, anti-idling locations. Because none of the public schools physically exist within the boundaries of the borough, the committee elected to target the train station and downtown business areas and identified cursory streets that approach the local schools as secondary areas. Signs were purchased through the proceeds generated by the Green Fair and the committee did approach the school district to assist us in educating and informing parents of the state anti-idling regulations. The flyer was designed and distributed electronically through the school and PTA weekly email system, as well as posting to the municipal website, posting at the train station and in the windows of downtown businesses. Enforcement will begin in earnest with the start of the fall school year with warnings currently being implemented during the late spring and summer months.

### Program Documents

File 1 : [Fanwood Anti-Idling Map](#)

File 2 : [Fanwood Anti-Idling Resolution](#)

File 3 : [Fanwood Anti-Idling Pictures a](#)

### Safe Routes to School

#### Program Summary

The Borough of Fanwood is part of the combined Scotch Plains/Fanwood School District and operates with 5 elementary schools, 2 middle schools and one high school. Four of the existing Elementary Schools have sponsored Walk/Bike to School Day projects over the past several years with increasing participation and success. Each school provided a variety of methods to organize a team, promote and coordinate this activity with various levels of involvement by the PTA, local police agencies and communications avenues. The material documented is for five "Walk/Bike to School Day" events that occurred within the past two years at 4 of the 5 Elementary Schools. An article was found written about Evergreen Elementary School taking part in Walk to School Day on October 5th, 2011 where post event details were written by Evergreen PTA President, Marci Bowman. Due to success of this event, the school sent e-mail blasts to families stating that a second Walk to School Day would take place on April 18th 2012 during Earth Week. According to Marci Bowman, results were similar to October's walk. McGinn Elementary School distributed flyers announcing that Walk to School Day would take place on October 5th 2011 which became a wonderful experience according to Dr. Sasha Slocum (McGinn's Principal) who had written details of the event. School One spread the word of Walk to School Day to take place on October 5th, 2011 through the principal's newsletter distributed to parents and teachers. Jeffrey Grysko (School One Principal) wrote a comprehensive description of the affair. A Brunner Elementary School parent described Walk to School Day on October 6, 2010 as a positive initiative for students to walk at least once a week to school on Wednesdays. An article displaying a picture and story of their success was found on Scotch Plains-Fanwood Patch.

### Program Documents

File 1 : [Fanwood Safe Route To Schools](#)

File 2 : [Fanwood Safe Routes to School](#)

## Natural Resources

### Environmental Commission

#### Program Summary

The Environmental Commission was established in the Borough of Fanwood in 1972 under the leadership of then Mayor, Ted Trumpp. The Commission was established in response to potential environmental threats to the limited and declining open space that remained in the borough and as a result of the donation of 6 acres of primarily wetlands to the municipality. The commission's initial responsibility was to determine the best use of this property, how to best manage the property for the use of its residents and ultimately how to ensure that it was used for the purposes for which it was intended. Subsequently a "ranger" was retained who continues to provide oversight to the property today. Through the efforts of local volunteers, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts the Fanwood Nature Center continues to expand and serve the residents of Fanwood. In the meantime, the Commission expanded its role by completing the first ERI in 1997, developed a number of programs, including the installation of butterfly gardens, annual celebration of the Big Backyard Bird Count and participates in the annual borough Clean

Communities Day. They also have a voice in matters brought before the planning and zoning boards regarding potential environmental impact of proposed development. The Fanwood Environmental Commission is a strong and integral part of the borough, whose seven members are appointed to 3 year terms on a rotating basis.

### Program Documents

File 1 : [Fanwood Environmental Commissi](#)

File 2 : [Fanwood Environmental Commissi](#)

### Natural Resource Inventory

#### Program Summary

The Environmental Commission as part of their regular mandate and charge is to generate, update and otherwise maintain a current Environmental Resource Inventory that would be incorporated into the Master Plan for the Borough of Fanwood. Originally written in 1991, the document came under review and revision in late 2004 with a completion target date of 2006. The Borough applied for and received a grant from ANJEC and matched by the municipality to fund the completion of the inventory, almost totally done using the efforts and talents of local volunteers as members of the Environmental Commission. Once completed the document was sent to the Planning Board for review and comment and then adopted by the borough and incorporated into the planning documents. The timing of the ERI could not have come at a better time as the Borough initiated an aggressive redevelopment of their downtown and much of what was suggested in the ERI was ultimately incorporated into the Planning Boards mandates to future developers in this area. Attached is an article from the 2006 issue of the Fanwoodian, the Borough's community newspaper, advertising for input and feedback from the community upon completion of the initial draft.

