



# Sustainable Jersey Community Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Jersey Certification Report of Glen Rock Boro (Bergen), a Sustainable Jersey bronze certified applicant.

Glen Rock Boro (Bergen) was certified on October 11, 2015 with 275 points. Listed below is information regarding Glen Rock Boro (Bergen)'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 Glen Rock Boro (Bergen) is:

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# Sustainability Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Glen Rock Boro (Bergen) 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.

## Community Partnership & Outreach

### Community Education and Outreach

10 Points

#### Program Summary:

The Glen Rock Environmental Commission has a long standing, productive collaboration with the town's Thielke Arboretum. Together they organize activities each year devoted to community outreach related to sustainability. These activities aim at offering residents opportunities to learn about sustainability and to implement sustainable practices. In March 2014 an "Arboretum Clean Up" event, was organized. GREC commissioners helped advertise the event in town and recruited students from the Middle and High school to help clean up debris at the Arboretum and refurbish/mulch the trails after the winter. The GREC then sponsored a Earth Day/Arbor Day event that took place at the Arboretum on April 26, 2014 (detailed under Green Fair). In October 2014 the GREC contributed to the "Fall Festival" that took place at the Thielke Arboretum. During this event the GREC had a couple of tables with educational posters on display demonstrating some of its on-going activities. Most of the posters were prepared by MS and HS students on topics they have been involved/interested in, and some of the students were there to present them to the public. This allowed residents to learn about the Commission and its objectives and activities, and for the Commission to recruit students and volunteers for future projects. On September 17th 2014, the EC sponsored a presentation by naturalist/horticulturist, Elaine Silverstein, certified in Sustainable Landscape Management by the New York Botanical Garden titled "Backyard sustainability for homeowners: keep Glen Rock clean" at the Glen Rock Public Library. Several topics were discussed, including sustainable practices to reduce the use of herbicides/pesticides and chemical fertilizers, how to use the natural fertilizers derived from leaves, both by mulching leaves, and collecting leaves for composting ("leave the leaves", "composting" and "grass- cut it and leave it" programs). Information about these programs were posted on the borough website: <http://www.glenrocknj.net/departments/boards-and-committees/detail.php?id=ENVIR> The Commission is also active in advertising sustainability-related events/presentations that take place in the area. We advertised the NY 2014 Climate March September and organized a group of residents/students to travel together and participate in the March. We also publicized on social media and attended an excellent presentation by renowned scientist, Dr Trenberth, on climate change at Ramapo college on

March 26, 2015.

-  [Arboretum Fall Festival Fall 2014](#)
-  [March 2014 Arboretum Clean up](#)
-  [March 2014 Arboretum Clean up n2](#)
-  [Ms Silverstein presentation Sept 2014](#)
-  [Glen Rock group at Climate March in NY- 9-21-2014](#)
-  [Facebook announcement Dr Trenbert presentation](#)

## Create Green Team

10 Points

Bronze Mandatory

### Program Summary:

The Glen Rock Environmental Commission (GREC) was created by the Borough of Glen Rock Council on January 23, 2002 with the approval of Ordinance #1395. It is composed of seven citizens named by the Mayor annually at the Government Reorganization meeting of the Council in January. The GREC has a Council member appointed annually as liaison, and also has liaisons with the Planning Board and the Shade Tree Advisory Committee. The GREC has been fully functioning since its creation with Agenda and Minutes of meetings posted on the Borough web site under the Environmental Commission. The web site also provides information on Green Up Glen Rock, Storm water, Lawns, and Resources such as the Arboretum Brochure, the Glen Rock Conservation Plan, Environmental Impact Reports, the Environmental Resources Inventory, and the Glen Rock Sustainable Land Use Pledge. In July 2014, the GREC reorganized the Green Up Glen Rock Team, naming the current GREC commissioners as the initial group to which others would be added, to begin preparations for the submittal of our Recertification documents to Sustainable Jersey on June 7, 2015. The GREC has submitted and obtained Council approval for all necessary Resolutions and Action approvals. The GREC has also initiated a number of activities with the Glen Rock Schools with positive responses from the Superintendent and students. The Glen Rock School District has registered for the Sustainable Schools program.

-  [GUGR Annual report 2014](#)
-  [Resolution for Sustainable Glen Rock Green Team](#)
-  [Green Up Glen Rock team members](#)
-  [GREC highlights 2014](#)

