

More North Jersey towns are listed as 'sustainable'

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The latest certifications bring the total number of New Jersey municipalities with bronze or silver status to 171.

Eighty-one municipalities, including 16 from Bergen and Passaic counties, have added their names to a growing list of "Sustainable Jersey" certified towns that are recognized for their green initiatives.

In Bergen County, the 14 municipalities are Allendale, Bogota, Fair Lawn, Garfield, Harrington Park, Oakland, Old Tappan, Oradell, Ramsey, River Vale, Rutherford, Tenafly, Upper Saddle River and Woodcliff Lake.

North Haledon and West Milford in Passaic County are now also certified.

Hudson County had four new inductees — North Bergen, Hoboken, Jersey City and Kearny — while Secaucus went from bronze to silver status this year, indicating it had met additional requirements. Only 27 municipalities have ever achieved silver status, according to Sustainable Jersey, the non-profit that provides training and grants for green programs.

North Haledon achieves bronze level of Sustainable Jersey

North Haledon is one of 81 municipalities that has obtained Sustainable Jersey certification. Along with West Milford, they are the only two Passaic County towns to be recognized this year for their green initiatives. Both have achieved bronze status.

Hawthorne is one of 27 towns in the state that has achieved Sustainable Jersey silver status.

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"This has been a stand-out year," Donna Drewes, co-director of Sustainable Jersey, said in a recent statement. "New Jersey communities are showing no signs of slowing in their commitment to sustainability as evidenced by the number of towns achieving... certification."

In addition to the certified towns, another 246 municipalities are registered with the program but have not been certified, according to the organization. In all, nearly 75 percent of municipalities in the state are participants.

Since its founding in 2009, the organization has identified best practices for more than 100 action items and committed more than \$1.6 million in grants, Drewes said.

The organization also launched a similar program for schools last month.

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