



# Township of Monroe

County of Middlesex

GERALD W. TAMBURRO  
Mayor

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Monroe Honored as Environmental Steward with Sustainable Jersey Certification**

**MONROE** – Township officials received word last week that Monroe had passed the rigorous requirements needed to qualify for Sustainable Jersey's silver certification.

Sustainable Jersey named Monroe as one of 48 towns in the State that met the criteria for silver certification, and recently recognized the Township's efforts at its 2017 luncheon in Atlantic City on Nov. 15.

"This speaks volumes about the environmentally sound and eco-friendly measures that our community has taken," said Monroe Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro. "This is truly an honor for Monroe, our employees and our residents. Achieving this status has been a group effort and one that I'm proud to be a part of."

In order to qualify, the Township had to create a Green Team and submit documentation outlining Township actions focused on environmental sustainability, such as emergency communication planning, energy efficiency, a community forestry plan and a bicycle and pedestrian plan – just to name a few.

Resident Renee Haider, a member of the Township's Environmental Commission and chairwoman of the Monroe Green Team's Advisory Committee, helped lead efforts that secured the Township's latest certification.

Throughout the information-gathering process, Haider had as many as 15 volunteers assisting her and the cooperation of any number of municipal departments, including the administration, department of public works, the library, the office of public information, the police division, planning and zoning, the clerk's office and engineering.

"I want to thank the Green Team for all of their support and enthusiasm," Haider said. "It's a great group to work with and we hope to encourage more people in the Township, who are passionate about the environment and sustainability issues, to join our team."

The Township's silver certification through Sustainable Jersey, an organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to municipalities pursuing sustainable programs, is valid for three years.

"Now more than ever, the onus for making environmentally conscientious decisions has shifted to the states, communities and even individuals," said Monroe Councilwoman Miriam Cohen, a Green Team member. "For the sake of humanity, it's our responsibility to make the choices that will put us in a positive trajectory and safeguard our environment. Future generations are counting on us."

With the Township's recent upgrade from a bronze to a silver-level certification, Monroe joins the ranks of only two other municipalities in Middlesex County, Highland Park and Woodbridge.

Meetings for the Monroe Township Green Team are held every second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Monroe Township Library, 4 municipal Plaza.

For more information on the Monroe Township Green Team, interested parties may contact Haider at rohaider@verizon.net.

***All media inquiries may be directed to Monroe Township's Public Information Officer Maria Prato at 732-521-4400 or mprato@monroetwp.com.***