## Education for Sustainability Programs

10 Points

### Program Summary:

The Glen Rock Environmental Commission and Green Up Glen Rock, in conjunction with the Friends of the Arboretum, with additional support from the Americorps Watershed Ambassador Program, has developed a partnership with the Glen Rock Public Schools to promote water conservation and watershed awareness. The program, called "Fourth Grade Water Day", consists of a day of outdoor workshops in May held in our beautiful and scenic 11-acre arboretum. In addition to being a lovely spot, the Thielke Arboretum of Glen Rock has a pond and a brook that runs through it. These natural features function as living laboratories ripe with opportunities for study and observation that are incorporated into the workshops listed below. The program has been developed for the fourth grade of Glen Rock to support the science curriculum study of habitat and natural resources and to teach the value of water in our ecosystem. About 200 students in our four elementary schools participate each year. Students from the Glen Rock High School AP Environmental Science class and Students for Environmental Action club also participate in assisting teachers and leading some of the workshops. Water Day has been a wonderfully successful partnership and learning experience for the students and citizens of Glen Rock. Prior to the event, students learn the essentials of water conservation: Where does our drinking water come from? How do we use it? What is stormwater and how do these factors interrelate on a daily basis? This year, 2014/2015, was the ninth year of our program. The program runs from 9am to 1:50pm. Students are divided into small groups and rotate among six stations manned by volunteers, teachers and high school students. The events are the following, one of which is based on the NJ Department of Environmental Protection PROJECT WET. 1. "Long Haul" A PROJECT WET activity presented by environmental science students learn how much water is used for our everyday activities, They then participate in a relay race "hauling" gallons of water to get a physical understanding of water usage. 2. Great Swamp of NJ - Presentation on native animals. 3. TBD: this year was an Enviroscape Presentation- Local and Coastal Watershed Makes the connection between what we do on earth and the impact on the environment. Enables students understand the sources and prevention of water pollution through visual, hands-on interaction. Presented by environmental science high school students 4. Arboretum Tour - Run by Glen Rock Arboretum Volunteers and the GR Environmental Commission. This tour includes discussion of trees- the intrinsic value of trees and their contribution to the water cycle as well as an observation of stormwater outfalls that empty into the Diamond Brook. 5. Water Assessment - Macroinvertebrate Study- Run by high school environmental science high school students. 6. Water Pollution Testing. TIC (Trout in the Classroom) Trout in the Classroom (TIC) is a science-based program that teaches students about the importance of cold water conservation through a hands-on approach to learning. Through the process of raising brook trout from eggs to fingerlings, the size they are at release time, students learn about the importance of clean, cold water, not only for the brook trout they are raising, but also for the other organisms, including people. Presented by environmental science high school students Program Costs: There were no program costs, with the entire program presented by volunteers.

 [Project WET activity](#)

 [4th grade Water day May 2015 - Agenda](#)

 [4th grade Water day 2014 - picture of watershed demonstration](#)

 [4th grade Water day 2014 - picture of analysis of macroinvertebrates](#)

## Green Fairs

### Hold a Green Fair

10 Points

#### Program Summary:

An Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration combination was organized by the GREC on April 26, 2014 in collaboration with the Thielke Arboretum. The fair was widely advertised in town, through announcements posted on the store windows downtown, at the public library, press releases in the local paper, the Glen Rock Gazette, announcements on the borough website and on the borough electronic board, as well as on social media (Facebook Green Up Glen Rock, Arboretum and Glen Rockers pages). During the fair a variety of educational activities were offered, including: a demo of the water cycle to the participating children, presented by local watershed ambassador, tours of the Arboretum by Arboretum docents, educational posters prepared and presented by middle and high school on recycling, composting, animal abuse, plastic bags, Styrofoam, and idling. We also had a table with refreshments, one for kids arts and crafts activities, and local vendors such as the home energy audit company that was sponsored by the borough to perform home audits in the borough, a wood carving vendor selling bowls and such, and a representative of the tower garden technology for organic gardening. A local tree and gardening company, Almstead, was present and distributed free tree saplings. In addition, members of the borough shade tree committee were present and distributed other type of tree saplings. The Department of Public Works offered free folding composting bins to residents. Earth Day 2014 was further commemorated through a small celebration for Arbor day 2014 where a tree, offered by Almstead was planted in the Arboretum. Many volunteers made this possible, including: 10 MS and HS students, a resident photographer, 5 people from the Arboretum (4 of which master gardeners), the watershed ambassador, 2 members from the Shade tree committee, 3 GREC commissioners, 3 people from Almstead, 2 wood carvers, 2 tower garden, 1 home energy audit. The event was very successful with over 75 residents and non residents (including State Senator Gordon) participating, in addition to 18 volunteers.

 [Glen Rock Gazette article 4-18-2014](#)

 [Glen Rock Gazette 5-1-2014](#)

 [Earth day picture 1](#)

 [Earth day picture 2](#)

 [Earth day picture 3](#)

 [Earth day picture 4](#)

## Home Performance with ENERGY STAR

### Municipal Program **20 Points**

#### Program Summary:

Municipal Program of Home Energy Audits In order to save energy, reduce air pollution and improve the environment the State of New Jersey has set up a program called the New Jersey Home Performance with Energy Star. The GREC found that a number of communities have successfully used the program and recommended it to the Council in 2013. The GREC offered to manage the program within the guidelines established by the State of New Jersey. The GREC developed an RFP that was approved by the Borough Attorney and Council to be sent to qualified contractor in a 20-mile radius of Glen Rock, and also posted on the internet. Glen Rock requested bids from qualified contractors and 6 bids were received by the deadline. The bids were carefully reviewed, references were checked, and the Council approved the recommended contractor, Ciel Power. Thorough Home Energy Audits were offered to all Glen Rock homeowners for \$49.00 under the program during 2014 and 2015. During 2014 some 117 homeowners used the program and received written reports with findings and recommendations. After review homeowners are free to decide if they want to move ahead with any of the energy upgrade recommendations and whether they wish to use the auditing firm or another qualified contractor whose work can qualify the homeowner for up to \$5000.00 in state grants and up to \$10,000 in no-interest loans. The GREC led the public information and education program with presentations at Borough Hall and various community organizations. All homeowners received a brochure and a letter from the Mayor explaining the program. Stories about the program appeared in local print and electronic media. In January 2015, the Council extended the contract with Ciel Power with no changes in any conditions through December 31, 2015. News articles and public presentations announcing the extension and some of the results of Home Energy Audits have been presented this year

 [Letter from Glen Rock Mayor Re Home Energy Audit Program](#)

 [Energy Smart Rock Homes Flyer per HEA Program](#)

 [Glen Rock Local Press Coverage for Home Energy Audit Program](#)

 [Glen Rock Contract for Residential Energy Audit Services](#)

## Municipal Energy Audits and Upgrades

## Energy Audits NEW

20 Points

### Program Summary:

Glen Rock Environmental Commission confirms completion of energy audits on 8 municipal buildings - Borough Hall, Library, Municipal Annex, DPW Office, DPW Garage, Recycling Center, Ambulance Squad Bldg, Fire House Building. The audits were performed by CHA. Complete reports and upgrade proposals, one for each building have been uploaded to this site as of November 2nd 2015 in combined portfolio format. The Commission is currently studying the reports prior to submitting to the Borough Council for further action. Further action will involve either requesting RFP's from an additional two contractors or registering for the Energy Savings Improvement Plan (ESIP).

