

# Township Council approves updated Green Action Plan, SCH supports efforts

Cherry Hill is looking to the future, with the March 28 adoption of a new Green Action Plan - the renewal of a plan that three years ago helped the Township set the standard for sustainability statewide.

The original plan, implemented in March of 2008, set 10 ambitious goals aimed at implementing environmentally sound operations at Town Hall while reducing spending. Among those goals were the completion of an energy audit and related upgrades at the Municipal Building; the implementation of the RecycleBank program; and the installation of solar panels at the Department of Public Works and Town Hall.

With those goals nearing completion and the plan's three-year anniversary approaching, Mayor Platt felt it necessary to draft a new plan reflecting the progress made and setting new goals for the months and years to come.

"The original Green Action Plan put Cherry Hill on the map for sustainability," Mayor Platt said. "You can see it all around our community - in the rooftop solar panels at DPW; the big blue RecycleBank cans that line our streets; the hybrid SUVs at Town Hall. It's evident in the LED lights recently installed in the township Community Center, and in other common-sense changes we've implemented, such as reducing our paper consumption."

We have met and surpassed most of the goals identified in the original Green Action Plan, and many others that stemmed from those ideas.

"Perhaps most importantly, we've saved real, quantifiable tax dollars," he added.



*On Monday, March 28, Mayor Platt and Council honored the volunteers from Sustainable Cherry Hill for their continued support of the Township's environmental initiatives.*

Platt noted that the RecycleBank program alone has saved the Township more than \$1.5 million in landfill and incinerator costs. The solar panels are expected to offset 30 percent of the total energy usage at Public Works, while generating an additional \$50,000 annually in sellable credits.

"The switch to hybrids has cut down on fuel and maintenance costs for the municipal fleet; lighting efficiencies have cut down on not just energy usage, but on maintenance and replacement costs, as well. And these are just a few ways we've tightened our belt while shrinking our carbon footprint," he added.

"But while I am so proud of all our community has accomplished, I realize that there is much more to be done; that is what this new plan is all about."

The Platt administration's new plan establishes 10 new goals:

1. Completing energy audits at the Department of Public Works and the Cherry Hill Library and implementing the recommended efficiencies.

2. Continued energy efficiency improvements at all township buildings - including the completion of the solar array at Town Hall later this year.
3. With Sustainable Cherry Hill, continuing community outreach and education.
4. Work with community organizations to educate residents and businesses about waste reduction and help implement innovative solutions to reduce waste.
5. Establishing a program to recognize local businesses that have adopted sustainability into their business model.
6. Adopting a green purchasing policy to expand the purchase of green products where financially feasible and equally effective as the current products used.
7. Continuing to improve the municipal fleet through the implementation of an advanced management system and expanding the inventory of alternative-fuel vehicles used.
8. Implementing resource-saving policies in Town Hall related to lighting, heating, cooling, and operation of office equipment.
9. Continuing to improve the safety of and access to bike and pedestrian facilities across the Township to encourage the use of non-motorized transportation.
10. Promoting organized community clean-ups of public open spaces.

"The original Green Action Plan was a landmark environmental plan that set the standard for Cherry Hill and other government agencies around New Jersey," Platt said. "I am amazed by the progress our community has made in the last three years - of all our community has accomplished over these last three years, and I look forward to the progress we now look toward."

## Mayor welcomes home Marine Lance Cpl. Jeremy Nieves

Marine Lance Cpl. Samuel Jeremy Nieves received a special welcome home from the Cherry Hill community - including Mayor Bernie Platt and Councilman Jim Bannar - in Kingston on Saturday, April 2. Dozens of people, including family, friends and members of the Yellow Ribbon Club and Warriors Watch veteran-support organizations were on hand for the celebration. Lance Cpl. Nieves was returning from a tour of duty in Afghanistan, where he served as a combat photographer.



## MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

**Monday, May 30**

**11 a.m.**

**Municipal Complex**  
820 Mercer Street

Keynote speaker:

**Jim Beach**  
*Senator*

*Turn to page 9 for more information.*