

Action Plan for a Sustainable Berkeley Heights

Green Building Practices

Objectives

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in new and renovated buildings.

Educate officials, residents & business owners on how to build/renovate in a sustainable manner.

Targets

Achieve 20% reduction in carbon footprint from new and existing buildings by 2020 and a zero carbon footprint in buildings constructed after 2025.

Encourage all major new construction projects and renovations to meet green certification practices that include site conditions, water and energy efficiency, material selection and indoor environment.

Action Steps - Short Term (Within a Year)

		Municipality	Residents	Businesses	Schools	Partner / Civic Organization	Page
A-1	In new constructions and renovations, promote the use of green and recycled building materials as well as materials that contribute to a healthy indoor environment by developers, residents, business owners, public schools, and the Township.	•	•	•	•	•	
A-2	Create incentives that will require a description of the project's sustainability measures to be used, and the enumeration of proposed green energy, water conservation and construction waste reduction measures.	•	•	•	•	•	
A-3	Develop a green building checklist that the Planning Board and Board of Adjustments can require applicants to fill out.	•	•	•	•	•	

Action Steps - Long Term

A-4	Encourage Berkeley Heights Township to adopt a resolution requiring LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards for new municipal construction and consider ways to facilitate or subsidize the Green Certification of Buildings.	•					
A-5	Review and revise municipal building codes to create incentives for following LEED building practices.	•	•	•	•	•	
A-6	Lobby state legislators to amend the building code to increase energy efficiency in buildings and requirements for other green issues.	•					

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Solid Waste & Recycling

Objectives

To reduce solid waste

To increase recycling

Targets

To reduce solid waste by 10% in 2010

To reduce solid waste by 20% in 2011

To increase tonnage of recycled materials by 10% in 2010

To increase tonnage of recycled materials by 20% in 2011

Action Steps - Short Term (Within a Year)

		Municipality	Residents	Businesses	Schools	Partner / Civic Organization	Page
C-1	Educate the public on how to reduce solid waste by reducing, reusing and recycling	•	•	•	•	•	
C-2	Investigate, establish and publicize a reduced rate with garbage disposal company for reduced trash pick up	•	•	•	•		
C-3	Procure recycle bins for the parks and summer camp sites in town	•		•	•	•	
C-4	Encourage participation in a Waste Management Audit	•	•	•	•		

Action Steps - Long Term

C-6	Find a way to recycle styrofoam	•	•	•	•	•	
C-7	Adopt a Construction & Demolition Waste Recycle Ordinance	•					
C-8	Establish a Municipal Compost Site	•					
C-9	Recognize businesses for green practices			•			

Action Plan for a Sustainable Berkeley Heights

Transportation

Objectives

Reduce transportation fuel use through reduced automobile use and increased fuel efficiency.

Improve community health by decreasing emissions and promoting exercise.

Targets

Convince 25% of the drivers in town to adopt more fuel efficient practices and habits.

Eliminate idling around schools and other populous locations.

Action Steps - Short Term (Within a Year)

		Municipality	Residents	Businesses	Schools	Partner / Civic Organization	Page
D-1	Incentivize/encourage car pooling to the railroad station.	•					
D-2	Post no-idling signs at the schools and other populous places.	•					
D-3	Begin to publicize fuel efficient driving habits.		•	•	•	•	

Action Steps - Long Term

D-4	Reduce usage of personal cars (see action steps D-5 through D-8)	•	•	•	•	•	
D-5	Survey residents for interest in car-pooling	•	•		•	•	
D-6	Publicize/promote a ride sharing website	•			•	•	
D-7	Evaluate/establish shuttle service to the railroad, perhaps based on existing NJT route 986	•				•	
D-8	Encourage NJT to offer incentives for walking/biking to the train	•				•	
D-9	Pass an anti-idling ordinance; publicize and enforce idling restrictions	•			•	•	
D-10	Encourage biking and walking to school; increase number of bike racks	•	•		•	•	
D-11	Evaluate energy efficient vehicle options when purchasing new vehicles	•	•	•	•		

Action Plan for a Sustainable Berkeley Heights

Tree Canopy and Open Space

Objectives

Promote the preservation of green space in and around Berkeley Heights

Maintain and promote a healthy, safe and sustainable shade tree resource that will benefit the community

Targets

Develop inventory of all public trees on all roads in the Township

Develop program to prune and maintain trees including assessment of hazardous trees.

Develop rain gardens on Township and Board of Education property.

Promote diversity of native species and replacement of invasive species.