### Program Documents

File 1 : [Fanwood ERI Document](#)

File 2 : [Fanwood ERI Master Plan](#)

File 3 : [Fanwood ERI Update Plan](#)

## Tree & Woodlands Management

### Community Forestry Plan and Canopy Goal

#### Program Summary

The Borough of Fanwood Forestry Plan and Tree Cover Goal has been an effort sustained by the Shade Tree Commission for over 40 years. Fanwood initially was part of an expansive farm land community through the early 1950's and with the expanding use of their train station providing commuters with easy and economically efficient access to the cities of Newark and New York City, Fanwood quickly blossomed into a suburban destination. As homes and businesses grew throughout the borough, challenges to the abundance of trees that lined the streets and occupied fields were quickly felled to keep up with this building boom. It was also at this time that great devastation occurred with the blight brought about by the death of massive amounts of Elm Trees to Dutch Elm disease. In response the borough established a Shade Tree Commission to protect the challenges being brought to this natural environment. The commission's first responsibility was to complete an inventory of all of the existing trees, quantity, number, condition, etc. Upon completion of the inventory the commission went about the task of developing a planting and pruning program. Once the immediate effects of the loss of many trees through development, the Commission provided input to the master plan that required developers to replace trees removed from building sites, etc. The Commission established several goals. Among these was to expand the current tree cover to at least 50%. At the time of this goal being set nearly a decade ago, the cover of the borough had dropped to a low of 25%. In 2012 we are happy to report that the commission's efforts are paying off with an existing cover of 38% with a target to achieve the 50% goal within the next decade.

### Program Documents

File 1 : [Fanwood Community Forest Statu](#)

File 2 : [Fanwood Tree Cover Goal](#)

### Tree Planting Programs

#### Program Summary

The Borough of Fanwood has had a tree planting program for more than four decades. The tree planting program has been carried out by the volunteers on the Fanwood Shade Tree Commission. We will describe our current tree planting program here which has been in effect for the past ten years. Our tree planting program is divided into two parts, a Spring tree planting Program and a Fall tree planting program. The programs are very similar except the Fall program is partnered with the Union County tree planting program. Both programs conform to the same tree planting standards. We receive better prices with the county program but less of a choice in trees. Each year the Fanwood Shade Tree Commission determines appropriate planting sites by keeping track of trees that have been removed. Commissioners are assigned quadrants of the borough and search for appropriate sites in their quadrants and also evaluate requests for trees by residents. The commission then selects sites for Spring and Fall planting. The species of trees are determined based several factors. • Availability from nurseries • Diversity • Site considerations The commission always strives to plant the right tree in the right place which generally means small trees under power lines and large shade trees wherever possible. We always try to maintain a large diversity of trees which can mitigate against the problems of insect pests and disease. Diversity also creates interest and aesthetic appeal. We try to avoid Norway Maples and Pin Oaks which have been over-planted in our borough. We also limit the number of pear trees we plant

due to their tendency to break apart. Over the past ten years the commission has averaged planting 30 trees per year at an average cost of \$5,000.00 per year. This cost does not include volunteer hours which are comprised of contact with residents, determining site locations, researching appropriate trees and organizing the planting. The planting is done by private contractors. Trees are planted in accordance with established ANSI specifications. All trees are inspected after planting. The trees are watered through out the year when necessary by the Fanwood Department of Public Works. In certain cases gator bags are attached to the trees to allow more efficient watering. Trees are inspected by DPW and the Shade Tree Commission after one year. DPW then removes all staking materials. Trees that do not survive are under warranty and are replaced. Tree growth is monitored in the early years and pruned when necessary.

