



## Program Announcement

### *Changes to the 2020 Certification Cycle*

March 27, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 disruptions in municipal activities, Sustainable Jersey is implementing several changes to the 2020 certification cycle to provide municipalities with more flexibility.

#### **Municipalities with Certifications Expiring in 2020**

Municipalities with certifications set to expire on December 31, 2020, will have their certifications extended to December 31, 2021. Therefore, these municipalities will not need to submit for certification in 2020 to avoid a lapse in the certification. In addition, to streamline the 2021 recertification process, any actions currently approved and set to expire later this year in 2020 will be set to expire December 31, 2021. Municipalities in this group are still encouraged to continue to pursue certification this year if so desired and successful recertification efforts would result in certification through December 31, 2023.

#### **Municipalities Planning to Apply for Certification in 2020**

The initial deadline has been changed from May 17 to June 14. Municipalities that submit by June 14 will be guaranteed two rounds of review on their application to meet the deadline for certification and be recognized at the Sustainable Jersey Annual Luncheon. If a municipality is not ready to submit its application by June 14, but does apply by July 30, Sustainable Jersey will make every effort to review the application and provide feedback so that additional updates can be submitted by the September resubmission deadline. Full details on the 2020 certification cycle are available [here](#).

We understand that some 2020 activities and initiatives may not have been able to take place due to the COVID-19 crisis. Therefore, for most actions that are intended to take place on an annual basis, documentation from 2018-2020 will be accepted. A list of actions in this category is available [here](#). A municipality seeking recertification that may have these actions appear as "Expired" in its application can resubmit for points if the documentation is from 2018-2020 by simply changing the action status from Expired to Completed. For actions not on the list, Sustainable Jersey will consider approval of previously submitted documentation on a case-by-case basis based on the date of the documentation provided and the reasons why the action could not be updated due to COVID-19 related disruptions.

#### **2020 Certification Cycle Changes Webinar**

We will hold a webinar on Monday, April 6 at 1:00 pm to review the changes to the 2020 certification cycle and answer your questions about the timeline and process. If there are questions you would like addressed during the webinar, please email them to [info@sustainablejersey.com](mailto:info@sustainablejersey.com) by Thursday, April 2. You can register for the webinar [here](#).

If you have any questions about the changes to the 2020 certification cycle please contact us at [info@sustainablejersey.com](mailto:info@sustainablejersey.com) or 609-771-2938.