NJ Office of Planning Advocacy SPC/Sustainable Jersey Synergy Proposal

2/26/2021 Draft

Overview

NJ Office of Planning Advocacy and Sustainable Jersey have complementary missions in that both support municipalities in creating sustainable and resilient communities with the greatest equity and efficiency. The two organizations created a staff working group which conducted a careful review of the State Planning Commission's Plan Endorsement process and requirements and compared them with Sustainable Jersey's 150 Actions. A key goal behind this comparison is to minimize duplication of efforts by municipalities as they work on sustainability and provide them with unified guidance to support their undertaking additional meaningful actions. The working group found that, though there is shared intent, the complexity, differences in approach and process result in a nonlinear relationship between the two programs. Below are a range of ideas to align the recommendations made to municipalities on sustainability - some are easy and are even being initiated now, while others will require additional consideration, review and amendments to current processes for each organization.

Options detailed below would recognize a municipality's efforts and streamline the certification/endorsement process for them in ways that would eliminate duplication of efforts, remove administrative obstacles, and provide enticements/inducements for reaching higher standards of sustainability.

Proposed Tweaks to Plan Endorsement & Sustainable Jersey Certifications

Recommendations for NJ OPA:

Completed

- Check the status of municipalities in advance of their Prepetition meeting and note whether the municipality is registered with Sustainable Jersey or not; if so, what level of certification? Bronze. Silver or a recipient of a gold star?
- Download existing report of actions achieved and review for inclusion of actions required by PE.
- Encourage municipalities to use their Green Team as their Advisory Committee for the development of their MSA Report. (Note: This was recently added to the revised MSA template and PE Guidelines.)
- Create a PE/SJ checklist showing which actions could be achieved through PE and how many points they are worth in SJ.

Short term (next 6 months)

- 1. Develop MOU to be executed between SPC and SJ to document intent and commitment to this proposal.
- 2. Invite Sustainable Jersey to the Prepetition meetings

- 3. Create a checklist for OPA planners to see which PE required items have already been accomplished through SJ actions. (Create a matrix/report of SJ items that are requested in the MSA to alert the municipality that they will get credit for same.) For example: Energy Suite; riparian buffers and water conservation ordinances; open space, farmland preservation and/or circulation plans; complete streets resolutions etc.
- 4. Build into PE process, potentially as part of the Prepetition meeting, ascertaining the municipality's intentions regarding SJ certification.
- 5. Consider aligning sample ordinance requirements to meet SJ's requirements for points. (Complete Streets, Water conservation & others...)
- 6. Require SJ Sustainable Land Use Pledge as a PE requirement? (Resolution to include in Action Plan?)
- 7. Review Open Space Plan requirements Green Acres certified? Part of Master Plan? Align requirements with SJ so points can be received.
- 8. Brownfield inventory is requested in MSA but is it required? Enlist technical assistance to ensure that each PE municipality has complete inventory and assistance with prioritization then PE and SJ points would align.
- 9. Consider Incorporating municipal anti-idling signage in Action Plans or in PIA template.
- 10. Each municipal PIA should note which items are point-worthy with SJ so that when they achieve them, they can get their SJ points.

Medium term (next 6-12 months)

- 11. Add requirement to post the build out analysis provided by OPA as part of the Opportunities & Constraints report be posted on the municipality's website, per SJ requirements.
- 12. Create a PIA Checklist that incorporates the points available to SJ certification seeking communities including an 'optional' section for communities that are further along in their quest for sustainability. These items would not be required for PE but could be suggested for PIA and potentially part of the proposed re-endorsement process.
- 13. Add to Biennial review process an item to report on status of actions that are SJ point worthy.
- 14. OPA note for MSA review and PIA development, which items do not have flexibility if the petitioning municipality is looking for SJ credits so that OPA review meets SJ standards for points.
- 15. Consider using SJ Climate Adaptation Flooding Risk Action/Community Wildfire Plans/Extreme Temperature Event Plan/Heat Island Assessment and Vulnerable Population Identification for Emergencies Actions as PE standard until DEP publishes climate adaptation standards.