#### Program Documents

File 1 : [Fanwood Shade Tree Planting Pr](#)

File 2 : [Fanwood Tree Planting Des. and](#)

File 3 : [Fanwood Shade Tree Spring/Fall](#)

## Waste Management

### Recycling

#### Recycling Depot

#### Program Summary

Fanwood is the only town in Union County without curb-side pickup. Since 1987, following Ordinance 87-18R, residents have been bringing their recyclables to the Fanwood Recycling Center on North Avenue (Borough property, no official address). The Center, open every Wednesday and Saturday from 9am-1pm, is managed and staffed by the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Recycling Association, an all-volunteer organization of 23 non-profit community service groups. Last year 886 tons were recycled, including much more than just Class A materials (see attached report). The Center's activities are supervised on the Association's behalf by a Site Manager and 5 part-time employees, in collaboration with the Director of Public Works, who is the Borough's Recycling Coordinator. The Center is publicized in the annual DPW mailing to residents, the town newsletter and website, and articles in local press and community television, although the Center's reach is much wider. A recent month long survey showed that 70% of the users were from Fanwood, another 29% from 16 other towns in Union County, and the remaining 1% from communities in the surrounding 5 counties. Local businesses are welcome to use the Center, but most contract with their own trash collection company. One volunteer regularly bring newspapers from the local convenience stores and another cardboard from one set of businesses. The Center provides more than just materials recycling. The Association's member groups- scout troops, church organizations, fraternal organizations, etc.- raise funds by staffing the Center on Saturdays and receiving payment from the sales of the recyclables. Local courts, the Division of Youth and Family Services, and the probation system use the Center as a site for those ordered to provide community service, approximately 350 hours/month. Finally, the Site Manager gives an average of two educational tours a month to groups of school aged children to reinforce the recycling message.

#### Program Documents

File 1 : [Fanwood Recycling Center List](#)

File 2 : [Fanwood Recycling Annual Notic](#)

File 3 : [Fanwood Picture of Recycling D](#)

### Waste Reduction

#### Grass - Cut It and Leave It Program

#### Program Summary

In early 2006, the Borough of Fanwood adopted a Grass-Cut it and Leave it program. Each year the Department of Public Works mails a schedule of services to all residents within the Borough and includes the following guidelines for grass disposal: Grass clippings provide beneficial nutrients to gardens and lawns reducing the need for fertilizers and contributing to the soils organic matter. It is recommended to mow your grass with a mulching mower, when done properly, you are left with neat, "just vacuumed" appearance. And thatch is not a problem incurred with mulching mowers, a common misconception. Thatch is the result of excess surface roots caused by over watering and over fertilizing. If you do not own a mulching mower, simply use the clippings as a garden mulch, spreading it on the surface to help eliminate weed growth, reduce soil spattering and crusting and also to help moderate the soil temperature. The Borough does not provide pickup of grass clippings therefore placing grass in the street is prohibited therefore we strongly recommend utilizing a mulching mower. This program has reduced the amount of grass placed in the street and virtually eliminated requests from residents for the Borough to provide grass pickup.

#### Program Documents

File 1 : [Fanwood Cut It and Leave It Ed](#)

## Innovative Demonstration Projects

### Raingardens

#### Program Summary

## Program Summary

Fanwood's rain garden was developed through a funded project provided by Rutgers University in 2005. Chris Abrubta, a professor at Rutgers University, contacted the Borough in pursuit of utilizing a storm water management grant funded project on behalf of the university. Fanwood was one of five towns selected for this project. An appropriate location, of the Fanwood Memorial Library was selected as the most appropriate location for the Rain Garden because of its location, topography and educational opportunity perspective. Dave Schwartzburg, a community volunteer and member of the Fanwood Environmental Commission, created the layout and design of the rain garden. The Borough provided approximately \$1,000 in time and materials through their Department of Public works to clear the site and lay the foundation with soil, stones and planted larger trees and bushes. The Union County Master Gardeners volunteers completed the finishing touches by dedicating time and materials to actualize the garden by securing native plants and creating a "lasagna" garden base to enhance stability and success. The garden was ultimately dedicated to longtime volunteer and NJ Transit employee, Steven Clark, who for many years served as president of the Library Board. In all, the garden was and remains in integral part of the borough and library program.

## Program Documents

File 1 : [Fanwood Raingarden Project Sco](#)

File 3 : [Fanwood Rain Garden Outreach I](#)