 [Energy Audits NEW Documentation](#)

 [Energy Audits NEW Documentation](#)

 [Energy Audits NEW Documentation](#)

 [Energy Audits NEW Documentation](#)

 [Energy Audits NEW Documentation](#)

 [Energy Audits NEW Documentation](#)

## Food Production

### Community or School Gardens

10 Points

### Program Summary:

The Glen Rock Community Garden was founded in 2010. Following multiple presentations to the Town Council about the possibility of establishing a garden, a feasible site with sufficient sunlight and access to water, was ultimately identified. The site was provided by the municipality, in close proximity to a baseball field used by many young children, who regularly visit the garden, and sometimes offer a hand, or are offered a tomato. The site originally had 18 plots. It was initially cleared by the Department of Public Works and then tilled by the staff of a local nursery in town. Copious amounts of compost were donated by the town and the soil was further enhanced with horse manure, transported to the garden by the participants. The site was then enclosed with fencing material. The town provided all the posts for the fence, as well as the specialized tools needed to install the posts and fencing. Water was piped to the site by the municipality and available initially through a single spigot at one end of the garden. The following year, the town added three more water spigots to the garden. As interest in the Garden grew, the site was expanded to 28 plots which are approximately 10 by 20 feet long. Some of these are used by single families, some are

shared by two families. There is also a small communal area for herbs, as well as a communal grape vine and kiwi along the fence. Participants in the garden try to help one another out by watering plots and tending to each other's gardens during vacations. Plots are offered to residents on a first come, first served basis and there is currently a waiting list. The town has taken on the responsibility for liability insurance, as well as the cost of water. The Community Garden has been very prolific, particularly as we have learned each year how to cope with the inevitable four legged visitor. Spring 2014, additional high fencing was added to the garden, and a further trench fortified with barb wire was dug again around the periphery. This summer an open garden day is planned for the general community and the fall we hope to have children plant daffodils around the periphery of the garden. REVISION: the "Qualitative assessment" has been uploaded in the Supporting Documentation

 [Community Garden- GR Gazette article](#)

 [Community Garden Glen Rock Calendar](#)

 [Community Garden picture](#)

 [Community Garden- Qualitative assessment](#)

## Health & Wellness

### Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement Program

10 Points

#### Program Summary:

The Glen Rock Environmental Commission (GREC) in collaboration with the Borough, the Police Department, and students from the middle and high schools sponsored a town-wide anti-idling campaign in April 2015: "Idle Free April: turn the key – be idle free". The campaign consisted of expansive advertisement, including weekly press releases in the local newspaper Glen Rock Gazette, advertisement on the borough electronic board and borough website, fliers posted in stores downtown and at the library, and announcements at each school with posting of material on each school website. The middle and high school also showed a series of 11 slides promoting no idling on their school monitors around school. Before the campaign started, a logo was designed and utilized for announcements, fliers, posters, T shirts and car decals offered to residents during the campaign. Also, a group of high school students prepared an informative video, that has been posted on social media (Facebook Green Up Glen Rock, Glen Rockers, GR Environmental club) as well as on the MS and HS school website (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGhTgKPAuQ0&feature=youtu.be>). The bulk of the hands-on campaign itself involved visiting each of the district schools (one school at the time during April) at dismissal and distributing informative fliers from the NJ DEP, and asking parents to sign an anti-idling pledge. Specially designed car decals were also offered in exchange for the pledge



signature. Similar activities also took place at the borough recycling center during three weekends in April, as well as train stations where most of the idling is observed. Approximately 600 fliers were distributed to parents, students and residents, 80 pledges were collected and 250 car decals were handed out. The vast majority of the people approached reacted favorably to the campaign, some people even thanked us for doing this, and only 2 out of all in all denied the value of not idling. Interestingly, most elementary students and many middle schoolers did not know the meaning of "idling." Teachers were therefore approached and encouraged to discuss idling and the detrimental effects of idling with their young students.

 [HS-MS students and Mayor kick off at Central elementary school 4-13-2015](#)

 [Resolution](#)

 [Campaign announcement weekly in Glen Rock Gazette](#)

 [GRINS borough email to residents April 2015](#)

 [Kick off idling campaign at Central school on Glen Rock Gazette 5-15-2015](#)

 [GR Hamilton elementary school announcement April 2015](#)

## Innovation & Demonstration Projects

### Innovative Community Project 10 Points

1

#### Program Summary:

Glen Rock suffered a considerable loss in old canopy trees in the last few years, particularly when superstorm Sandy hit the area. Approximately 243 mature shade trees on public land and many more on private lands were lost, just as a result of that single storm in 2013. An additional consequence of the frequent violent storms is that homeowners are now even more reluctant to replace lost shade trees due to concern over damage to their homes and the power lines. The GREC, in collaboration with the Thielke Arboretum of Glen Rock, has therefore embarked upon a project aimed at promoting the planting of canopy trees in town, and has submitted and was awarded a small open space grant by ANJEC. The grant was focused on both highlighting appropriate trees identified by Rutgers Extension as being most appropriate and safe for residential use and at the same time also at providing botanical signs for the Glen Rock Thielke Arboretum lost due to storm damage and vandalism. The trees signs identify 50 species of shade/ornamental trees recommended by Rutgers Cooperative Extensions as being most appropriate for residential use. An additional objective of the grant proposal was to create a brochure containing a newly designed map of the Arboretum indicating the location along with a brief description of the 50 trees within the Arboretum. The brochure has been posted on the GREC website, and also distributed at the Earth day 2014, and is available for residents to pick up at the Arboretum, at borough hall, and at the library.