Recommendations for Sustainable Jersey:

Short-term (next 6 months)

- As part of the Gold Star in Water use the PE required Riparian Buffers ordinance
- As part of the Gold Star in Water use the PE required Water Conservation Ordinance

Medium-term (next 6-12 months)

As part of the Gold Star in Water, use the PE required Well-Head Ordinance

- Update Sustainable Jersey action to accept an OPA build out analysis that is completed
 as part of the "Opportunities and Constraints" analysis. Additionally, Sustainable Jersey
 would need to revise requirements for posting of analysis to municipal website, (e.g.,
 accept use of analysis in the Plan Endorsement process as demonstration in lieu of
 posting.
- Create a mechanism for awarding points for eligible actions done by a municipality for PE.
- Update Sustainable Jersey website to highlight actions that are acceptable for different phases of the Plan Endorsement process.

Long-term (one – two years)

- Add a new action in Land Use awards points for PE land-use visioning process.
- Can SJ expirations applicable to PE be extended past their typical timeline to allow for credit to be earned for certification if municipalities are in PE. Need to identify actions where this is an issue.
- Make a tool to facilitate the uploading of documents to both systems for capturing a municipality's efforts for both SJ certification and OPA PE to be submitted by municipality or NJOPA when they achieve an action.
- Coordinate on environmental justice and social equity approaches align efforts. Also examine any opportunity to include health in the PE process.
- Can adoption of a PIA (Plan Implementation Agreement) count as a Sustainability Plan for the Municipality and be awarded points?

Potential Larger Programmatic Amendments

A municipality that undertakes Plan Endorsement signs up for a dual track where they receive points for SJ actions and potentially earn Bronze/150 pts (or Silver/350 pts) Certification at the end in addition to PE (with OPA providing guidance, review and oversight for point attainment where appropriate).

Sustainable Jersey will consider special recognition in Planning to a municipality when it achieves Plan Endorsement (even if it is not Silver Certified). Maintained by getting your Biennial review in on time and achievement of PIA items as scheduled. Three-year renewal based on looking at a checklist and/or PIA achievement as reviewed by OPA/SJ.