Action Steps - Short Term (Within a Year)

		Municipality	Residents	Businesses	Schools	Partner / Civic Organization	Page
E-1	Carry out windshield survey of hazardous trees	•					
E-2	Establish a systematic multi-year program of tree pruning and removal of hazardous trees and apply for grant funding for this purpose.	•					
E-3	Begin to carry out an inventory of street trees and apply for grant funding for this effort	•				•	

Action Steps - Long Term

E-4	Continue educational and PR programs for CFMP and open space	•	•	•	•	•	
E-5	Review TWP Shade Tree Ordinance to include preservation of certain trees, recommendations for trees planted below power lines, and exclusion of invasives	•	•	•		•	
E-6	Evaluate locations for rain gardens on TWP and Board of Ed property	•			•	•	
E-7	Continue working w/ volunteers maintaining and expanding the Passaic River park	•	•		•	•	
E-8	Look into sharing a forester or certified tree expert with another community	•				•	
E-9	Carry out other actions proposed in the township's Community Forestry Management Plan	•	•		•	•	

Action Plan for a Sustainable Berkeley Heights

Energy Conservations in Existing Structures

Objectives

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy loss in existing buildings and homes

Reduce energy use by increasing energy efficiency and the percentage of energy derived from renewable sources

Targets

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from all Berkeley Heights buildings by 10% by 2015

Have 5% of the Berkeley Heights residences participate in the Home Performance with Energy Star Assessment (audit) by 2012, with additional increases to be determined on a year to year basis.

Establish an "electric energy and natural gas reduction meter" that is updated quarterly to reflect the progress toward achievement of these targets. The meter should be posted on the Township web page and the town message board to publicize the reductions, savings and benefits (reduction of carbon footprint).

Educate Berkeley Heights Residents and Business of the New Jersey Clean Energy Incentive Programs available.

Have all Municipal Buildings participate in the Energy Star building rating program to track building energy usage.

Action Steps - Short Term (Within a Year)

Action Steps - Short Term (Within a Year)		Municipality	Residents	Businesses	Schools	Partner / Civic Organization	Page
F-1	Perform Energy Audit of all Municipal Buildings through the New Jersey Clean Energy Program	•					
F-2	Promote purchase by homeowners, businesses/landlords, and municipality of Energy Star appliances and electrical equipment, if available, when purchasing new items or replacing old ones	•	•	•	•	•	
F-3	Use Compact Fluorescent (CFL) bulbs, turn out lights when not in use, and if possible, increase LED (light emitting diode) Lighting	•	•	•	•	•	
F-4	Take steps now to reduce energy consumption - set thermostats 2 degs lower in winter and 2 degs higher in summer; replace old windows; unplug appliances/chargers that draw energy when not in use; enable energy saving features on all computers (sleep mode)	•	•	•	•	•	

Action Steps - Long Term

F-5	Implement recommendations for the Municipal Building Energy Audit.	•					
F-6	Educate residents and businesses to the possibilities for installing solar energy systems.	•	•	•	•	•	
F-7	Encourage and educate residential, municipal, commercial and industrial users on the benefits of the New Jersey SmartStart Buildings program, sponsored by the NJ Clean Energy Program	•	•	•	•	•	
F-8	Launch and maintain a community-wide energy awareness and training campaign to promote energy usage reductions and efficiency	•	•	•	•	•	
F-9	Promote residential use of NJ Clean Energy's Home Performance with Energy Star Measured Audit or use of online assessment tool		•				

Action Plan for a Sustainable Berkeley Heights

Water Usage

Objectives

Educate the Public and Disseminate to the Community Helpful Hints for Improved Water Conservation, Water Usage, and Green Landscaping Practices;

Targets

Educate as many members of the community as possible within the next year through community partnership and outreach, and draft ordinances relating to water runoff and other water conservation measures.

Action Steps - Short Term (Within a Year)

		Municipality	Residents	Businesses	Schools	Partner / Civic Organization	Page
G-1	Educate the public on opportunities for water conservation through handouts, presentations, and other means.	•	•	•			
G-2	Draft a Water Conservation Ordinance, similar to that described on the Sustainable New Jersey website.	•	•	•			

Action Steps - Long Term

G-3	<p>Continue with other methods to educate the public on opportunities for water conservation. This may include some or all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate speakers to deliver presentations at public forums, such as at the Berkeley Heights Public Library. 2. Participate in local programming on a local television channel. 3. Host a lecture or presentation at a local college or university. 4. Posting the information from the “tips” pamphlet regarding water conservation and usage measures inside and outside the home that was recently created and distributed at the Berkeley Heights Green Fest and placed in the Berkeley Heights Library. 5. Work with elementary, middle, and high schools through their respective parent-teacher organizations (PTOs) to implement water usage awareness programs. 	•	•		•	•	
G-4	Draft other ordinances, such as a Riparian/Stream Corridor Ordinance and/or an Impervious Coverage Ordinance; Assist in the promotion and passage of all ordinances.	•	•		•	•	
G-5	Work with Union County Agricultural Agent to coordinate presentations and demonstrations, and cooperate with professors at local universities, including Rutgers, with respect to devising effective measures to reduce pesticide use.	•	•		•	•	