 Glen Rock Arboretum map and brochure

 New map of GR Arboretum

 Subset of new botanical signs for GR Arboretum

 Botanical sign - detail

## Innovative Community Project

10 Points

2

### Program Summary:

Plastic bottle reduction and hydration stations at GR Middle/High school Accumulation of single-use disposable plastic bottle is one of the main plagues of the modern society. Not only do they pollute the environment, but they also contribute to increased green-house gases since they are made from petroleum. Recycling plastic bottles also requires energy, and therefore reducing the use of plastic bottles is the best approach to sustainability. It is very easy to reduce the amount of disposable plastic bottles used, if people can get used to using refillable bottles. A project was undertaken by a high school student with the aim of educating the high school and middle school students to change their habits and use refillable bottles, rather than purchasing water bottles at the school cafeteria. The student worked in conjunction with the Gen Rock Environmental Commission and the high schools environmental club. The educational/promotional campaign included preparing and posting numerous posters throughout the hallways at the middle/high school, having morning announcements over the speaker, and having three articles published on the local paper (Glen Rock Gazette). To accompany these educational activities, students from the high school environmental club suggested to the school administration that water bottle filling stations be installed, dispensing chilled, charcoal-filtered water. This would enable students to fill reusable water bottles more conveniently while reducing the circulation of plastics. The administration responded favorably and gradually over the course of 8 months, starting in March 2013 purchased and installed 3 Elkay water bottle filling stations in the building. Counters tracking the number of uses - and thus the number of plastic bottles avoided - are attached to the units to measure progress. In only 2 months more than 3,000 uses were recorded at the first station. Pictures of students using the water filling stations were taken and were posted on Facebook Green Up Glen Rock page as well as the Glen Rockers, and quickly went "viral" with extremely high numbers of "reaches" (over 2,100) and likes/shares. REVISION STATEMENT: during the course of the past academic year 2014-2015 three more water bottle filling stations have been purchased by the school district and installed in 3 elementary schools (one of them her included in Supporting Documentation). The last one will be installed this summer/fall at Central Elementary school. This supports the favorable feedback and cooperation of the school administration towards the plastic water bottle campaign initiated by the HS student mentored by the Glen Rock Environmental Commission. Additional hydration stations will be gradually purchased and installed in the

future. The water bottle filling stations are expected to have long term effects by allowing students to bring to school their personal refillable water bottles thereby reducing the purchase and disposal of plastic water bottles.

 [Glen Rock goes back to tap- GR Gazette article 04/2013](#)

 [Glen Rock High School Announcement of new hydration stations 02/2013](#)

 [Facebook posting of students using new hydration stations](#)

 [Facebook posting of hydration station and counter](#)

 [School announcement of GR goes back to tap initiative](#)

 [Coleman Elementary school - hydration station 08/2015](#)

## Innovative Community Project 10 Points

3

### Program Summary:

The impact of the accumulation of Styrofoam trays from schools in the country is extremely detrimental to the environment as Styrofoam is not recyclable, does not degrade and releases harmful substances. During the last two years, the GREC has supported an effort initiated by a group of students from the Glen Rock High school to have the school cafeteria Styrofoam trays replaced by the healthier and more environmental–friendly compostable trays. A few parents also became involved in bringing this issue to the attention of the school administrators. In October 2013 two GREC Commissioners, together with a high school student, organized a meeting with the new district Superintendent to introduce the Commission and our goals and interests. During this meeting we mentioned our hope to possibly replace the Styrofoam trays with compostable/ biodegradable trays. The Superintendent suggested that the students write a Memo addressed to the school administrators describing the proposal. The student wrote the Memo in January 2014 and then later followed up by presenting the Memo orally directly at the June 2014 Board of Education meeting, where the issue was briefly discussed and received the support from at least one BOE member. During this meeting the school administrator raised the valid point that, besides the higher cost for the compostable trays, the proposed compostable trays would still be reaching the landfill due to lack of composting facilities at the school. And also notably, even if compostable they would not be able to compost properly when enclosed in tight plastic bags. A Commissioner found this comment to be very insightful and researched the topic. After a long investigation a hauler company that serves northern Jersey was identified. This company would be able to come to Glen Rock, and pick up all organic waste (including food and trays) to compost off site, but warned us that their work might infringe on the pre-existing contract with the current hauler. The info has been relayed to the school administrator. Nonetheless, in the fall of 2014 students were pleasantly surprised to find compostable trays replacing the old Styrofoam trays! We are hoping that the district will be

able to also replace the styrofoam bowls and evaluate the feasibility of hiring the hauler to make composting of all organic waste and compostable trays possible. REVISION STATEMENT: The role of the GREC was critical in achieving the elimination of Styrofoam trays from the MS/HS cafeteria: two GREC members met 3 times during the academic years 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 with the school district Superintendent (Dr Paula Valenti) and the business administrator (Mr Mike Riderchnekt), to discuss this and identify the best way to implement the plan. We also closely mentored a small group of high school students to develop an awareness campaign, and present their proposal of elimination of Styrofoam trays to the Board of education in a public meeting in June 2014. This step showed to be instrumental in speeding up the process, and by October 2014, new compostable trays were already in use! Unfortunately the composting of the new trays is a longer term project that we will keep pursuing. After an extensive research we finally have identified an external hauler that could come pick up the organic waste from the school cafeteria to compost offsite. There seem to be though contractual clauses with the current recycling company that are preventing the school from doing this at the present time. In any case, we are grateful that the first step has been implemented: by getting rid of Styrofoam trays we made a big step in protecting the health of the students and of the planet. The project has inspired another HS student that approached the GREC inquiring whether we can mentor her on a new project on Styrofoam to run this year.