State Plan/Sustainable Jersey

PE Towns as of 2-11-2021	PE Status	Green Team (Regisration Date)	Bronze Certified Date (Points)	Silver Certified Date (points)	# of certs (3 yr cert)	Gold Star ^(Type/Date)
City of Asbury Park	Р	3/4/2009		10/18/2019 (375)	3	
Borough of Atlantic Highlands	W	3/13/2009	12/17/2018 (165)		3	
Avalon	?	3/25/2009	10/4/2017 (160)		3	
Township of Bedminster	W	8/17/2009	Expired 10/12/2015		3	
Borough of Bernardsville	W	4/20/2009	10/17/2019 (160)		3	
City of Beverly Township	W	3/24/2009	10/17/2015 (100)		3	
Bloomingdale Borough	W	3/10/2009				
Borough of Bound Brook	P	7/15/2015				
Township of Brick	W	4/28/2009		11/7/2019 (365)	3	
City of Burlington	W	10/19/2010		11/7/2015 (505)	J	
Burlington Township	W	3/24/2009	10/30/2019 (175)		3	
Cape May Point Borough	P	3/3/2009	12/16/2020 (220)			
	?				2	
Township of Chesterfield	_	7/12/2011	11/1.2019 (155)		3	
Cinnaminson Township	W	4/10/2012	1/20/2021 (150)		2	
Commercial Township	W	4/19/2012	1/26/2021 (150)		3	
Delran Township	W	4/13/2013	10/30/190 (160)		3	
Delanco Township	W	2/8/2016				
Borough of Dover	P	2/2/2000				
Edgewater Park	W	3/3/2009				
Elmer	?	5/13/2009				
Borough of Englishtown	P	4/22/2009				
Borough of Far Hills	P	10/26/2009	5 1 140/4/2044			
Borough of Flemington	W	4/13/2009	Expired 10/4/2014		2	
Township of Florence	W	4/15/2009			-	
Township of Franklin (Somerset)	?	3/10/2009		10/30/2019 (460)	3	
Township of Freehold	W	5/26/2009			-	
Galloway Township	W	3/24/2009		10/23/2019 (415)	3	
Gloucester City	W	3/26/2009	11/4/2019 (160)		1	
Borough of Haledon	?	5/6/2009				
Holmdel	W	4/23/2009	10/26/2018 (155)		2	
Borough of Hopatcong	Р	9/1/2010	12/16/2020 (280)		3	
Township of Hope	?	6/10/2009	10/18/2019 (165)		3	
Borough of Hopewell (Mercer)	?	3/2/2009				
Township of Lawrence (Cumb)	?					
Township of Little Egg Harbor	W	6/16/2014	12/20/2017		2	
Borough of Manasquan	?	4/2/2012				
Manchester Township	O&C	4/13/2009	11/4/2009 (170)		3	
Borough of Manville	W	3/28/2014	10/19/2018 (175)		1	
Maurice River Township	W	7/15/2010	Expired 10/30/2015			
Middle Township	exp 2021	4/6/2009	10/9/2017 (165)		3	
Township of Millstone	Α	5/6/2009				
Borough of Milltown	?	4/3/2009	1/26/2021 (165)		1	
City Millville	W	3/17/2009				
Town of Morristown	O&C	5/20/2009				
Borough of Mount Arlington	?	3/9/2009	12/6/2020		3	
Neptune Township	?	4/13/2009	10/10/2018 (150)		1	
Borough of Netcong	Р	3/6/2009				
Borough of North Plainfield	P	1/25/2011	Expired 2011 (155)		1	
North Wildwood	W	10/21/2015	12/17/2020 (170)		2	
City of Ocean City	W	3/12/2009		11/7/2019 (355)	3	

State Plan/Sustainable Jersey

			stainable Jersey			
Township of Ocean	W	4/22/2009	12/14/2018 (310)		3	
Borough of Palmyra	W	8/7/2012				
Township of Plumsted	W	3/4/2009				
Princeton	Р	3/9/2009		10/9/2017 (525)	3	
Borough of Red Bank	W	5/11/2009		12/13/2018 (375)	3	
Ridgefield Borough	Р	6/8/2009				
Riverside Township	W	7/3/2018				
Borough of Riverton	W	4/11/2012				
Borough of Rocky Hill	W	6/21/2010				
Salem City	W	6/17/2020				
Borough of Seaside Heights	W					
Borough of South Bound Brook	Р					
Township of South Brunswick	?	6/1/2010				
Sparta Twp	W	3/11/2009	12/13/2019 (185)		3	
Stafford Township	O&C	5/13/2016	12/17/2020 (200)		1	
Stanhope Borough	Р	9/14/2010				
Stone Harbor Borough	W	3/17/2009		12/3/2017 (400)	2	
City of Trenton	P	10/20/2011	12/10/2018 (185)	,	3	
Borough of Tuckerton	P	4/5/2017				
Upper Township	MSA	1/24/2011	12/17/2020 (255)		3	
Vernon Twp	O&C	8/28/2011	11/3/2017 (155)		2	
Vineland City	W	4/14/2009	10/21/2019 (225)		2	
Borough of Wanaque	Р		, , , ,			
West Cape May	exp 2021	3/11/2009	12/12/2019 (195)		2	
West Wildwood Borough	W	2, 22, 2000	,, (,			
Wildwood City	W					
Wildwood Crest Borough	W	5/1/2018				
Willingboro Township	W	3/10/2009				
Woodstown Borough	P	7/29/2014				
Woolwich	exp 2021	7/20/2009	12/18/2017 (205)		2	
Voorwien	CAP ZOZI	772072003	12/10/2017 (203)			
	? = undecid	lod				
	P = pre pre	petition				
	W = workin	g on MSA				
	MSA = MSA	A submitted				
	O&C = Opr	ortunities & Cons	traints			
	A = Action					
			C			
	PIA = Planr	ning & Implimenta	tion Agreement			
	-					
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NJ State Plan/Sustainable Jersey Crosswalk

