Sustainable Health Standards
A Practical Project

An initiative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
A Framework for Action

Sustainable Jersey, circa 2009
Sustainable Jersey for Schools, circa 2014

• Coordinate priorities, resources, and policy among public and private, state and local actors to identify actions to achieve their sustainability goals

• Collaboratively develop **tools, resources, and guidance** to make progress
Benefits of the Sustainable Jersey Program

- Technical assistance
- Connecting communities with existing resources
- Sharing success between communities
- Grants program
- Recognition throughout the year

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Grassroots Meets Top-Down

- Municipalities / Schools choose from menu of actions to accumulate points
- Actions created by issue-based Task Forces:
  - subject matter experts
  - local leaders
  - state / federal agencies
  - stakeholders
Sustainable Jersey Collective Impact

- 89% of NJ population lives in a registered or certified community
- 80% of municipalities participating
- 55% of NJ public school districts registered with Sustainable Jersey for Schools
- 204 municipalities certified: 55 silver certified, 149 bronze certified
- 242 schools certified: 15 silver certified, 227 bronze certified
- 13,000 sustainability actions completed by both municipalities and schools
- $4.9 million in grants for municipalities, schools & school districts

Sustainable Jersey: A Decade of Impact
Regional Hubs

✔ Network of Leaders
✔ Quarterly Events
  • Trainings
  • Social
  • Service projects
✔ Shared Models
✔ Increased Collaboration
✔ Help Peers Get Certified
✔ Online Communication Platform
Gold Star Standards

✓ Highest level of certification
✓ Recognizes that a municipality is on course to becoming sustainable
✓ Has actions that are linked to needed levels of performance
✓ If every municipality were to perform at the Gold level, collectively municipalities would be “doing their part” to achieve our goals
Current Gold Star Standards

• Existing Gold Star Standards
  – Energy
    o Reduce GHG emissions every year to meet state and global targets
  – Waste
    o Achieve state target recycling rate & reduce solid waste every year

• Up next ... Water & Health
“Health Gold” Will ...

- **Build a Culture of Health**
  - Municipal decision making through a health lens
  - Collaboration with community stakeholders
  - Institutionalize procedure

- **Address ‘Upstream’ Determinants**
  - Tackle the issues impacting public health
  - Influence individual behavior where appropriate
  - Develop programs & policies

- **Address Issues of Health Equity**
Foundation of “Health Gold”

• Provide evidence based actions to address a community’s priority issues

• Must be w/in authority & influence of local governments

• Action development
  ✓ Improve existing Sustainable Jersey actions
  ✓ Identify existing best practices to fold into Gold
  ✓ Develop new standards

• Resources to help municipalities implement actions
Steps in the Gold Star Standard in Health (proposed)

- **STEP 1**: Municipal Health Needs Assessment
- **STEP 2**: Municipality Develops Roadmap
- **STEP 3**: Implements Short-Term Slate of Actions
- **STEP 4**: Complete 1st Round of Actions
- **STEP 5**: Gold Star Issued
- **STEP 6**: Re-Certification for Gold Star

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Framework of the Gold Star Standard in Health

Municipal Health Needs Assessment

Health Gold Roadmap

*Some sort of evaluation will take place at this stage, TBD

Municipal Governance & Decision-Making

Development Patterns & Built Environment

Environmental Quality

Indiv Wellness & Commun Health

Quality of Life & Local Economy

- Housing
- Transportation & Land Use

- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Other

- Food Access
- Public Safety
- Physical & Mental Wellness
Roles of Stakeholders w/in Health Gold Process

• Health Task Force - “The Decision-Makers”
  – Charged with finalizing the Gold framework and standards, or “actions”
  – Determines which priority levels of working groups
  – Will meet regularly on a monthly or bimonthly basis

• Working Groups – “The Worker Bees”
  – Created based on priority issue areas included in the framework
  – Responsible for the development of new actions & identification of resources
  – Will meet as needed, in person or online, as determined by the group itself

• An Advisory Committee – “The Advisors”
  – Provides guidance and help to identify available resources on topics relevant to each individual’s area of expertise throughout the process
  – Able to join working groups as see fit
  – Will meet twice within this two-year initiative (today & towards its completion)
  – An online platform will be provided for communication and file sharing
Questions?

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