 [Memo by the HS Environmental club requesting elimination of styrofoam trays](#)

 [Thank you Email from EC to school administration](#)

 [Glen Rock Middle/High school compostable cafeteria trays](#)

 [Glen Rock High School compostable cafeteria trays n2](#)

## Land Use & Transportation

### Sustainable Land Use Pledge

10 Points

Bronze Priority

Silver Priority

#### Program Summary:

Renewal of Sustainable Land Use Pledge In 2012 Glen Rock received its Bronze certification as a Sustainable Community from the highly recognized statewide program Sustainable Jersey. Certifications must be renewed every three years, and to do that there are a number of ACTION STEPS that must be completed before November 2015. The renewal of our LAND USE PLEDGE that helps guide the work of the GREC is one of those steps. In the spring of 2014 the GREC reviewed the matter and decided that with local concerns for more recreation and for dealing with a growing parking problem with a new business moving into the heart of town, that the expanded model Land Use Pledge would be appropriate for Glen Rock. After reviews and negotiations with the Planning Board agreement was reached on our

expanded Sustainable Land Use Pledge. REVISION STATEMENT: The Glen Rock Council adopted its original Land Use Pledge by resolution in 2009. In 2015 the Environmental Commission decided that the Pledge should be updated to take into account important issues of parking and adequate recreational space. The revised Sustainable Land Use Pledge was reviewed a number of times by the Planning Board, then presented in a Public Meeting of the Council and unanimously adopted in February 2015 as Resolution No. 71-15. The Resolution and Pledge were distributed to the Mayor, all members of the Council, the Planning Board, the Environmental Commission, the Shade Tree Advisory Committee, and the heads of all Glen Rock Borough Departments. It also is found on the Environmental Commissions' web site. \* Sustainable Land Use Pledge Resolution No. 71-15 \* Pledge distribution memo from Borough Administrator of August 28, 2015

 [Land Use Pledge distribution memo 8-28-2015](#)

 [Resolution for Sustainable Land Use Pledge](#)

## Buy Local Programs

### Buy Local Campaign

10 Points

#### Program Summary:

The Glen Rock Environmental Commission initiated a partnership with the Glen Rock Chamber of Commerce and Glen Rock Merchants, thus developing the Shop Small / Buy Local campaign. We timed the kick-off to coincide with the American Express Small Business Saturday, the day after Black Friday, providing materials from American Express, including window signs, POS hand outs, signage and accessibility to online promotional materials. Merchants were encouraged to display the flyers and promotional materials in their storefronts, windows, mailings, advertisements, and on their websites. A press release was issued and printed in the Glen Rock Gazette, promoting the Buy Local initiative. Additionally, the Environmental Commission arranged for the use of the electronic display sign at the heavily traveled center of the Rock Road business district, to promote the Shop Small / Buy Local initiative. Buy Local messages first appeared to promote Small Business Saturday ("Shop Small in Glen Rock, Small Business Saturday, November 29th, The Glen Rock Environmental Commission invites you to Buy Local all year long"), again in December and February, including the partnership between the Glen Rock Environmental Commission and local merchants ("The Glen Rock Environmental Commission and the Glen Rock Chamber of Commerce reminds you to Buy Local all year long").

 [Shop Small Can Lead To Big Things](#)

 [Buy Local Campaign announcement on borough website](#)

 [Buy Local - Listing on borough website](#)

 [Buy Local announcement on Borough electronic board](#)

 [Buy local announcement GR Gazette Nov 28 2014](#)

## Natural Resources

### Environmental Commission **10 Points**

#### Program Summary:

The Glen Rock Environmental Commission, created in 2002, continues as a very active group of dedicated community volunteers. It works closely with the Shade Tree Advisory Committee, the Thielke Arboretum of Glen Rock, Director of Public Works, Planning board and Borough Council, and is the umbrella body for the Green Up Glen Rock Team. Its members include: Sylvia Rabacchi and Paul Sharar (Acting Co-Chairs), Andy Curshen (Lead for Fleet Inventory and All Municipal Building Energy Audits), , Lesley Elton (Community Garden Coordinator), Naomi Gamorra (Shade Tree Advisory Committee Liaison), Christopher Leishear (Community Forestry), R. Scott King (Liaison to Planning Board and Friends of the Arboretum), and Charles Nebbia (Buy Local Coordinator). The mayor appoints the members to the commission at the beginning of each year with the approval of the Council. The Mayor has also designated a Council Member, Mary Jane Surrago, as Council member liaison to the Commission. The commission meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

 [Resolution Establishing Env. C](#)

 [GREC meeting - Agenda for April 2015](#)

 [GREC Annual report 2014 and Green Up Glen Rock Team](#)

### Natural Resource Inventory

**20 Points**

**Bronze Priority**

**Silver Priority**

#### Program Summary:

In the spring of 2008, the Glen Rock Borough Council agreed to provide funding for the Environmental Commission to create an Environmental Resources Inventory and passed a resolution to apply for a 2008 Smart Growth Planning grant. We applied for a received a \$6,000 grant, to which the boro agreed to provide \$3,000 in matching funds and \$3,000 in kind services by volunteers and staff. We hired our town planner at the time, the firm H2M, which worked with a subcommittee of the Environmental Commission members to create the ERI. The ERI was completed in July 2008, along with a Conservation Plan Element in August. The Conservation Plan Element and ERI were adopted as part of the Master Plan by resolution in 2009. The Commission has agreed to update the ERI on the same schedule as the Master Plan Reexamination. The most recent Glen Rock Master Plan Reexamination was

adopted in January 2008. The next reexamination will take place in 2014. The ERI and Conservation Plan Element are both available to the public via the Environmental Commission website at <http://www.glenrocknj.net/environment/> Due to the size of the files, the text and maps are available in three separate downloads.