N=N0 Y=Yes O=Optional C=Conditional





Updated 2/12/2021

Y=Yes W= Work Needed

	N=NO T=TES O=Optional C=Conditional		C-Conditional	_	1-165	s w= work needed		
Sustainable Jersey Action	PE	MSA	_	Action Plan, MOU or PIA	Overlap/potential for dual credits? Tweaks needed?	<u>Pts</u>	As is?	Joint comments
Create Green Team (MANDATORY for SJ)	0	0	N		Can be used for public engagemnt for PE, in MSA template now. Can it be a PE requirement? It would create accountability to the PIA?	10		Can serve as MSA advisory committee; OPA encourages even if they don't have one yet, make a Green Team/MSA Advisory committee = win/win.
Natural Resource Inventory (PRIORITY)	Υ	Υ	N	PIA	Required where applicable for PE	10	Υ	can't be older than 10 yrs for SJ; often funded through PSEG grants
Sustainable Land Use Pledge (PRIORITY)	у	Υ	N	мои	Statement of sustainability required for PE. Should get a municipality SJ points? Is SJ action specific enough for PE expectations?	10	W	OPA: PE could more specifically require the SJ pledge; SJ: Could PE pledge last longer than 3 yrs before expiring if secured in a non-certification year?
Build-Out Analysis	Υ	Υ	N		OPA does during O&C, could earn SJ points; esp if Muni posts it online, incorporates it in planning and it informs zoning.	10	W	not required for entire town by SJ for pts
Adopt a Complete Streets Policy (Pre-Requisite for Institute Complete Streets)	Υ	Υ	N	MOU if not in place	must be in place for PE but SJ has tiered system for different policies	10-30	W	3 tiers Good, better, best OPA: must req 'new' DOT Policy (res or ord.) Will DOT require?
Water Conservation Ordinance (SJ PRIORITY)	Υ	Υ	N	AP	DEP requires for PE	20	W	OPA check with DEP for acceptance of SJ model ordinance
Open Space Plans	Υ	Υ	N	MOU or PIA	Required	10	W	OPA: Reg. Green Acres format? Part of Master Plan? SJ: must be w/in 10 yr
Environmental Assessment Ordinance	Y or	C?	N	MOU or PIA	DEP is requiring this for PE? Or recommending?	10		OPA: PE or PIA? Dep guidance to SJ (Now theres a paywall for ANJEC support)
Farmland Preservation Plans	C	С	N	PIA	Required if applicable, could be in PIA if non existant. Most counties have it - it may need tweaking to be SJ point-worthy.	10	W	Must have all SADC elements Does OPA ask the muni if they are meeting to implement? Would SJ tier the action to give pts for participation in county plan
Environmental Justice in Planning & Zoning	Υ	0	23	PIA	EJ Action Plan required for PE - see PE Guidelines	10	W	Being updated OPA take bigger role in future where is it heading?
Brownfields Inventory & Prioritization	С	M/C	N	PIA if not MSA	OPA's requires the inventory (conditionally) for PE. Could be added to MSA & PIA checklist. Conditional for Urban Centers and Urban Coordinating Councils (UCC) but potentially should be for all.	10, 15	W	OPA unclear in MSA requirements for prioritization, though inventory is required for Urban - Is this required? Perhaps it should be. Jean H can help
Resiliency Action Required by EO 89								
