



Cherry Hill's Green Team:



Sustainability • Cooperation • Progress

Greetings from Sustainable Cherry Hill!

Many people know about our successful education and outreach efforts, but Sustainable Cherry Hill has a well-kept secret- our community driven task forces! Each month, groups of motivated people come together to discuss, plan and act on issues including: Green Building/Energy, Green Business, Zero Waste, Way to Go Alternative Transportation, Regional Urban Partnerships, Gardens and Foods, Faith and Sustainability and our newest task force, Green Health. Some task forces plan and host educational programming, like our brand new Green Health group's "How to Pack a Healthy, Waste-Free Lunch" held in February, and others work behind the scenes with Cherry Hill Township on policy issues, like our Zero Waste and Way to Go groups. If you are interested in joining one of these task forces or creating a new one, please contact me.

We are busy finalizing our spring calendar of events, so join our mailing list or check our website regularly to stay informed. In March, we are hosting the first "Tri-County Sustainable Communities Forum" for people in Camden, Burlington and Gloucester Counties interested in making their communities more sustainable. Mark your calendars for Art Blooms Earth Festival on April 30th. Eco-friendly businesses and crafters are now being accepted.

~Lori Braunstein, Executive Director, Sustainable Cherry Hill

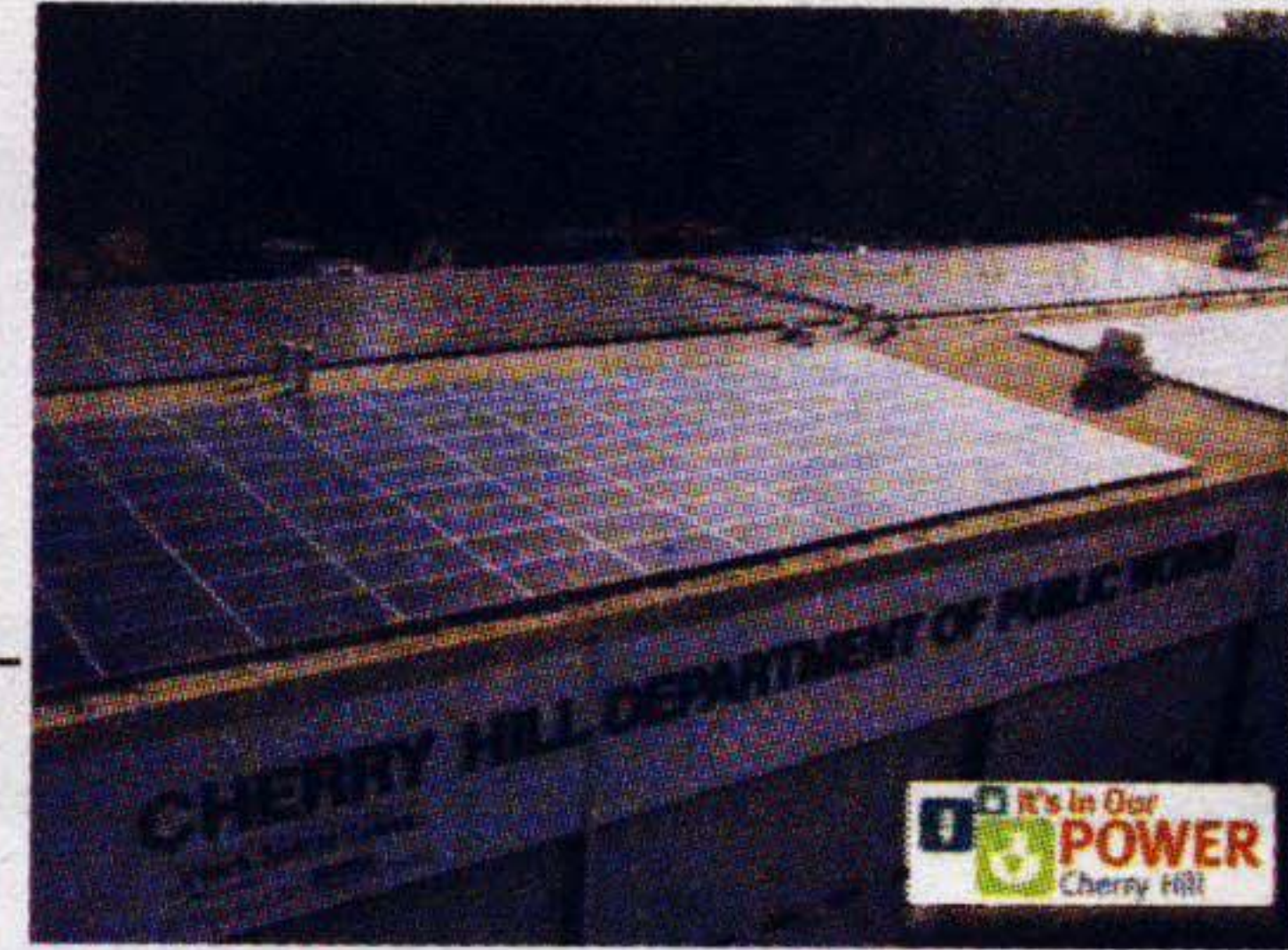
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In 2008 Cherry Hill Township Council adopted a 10 point Green Action Plan to improve the environmental quality of our community and promote an understanding of the impacts of our everyday choices on our local, national and global resources. The initiatives of the plan have made sustainability a priority throughout the Township. The success achieved towards fulfilling the goals of these initiatives has been considerable. However, none of it would have been possible without the efforts of our residents and specifically our community organization, Sustainable Cherry Hill.

Through the efforts of the Township, residents and Sustainable Cherry

Hill, the Township achieved Bronze level certification through the Sustainable Jersey Program in 2009 and we are well on our way to achieving Silver level certification in 2011. Our success, however, has not ended there. The Green Action Plan included a list of 10 goals, referred to as points, that the Township committed itself to achieving. Following are some of the most notable achievements since 2008:



Point 2: Increase recycling. Since the implementation of the Recycle Bank program in 2007 the Township has increased its diversion rate by 63.27%. In addition, the program has rewarded residents close to 9 million dollars in potential point values.

Point 3: Explore renewable energy resources. The Township has installed a 100kW solar array on the rooftop of the Department of Public Works building and Sustainable Cherry Hill continues to hold educational seminars on the benefits of residential solar.

Point 9: Integrate fuel efficient vehicles into the Township fleet. The township has purchased an electric hybrid vehicle and has a large number of flex-fuel vehicles. We have also converted a number of DPW vehicles into bio-diesel vehicles.

The Township plans to adopt an updated Green Action Plan to create new goals. These new goals will continue to be accomplished with our community partners and include expanding our use of renewable energy and greening our purchasing policies. Check our website for information regarding the Council meeting at which the plan will be adopted.

We look forward to another three years of environmental achievement and making our community a great place to live!

The "In Our Power Program" continues to provide education and assistance towards achieving energy efficiency.

For residents, we are happy to announce the 2011 Clean Energy Home Performance with Energy Star Program which offers financial incentives on energy efficient improvement packages. The more energy saving measures you install, the greater the incentive. Visit the New Jersey Clean Energy Program Website at www.njcleanenergy.com for details.

We are also hosting a workshop series this spring to educate residents about ways to reduce energy consumption and save money. See page 21 for details.

Members of the business community are responsible for 39% of our total energy consumption. Local business owners recently committed to make changes to their operations, in areas such as energy efficiency and employee behavior, thereby reducing Cherry Hill's carbon footprint.

Residents and businesses alike should contact me with any questions regarding the "It's In Our Power" program.

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