 [Glen Rock ERI Text](#)

 [Resolution adopting ERI into M](#)

 [Commitment to Update ERI](#)

## Tree & Woodlands Management

### Community Forestry Plan and Tree Cover Goal

20 Points

#### Program Summary:

The Borough of Glen Rock, a Tree City USA for the 23rd year, has a Forestry Management Plan for 2013-2017 which was recently approved by the NJDEP. Due to budget constraints and severe damage from Hurricane Sandy, the Borough has chosen at this time to focus on maintaining the current stock of forest cover (as a percentage) versus an increase. Both the Department of Public Works and the Shade Tree Advisory Committee sent employees (volunteers for STAC) to the Shade Tree Federation Conference to attend classes in order to receive credits for Continuing Education and to help maintain our Tree City Status. Numerous actions on the part of Glen Rock, including community volunteers, the Shade Tree and Environmental Commissions, the Borough Council and Department of Public Works, the Board of Education and students have been taken to foster the conservation, health, and long term sustainability of our suburban forest. In order to support an environment more hospitable to trees, the building code was reviewed and cooperation with the Borough's planning committee and STAC is ongoing in hopes to improve the code so that clear-cutting during construction is prohibited. Additionally, numerous assessments of tree health were provided by Borough retained forestry experts and the "Tree Request Form" was updated to reflect the new species list for street planting which now includes: Sweet Gum – Liquidambar styraciflua 'Rotundiloba' – 50-60' Greenspire Littleleaf Linden – Tilia cordata 'Greenspire' -50-60' Bonfire Sugar Maple – Acer saccharum 'bonfire' – 50-60' Green Mountain Silver Linden – Tilia Tomentosa 'Green Mountain' – 50-60' Continental Honeylocust- Gleditsia triacanthos inermis 'Continental' -50-60' Yellowwood – Cladrastis kentukea – 30-40' Village Green Japanes Zelkova – Zelkova serrata 'Village Green' – 50-60' Lacebark Elm – ulmus Americana Princeton – 30-60'. REVISION STATEMENT: The Community Forestry report end-year for 2014 showing its "Approved" status has been submitted as Supporting documentation

 [Community Forestry Plan and Tree Cover Goal Documentation](#)

 [Tree Canopy Resolution](#)

 [Shade Tree Advisory Committee \(STAC\) 2014 report](#)

 [GR Community Forestry Report 2014 end-year n1](#)

 [GR Community Forestry Report 2014 end-year n2](#)






## Tree Planting Programs

10 Points

### Program Summary:

Glen Rock has an active, yearly tree planting program that is funded largely by the Municipal budget and supervised by the Dept. of Public Works. The budget for 2014 tree planting was \$35,000, which can be seen in the attached snapshot of the capital budget. Further, there is an invoice attached from Louis Barbato Landscaping for \$25,082 to plant 75 trees with details of the species and exact location provided in the late fall. Planting sites are typically determined based on homeowner requests. The Borough of Glen Rock's Department of Public Works removed 81 damaged trees throughout the year. Last spring, the Great Glen Rock Tree Giveaway, sponsored by the NJ Tree Recovery Campaign, distributed 150 free bare root shade tree saplings to residents. Also, our beloved Thielke Arboretum gave away another 50 saplings. Promotional and instructional information was distributed through Councilman's Nogara's statements at Council Meetings, posters, email blasts and local newspapers. The Glen Rock Tree Trust planted 36 under-the-wire trees (using a \$7,000 grant from PSEG) along Harristown Road. An additional 7 trees were planted using a \$1,000 anonymous grant along the Prospect Avenue Strip Mall. In honor of Councilwoman Pamela Biggs service to the Borough, two shade trees (donated by Mary Alice Noonan) were planted by the fireman's memorial along Maple Ave. Finally, Thielke Arboretum planted a Wildfire Black Gum Tupelo, *Nyssa sylvatica* 'Wildfire' as part of the Arbor Day celebration assisted by Glen Rock High School Environmental Club and teacher/sponsor Heather McDermott. Planting is done by a contracted tree service with the supervision of the DPW, while trained DPW employees handle trimming and maintenance beyond the first year. Every new tree gets a printed tag with care instructions along with a letter with care and mulching instructions. The Borough does not plant under utility wires. In these cases, the borough will plant trees 15ft from the curb on private property with ownership reverting to the resident after one year if elected. Maintenance Every newly planted tree is guaranteed for one year. After year one, a visual inspection is made, trunk taping removed and pruning to elevate branch height occurs. After year two, stakes are removed and trees are reinspected for pruning. In year three, a general inspection occurs during the course of the year and the town responds to requests by homeowners for attention. In severe drought conditions, newly planted trees are inspected and homeowners are urged to water through letters and publicity. For trees on non-residential Borough property, careful monitoring and occasional watering occurs in extreme conditions.