Climate Adaptation: Flooding Risk (PRIORITY)	С	С	89	PIA	Resiliency Awaiting DEP guidance	20	W	Perhaps NJOPA use SJ's until DEP sets guidelines?
Coastal Vulnerability Assessment	С	С	89	PIA	Resiliency Conditional for coastal communities	20	W	Check when doing MSA review - use these guidelines until DEP has guidance? think about lifelines in BRIC - incorporate? FEMA tech assistance
Extreme Temperature Event Plan	С		89	PIA	Resiliency and/or CAP	10	W	Perhaps use SJ until DEP adopts? Both heat & cold? Include health dept. Who makes decision? Develop Checkpts and adopt.
Heat Island Assessment *NEW*	С	С	89	PIA	Conditional (Required where applicable) EO 89	10	W	ID hot spots & plan - use SJ map on websiteuse until DEP sets guidelines
Community Wildfire Protection Plans	С	С	89	PIA	Conditional - Required where applicable EO 89	10	W	use these criteria until DEP has guidance?
Vulnerable Populations Identification for Emergencies	Υ	Y	89	PIA	Should be added to MSA requirements. EO 89	10	W	include in PE; basics are no brainer, could be improved upon with social services perspective
Community Asset Mapping	0		89		Resiliency (in most HMPs but doesn't always include non-muni)	10	W	SJ is not just municipal assets (new BRIC process include Lifelines)
GHG Reduction/Climate Adaptation - requir	ed by	/ EO 89	in n	ew PE Guidelin	es <u> </u>			
Municipal Carbon Footprint (PRIORITY) (Pre-Requisite for Community Carbon Footprint)	Υ		89	PIA if not done (1-2 yrs)	In new PE Guidleines be included in PIA checklist if not done required per EO 89	10	Υ	Municipal Operations Standard: Demonstrate reductions in GHG emissions from municipal operations and facilities at an average annual rate of 3.6% per year for 3 years (i.e., a rate amounting to 10.8% over 3 years or less).
Make Your Town Solar Friendly	Υ		_	PIA 1 yr	In new PE Guidelines, mandatory	15-30		
Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	Υ		89	PIA (1-2 yrs)	In new PE Guidelines, mandatory	15	Υ	
Make Your Town Electric Vehicle Friendly	Υ		89	PIA (1-2 yrs)	In new PE Guidelines, mandatory to do 3 of 5	15	Υ	
Buy Electricity from a Renewable Source	0		89	PIA (1-2 yrs)	In new PE Guidelines, must do 1 of 5	10	Υ	
Geothermal system	0		89		In new PE Guidelines, must do 1 of 5		Υ	
On- Site Solar System	0		_		In new PE Guidelines, must do 1 of 5		Υ	
Renewable Government Energy Aggregation	0		_		In new PE Guidelines, must do 1 of 5	10.1-	Y	
Community-Led Solar Initiatives	0				In new PE Guidelines, must do 1 of 5	10-15 10 to	Υ	
Energy Tracking & Management (PRIORITY)	Y		89	PIA 1 yr	In new PE Guidelines, mandatory	20	Y	
Energy Efficiency for Municipal Facilities (PRIORITY)	Υ		89	PIA 2 yr	In new PE Guidelines, mandatory	5 to 50	Υ	
Fleet Inventory (PRIORITY) (Pre-Req for Driver Training, Buy Alt. Vehicles, Vehicle Conversions & MeetGreen Fleet targets)	Y	0	89	PIA item if not done	In New PE Guidelines, must do	10	Υ	
Meet Target for Green Fleets	0		89		One of a choice of 5 that must be done in new PE Guidelines	30	Υ	