-  All info about planting progra
-  Shade Tree Advisory Committee Tree Request Form
-  Borough of Glen Rock Notice to Bidders (tree planting)
-  Tree replacement/planting budget for 2014
-  Invoice from Louis Barbato Landscaping, 75 trees planted

## Green Fleets

### Fleet Inventory






10 Points

Bronze Priority

Silver Priority

#### Program Summary:

A Fleet Inventory Spreadsheet has been uploaded with full details of 70 vehicles owned and operated by the Borough. Additionally, uploads include a Resolution passed by the Borough Council resolving to follow the recommendations of the Environmental Commission to reduce fuel usage by 20% within four years of a documented baseline and the Commission's recommendations for achieving that result. A driver training program and emphasis on replacing low mileage vehicles with high mileage vehicles are the key features of the recommendations. The Borough has already purchased a hybrid vehicle and will be considering more such purchases.

-  Fleet Inventory Documentation
-  Resolution to Reduce Fuel Usage by 20% by May 2019
-  Recommendations for Reducing Fuel Usage by 20%
-  Actions Recommended to Glen Rock Borough Council to Reduce Fuel Usage
-  Comparison of Municipal Fleets

## Green Purchasing Program

### Adopt a Green Purchasing Policy by Resolution

5 Points

#### Program Summary:

The Glen Rock Council passed a Resolution (No. 63-15) known as the "Borough of Glen Rock NJ Green Purchasing Policy" ensuring that Borough purchasing of green products are preferable products whenever they meet cost and performance requirements. All Department Heads have been so informed by memorandum from the Borough Administrator. A Commissioner from the Glen Rock Environmental Commission has been selected to instruct all Borough employees who have authority to purchase products, concerning the most

environmentally acceptable products and to inform the Commission which products they are purchasing. In this manner the Commission can keep a running account of the types of cleaning products being used in all the Municipal buildings.

 [Glen Rock Council Resolution to for a Green Purchasing Policy for Green Cleaning Products](#)

 [Green Purchasing Memo](#)

## Recycled Paper

10 Points

### Program Summary:

On February 11, 2015, the Glen Rock Council adopted a resolution establishing a policy for purchasing green cleaning products, green maintenance equipment and materials. This resolution set in motion a policy whereby the town is to be committed to the purchasing of recycled and environmentally preferable products for use in all administrative offices. These are to include the purchasing of only copier paper that is made of at least 30% recycled materials. This policy was put into effect on April 1, 2015, when the first order for such paper was placed with the town's office supply company, Office Concept Group. In addition, the town is committed to making every effort to purchasing recycled and environmentally preferable materials, other than paper, whenever possible. Attached are copies of the resolution adopted by the council, as well as images of the recycled copier paper and other recycled materials used in the administrative offices.

 [Recycled Paper Purchased](#)

 [Recycled Paper Purchase- Invoice](#)

 [Recycled Sheet protectors](#)

 [Recycled Envelopes](#)

 [Resolution for green purchasing](#)

## Waste Management

### Prescription Drug Safety and Disposal

10 Points

Bronze Priority

Silver Priority

### Program Summary:

Glen Rock conducted two prescription take back days on April 25 and September 27, 2014, under the auspices of the DEA. These were advertised in the local newspaper, the Glen Rock Gazette, the town's website, and on the Glen Rock Patch, an on line news source. The take back days were held on two Saturdays between the hours of 10 and 4, in the police

department, where medications were placed in a box placed in an area which required residents to press a button to obtain entry from the lobby of the police station. No documentation of names of participants was collected so that medications could be left anonymously. Once all the prescriptions were received, they were collected by representatives of the DEA. Every effort has been made to obtain records of how much medication was collected, through calls to the DEA, the NJ Attorney General, and the NJ Department of Health. This has not been successful. Recently the Glen Rock website page has been updated with a permanent inclusion on the News & Announcement section indicating where permanent prescription drug drop off sites are located in Bergen County. A link is also included to the New Jersey Department of Consumer Affairs site concerning prescription take back.

 [GR Patch announcement April 2014](#)

 [GR Police dept announcement Sept 2014](#)

 [GR website Sept 2014](#)

## Recycling

### Community Paper Shredding Day

5 Points

#### Program Summary:

Glen Rock has offered its residents two separate paper shredding events per year to safely dispose of sensitive documents. The events were advertised to the community through the Borough electronic calendar, as well as through advertisements in the local newspaper, the GR Gazette. Residents brought their materials to be shredded to the Recycling Center in town, where a truck from the Atlantic Coast Fiber Company shredded the material. Both events were very successful. First, the Glen Rock Department of Public Works held a paper shredding event at the town Recycling Center on May 18, 2014. Approximately, 80 vehicles participated and 6,000 pounds of paper were shredded. A second paper shredding event was held on November 8, 2014, at which time 120 people participated and 5,000 pounds of paper were shredded. The Recycling Coordinator just secured a date for the next paper shredding event. It will be held June 6, 2015 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. This information has been advertised by GRINS email to residents and will be added to the Borough electronic calendar.

 [Community Paper Shredding Day Documentation](#)

 [May 14 2014 paper shedding event](#)

 [GR borough email to residents announc shredding on 6-6-2015](#)

 [Paper Shredding announcement on FB Green up Glen Rock May 2014](#)

## Recycling Depot

10 Points

### Program Summary:

The Glen Rock Recycling Center has been operating since 1988. It is located on Doremus Avenue, next to the largest set of athletic fields in the borough. Separate collection bins are available at the Recycling Center for depositing plastics, glass, aluminum cans, paper, newspaper, corrugated cardboard, and old textiles. Metal and electronic items are also collected at the Recycling Center, and twice a year, paper shredding events are held there. Recently, plastics and glass have been commingled because of a change in market trends. Curbside pick up of recyclables is also offered by the town, with a schedule of pick up days noted on the Glen Rock town web page under Trash and Recycling, and on the Glen Rock Community Calendar, which is distributed to all households annually. The Recycling Center is open on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday through Saturday, with extended hours during the summer months. Hours are clearly marked on a sign outside the Center and on the Glen Rock web page. Staff from the Department of Public Works is always available when the Center is open to answer questions and help with the unloading of material. The town's Compost Center, where residents may leave their garden waste, as well as have access to unlimited free wood chips and mulch, is located next to the Recycling Center, and has the same hours as the Recycle Center. Yard waste is separated into three categories: grass clippings, leaves and yard waste including small limbs, and large tree limbs.