Optional								
Effective Parking Management	Υ	R	N	PIA if not	Optional. DOT requires in circulation element but this goes beyond?	10		Check with DOT
Transit-Oriented Development Supportive Zoning	Y/C	O&C Rpt	N	could be PIA	Conditional we encourage and recognize add to PIA checklist - where applicable	10		Check with DOT
Climate Action Plan (CAP)	0	0	89	PIA if not done	Not yet specified as EO 89 standards.May as well follow SJ standards. Perhaps OPA can provide a template/framework for this for communities to fill in the gaps.	10		DEP Standards will clarify
Community Carbon Footprint	0		89		Local Energy Audit and Energy Tracking & Management actions would suffice	10-15		DEP Standards will clarify
Online Municipal Public Service Systems	Р		N	PIA if not done	Would be nice - PIA Checklist? Extra credit?	10		
Brownfields Reuse Planning	N	0	N		Extra Credit? This would be great, if applicable, Could be in MOU or PIA. Perhaps on checklist of possible PIA items?	5 to 15		
Brownfields Marketing	N	0	N		Extra Credit? This would be great, if applicable, Could be in MOU or PIA. Perhaps on checklist of possible PIA items?	10		
Emergency Communications Planning	N				PIA? MSA?	15		
Community Visioning	Υ	М	N		Required for PE unless waived due to recent visioning activity - either way they should have done it Can it be point worthy for SJ?	10	1	SJ Could revise action to give credit for OPA style Land Use visioning - SJ's action is part of a tiered action culminating in the Sustainable Action Plan and is specificially focused on sutainability actions.
Vision Statement and Goals	Υ	М	N			10	w	Can SJ let it stand with less documentation? Maybe tiered system with points available for PE Visioning?
(Community Sustainability Plan) Indicators and Targets	Υ	М	N	PIA?	This sounds much like a PIA(Plan Implementation Agreement) should earn a municipality these points? Does OPA need to tweak anything? As per EO 89 it will have resiliency and climate action	10	N	Could SJ award points for a town developing and implementing a PIA?
Tree Protection Ordinance	Υ	С	N		Conditional PIA Checklist?	10		
Habitat Conservation Ordinance	Υ	С	N		Conditional PIA Checklist?	10		
Enhanced Stormwater Management Control Ordinance *NEW*	Υ	Υ	N	MOU if not done	Check if standards are same	5-30	w	PE prob only req DEP req under MS4 SJ more than state model _ord. 4 tiers, the more water & more mgt of water to wq standards, the more points
Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Plan	Υ	N	N	PIA if not done	PE requires circulation element to include Bile/Ped but SJ action is more extensive. If a municipality has earned this action, they shouldn't need to rewrite their masterplan to include it; if they have a complete circulation ement in their Master Plan or do one for PE, should it get them any SJ credit? (maybe 5 pts?)	10		Adopt as circ elem in MP is SJ guidance good for DOT's standards? & can OPA approve as part of biennieal review for SJ?
Easement Inventory and Outreach (Pre-Requisite for Easement Inspections and Evaluations)	Y?	Υ	N		Identify standards - is ROSI enough? PIA Checklist?	10		
Easement Inspections and Evaluations	0	0	N		PIA Checklist? (SADC or CO administered)			
Digitizing Public Information	N		N		Add to MSA template an/or PIA checklist? EJ?	10		
Historic Preservation Element	С	С	N		Conditional Could be in PIA if applicable	5 to 10		10 chapters and more requirted - its hard! work on for longterm but not now
Bicycle and Pedestrian Audit	0	0	N	PIA if not done	This is prepratory for plan - report could be used to initiatie plannning or pilot project but	5, 10		gradients of pts available for some assessment
Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement Program	0		CAP ?	require this -	We should require this - it's the law - MOU or PIA?	10		Not really planning implememtation but incorporate it in PE? PIA?
Diversity on Boards & Commissions (PRIORITY for SJ)	0	0	23	Should be in PIA?	Equity is important in PE, but how do we assess it? this could be added to the MSA.	10		OPA play a larger role here? Do the surveys as part of PE?
Commercial Energy Efficiency Outreach	o		89			10 to 20		Replaces Direct Install Outreach Campaign to Local Business Community and Achieving Target Increase in Local Business Participation actions
Residential Energy Efficiency Outreach	0		89			10-20		Replaces the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Municipal Program & Outreach actions