 [Recycling Center Photos](#)

 [Glen Rock borough- curbside recycling material](#)

 [GR borough website-recycling ctr opening hours](#)

 [GR recycling ctr-tonnage](#)

## Waste Reduction

### Backyard Composting Program

5 Points

### Program Summary:

The environmental commission has teamed with the borough council in an effort to educate and encourage residents to compost food scraps and gardening trimming/waste. The benefits of composting include reducing the amount of municipal waste sent to the landfill, as well as the possibility of generating natural fertilizer for resident's gardens and plants. Multiple actions have converged into this goal: - A composting workshop took place at the GR Arboretum during the Fall 2013 - In the Fall 2014 the EC invited naturalist/horticulturist Ms Elaine Silverstein, to give a presentation titled "Backyard sustainability for homeowners: keep

Glen Rock clean” at the public library. Ms Silverstein is certified in Sustainable Landscape Management by the New York Botanical Garden. The workshop was attended by 18 enthusiastic people that generated a lively discussion and were happy to pick up a flier with composting guidelines prepared by the presenter. - The event was heavily publicized by posting a colorful flier in shops downtown, and on various social media sites. - A few articles written by Ms. Silverstein on this topic have also appeared on the local newspaper, the GR Gazette, as well as on the Northjersey.com this past Fall 2014. - Composting guidelines from Ms. Silverstein as well as from the Rutgers Cooperative have been posted on the borough/GREC website - Folding composting bins have been donated by the borough department of public works, and distributed among residents at the Spring 2014 Earth day spring fair

 [Backyard Composting Program Documentation](#)

 [Backyard Composting Program - GR Borough announcement](#)

 [Mrs Silverstein presentation 9-17-2014](#)

## Grass - Cut It and Leave It Program

5 Points

### Program Summary:

Glen Rock is a suburban town with mostly single house residences containing small to medium size yards mostly covered with natural grass. The high density of houses throughout the borough does not contain a lot of space for woody areas, parks. Therefore, private lawns make a high percentage of the borough surface. The Environmental Commission, in collaboration with the municipality, as well as with resident/naturalist Mrs Elaine Silverstein, has recently embarked upon an effort to educate the public about the benefits of leaving grass clippings on the lawn after cutting the grass: the advantages are multiple, including their role as natural fertilizer, thereby reducing the need to fertilize the lawn, as well as reducing the amount of grass clippings reaching the landfill. In the Fall 2014 the EC has invited naturalist/horticulturist Ms Elaine Silverstein, certified in Sustainable Landscape Management by the New York Botanical Garden (now new member of the Green Team) to give a presentation titled “Backyard sustainability for homeowners: keep Glen Rock clean” on September 17th at the public library. Several articles on this topic by Ms. Silverstein have also appeared on the local newspaper GR Gazette as well as on the Northjersey.com this past Fall 2014 and winter 2015. In addition, an informative brochure from NJ DEP is posted on the borough/environmental commission website (<http://www.glenrocknj.net/departments/boards-and-committees/detail.php?id=ENVIR>).

 [GR Gazette article 7-18-2014](#)

 [Mrs Silverstein public presentation 9-17-2014](#)

## Reusable Bag Education Program

5 Points

### Program Summary:

Plastic Bag Ordinance Merchant Survey The Glen Rock Environmental Commission has been interested in the damage done to the environment for several years. We included the landmark film “Bag It” in our environmental film series a couple of years ago. Since then we have been trying to decide on the best way to make something meaningful happen on the local level. We decided to pursue a local ordinance banning plastic bags, and in order to have a response ready for the most obvious objection which is, wouldn’t local merchants object to such an ordinance, we conducted a survey to prepare ourselves. The survey questions were drawn up by a volunteer on the Environmental Commission working with a Glen Rock High School honor student. Once a series of questions were agreed upon, we enlisted the support of a resident who is a prominent opinion researcher. She optimized the survey questions and format. We recruited several high school students to conduct the surveys and record our merchants’ responses and comments. We were able to survey almost all of the merchants that would be affected by a plastic bag ban. Their responses revealed that the major impediments to using only paper or reusable bags were that they had grown completely accustomed to using plastic bags, and that switching might be more expensive. Their comments indicated that virtually all of our merchants were aware of the environmental challenge posed by plastic bags and would like to do something to lessen the challenge. In all we were encouraged by our merchants’ willingness to participate in the survey, their awareness that plastic bags posed a significant environmental challenge, and by their feelings, expressed through their comments, that they would not be entirely averse to changing. REVISION STATEMENT We are planning to run an educational campaign and are starting by presenting at a Community Showcase that will take place on October 7th at the town high school, sponsored by the school district and the borough. We will show fliers and posters highlighting damaging effects of the accumulating plastic bags on nature and animals. At this event 500 reusable bags will also be distributed to people coming to our table.

 [Plastic bag Glen Rock merchants - Survey March 2015](#)

 [Shop the Rock reusable bag to distribute at Community showcase on Oct 7 2015](#)

 [Cartoon on reusable bag](#)