Cherry Hill Public Schools
Sustainability Plan

Our students. Our Community. Our future.
Sustainability: A Work in Progress

This ongoing effort began in 2012 as the enthusiastic collaborative effort of 37 individuals from the District and the Cherry Hill Community.

From students to administrators to community stakeholders, together we continue to make our vision a reality.
Vision Statement

Schools reflect and are a part of the larger community that they serve. They help to sustain and perpetuate that community by creating a culture of learning that extends beyond the student.

Our responsibility is to change course and leave behind educational practices rooted in an industrial past that produced economic gain in exchange for ecological loss. We are committed to forging a new paradigm based on an ethos of social, economic and ecological sustainability and regeneration. Educating people to better understand themselves in an ecological context and to be ever aware of their relationship to the world and its environment is key to this work.

Our plans and actions should reflect and perpetuate the new paradigm of sustainability—which runs like a thread through all that we do.
Sustainability: Our 3-Year Plan

- Practical time frame - Implemented over a three year period, through June 2017.
- Revenue neutral - being cost efficient in this process is one of our priorities.
- Reflects the Cherry Hill Public Schools’ Mission Statement and Board Goals
Goal 1

We will create a shared understanding and commitment toward contributing to sustainability through teaching, learning and our actions.
Goal 1 Result: Curriculum and Instructional Practices

- EfS – Education for Sustainability
  - A transformative learning process
  - Tools for economic prosperity and responsible citizenship
  - Restoration of the health of the living systems upon which our lives depend

- Sustainability in Curriculum

- Hands-On, Project-Based, Student-Led Educational Models
Goal I Action: Sustainability in Curriculum

One sustainability unit will be taught per grade level in each subject area using multiple resources, including:

- Books
- Speakers
- Assemblies
- Field Trips
Goal I Action: Hands-On, Project-Based, Student-Led Education Models

Carusi Middle School at Mt. Misery
Goal 1 Result: Green Teams

- Responsible for the implementation of District Sustainability Plan
- Schools and communities serve as resources for each other
- Community organizations serve on District Green Team
Goal I Action: School Green Teams

- Team goals vertically aligned to District and Municipality sustainability plans
- Students, teachers, administrators, PTA members, and community members
Goal I Action: District Green Team

- Representatives from elementary, middle, and high schools serve as liaisons to District and School Green Teams
Goal 1 Result: Health & Wellness

Health and wellness services promote green and healthy living

- Health & wellness providers at **CHEA Benefits Fairs**
- **NJ Well** program for state employees
- **Mayor’s Wellness Campaign**, a Township-wide initiative to help lead to a healthier, happier, and more successful community
Goal 1 Result: Service Learning and Community Partnerships

- Student-led projects and action groups through curricular and extracurricular activities
- Increase in the participation of students in service learning projects
Goal 2

We will create green and healthy spaces within and outside our schools.
Goal 2 Result: A Framework of Strategies to Promote Health & Wellness - Guidelines

We will develop guidelines for
- Health & wellness practices and strategies,
- Physical activity, nutrition and healthy food,
- Indoor air quality,
- Low emission and fuel consuming transportation,
- Safe management of chemical use/disposal.

We will evaluate existing Board of Education policies for the above practices.
Goal 2 Result
Food and Nutrition

- Continue to provide local and seasonal produce from tri-state area
- Continue to increase nutritional products
Goal 2 Result: A Framework of Strategies to Promote Health & Wellness - Indoor Air Quality

- Pilot air quality study using the EPA’s “Tools for Schools”
- Pilot comprehensive green cleaning program
- Create policy on best purchasing practices for indoor air quality
- Teachers participate in USG BC’s Green Classroom training
USGBC’s Green Classroom certification program

The GCP Certificate program provides pre-K-12 educators and school staff with the knowledge to identify what supports or impedes healthy, resource efficient and environmentally sustainable learning spaces. The course and exam help participants recognize, adopt, and implement practices that keep teachers and students focused, alert and ready to learn.
Goal 2 Result: Outdoor Air Quality

- We will promote benefits of increased walking, bike riding and reduction of driving students to school at a minimum of 3 schools.
- We will address outdoor quality with education & enforcement around a “No Idling” campaign.
Goal 3

We will use our natural resources responsibly to reduce environmental impact and costs.
Goal 3 Result: Strategies to improve conservation of resources

- Assess current waste and recycling
- Support recycling efforts in the classroom, provide training
- Recycle non-traditional materials
- Reduce paper consumption
- Explore additional waste reduction
Goal 3 Result: Promote energy efficiency and management

- Conduct Energy Audits
- Change behavior to conserve energy
- Make capital upgrades to improve energy efficiency – when possible
- Maximize energy efficiency
- Consider the use of renewable energy
Goal 3 Result: A framework & strategy for water conservation

- Baseline and 3-year improvement target for each school and District as a whole
- Capital upgrades
  - As improvements are made – retrofit fixtures and toilets
Goal 3 Result: Promote Environmentally Sustainable Business Practices

- Explore sustainable purchasing policies of other districts/municipalities and create policy and framework based on findings
- Create awareness campaign and training program for all in District who purchase materials for buildings and grounds, or who work in these areas
Goal 3 Result: A framework & strategy for sustainability outside school buildings

- Explore sustainable building and grounds policies of other districts/municipalities and create policy and framework based on findings
- Create awareness campaign and training program for all in District who purchase materials for buildings and grounds, or who work in these areas
- Review building site practices
- Design water management systems
Goal 3 Result: A framework & strategy for sustainability outside school buildings

- Explore sustainable building and grounds policies
- Create awareness campaign and training program for all in District who purchase materials for buildings and grounds
- Investigate irrigation methods for athletic fields
- Implement pilot program for 3 schools
Pilot Programs:

A minimum of three schools will participate in each:

- Indoor Air Quality
- Offsite Organics Composting
- Energy Audit/Energy Conservation
- Stormwater Management Design System
- Walk/Bike to School/No Idling Program
Implementation

- Determine action rubric (Yr. 1, 2, 3)
- Communicate plan to building administrators
- Select pilot schools
- Receive feedback from building green teams
- Communicate results
Sustainability = Growth

For our children. For our community. For our future.
Green Team Members

Donald Bart, Director of Support Operations, Cherry Hill Public Schools
Elana Berlin, Student, Cherry Hill High School West
Lori Braunstein, Founder, Sustainable Cherry Hill; Director for Green Schools, Delaware Valley Green Building Council
Ramona Bregatta, Media Specialist, Beck Middle School
Benny Breslau, Student, Cherry Hill High School East
Janet Cohen, Administrative Assistant, Cherry Hill Public Schools
Eric Colebaugh, General Manager, Aramark
Gretchen Cusick, Zone PTA, Cherry Hill High School East PTA President
Eleanor DiRenzo-Wyckoff, Teacher, Kingston Elementary School
Marco Fernandez-Obregon, Director of Operations and Facilities Management, Cherry Hill Public Schools
Kevin Frost, Industrial Arts Teacher and Environmental Club Adviser, Cherry Hill High School West
Katie Harris, Student, Cherry Hill High School East
Brenda Jorett, Sustainable Cherry Hill
Sarah Kelly, Student, Cherry Hill High School East
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Beth Anne Kob, Principal, Woodcrest Elementary School
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Carol Matlack, Vice President, Cherry Hill Public Schools Board of Education
Green Team Members

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Jane Murphy, Basic Skills Teacher, Kilmer Elementary School
Mona Noyes, Coordinator of Character Education, Cherry Hill Public Schools
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Maureen Reusche, Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools
Karen Rockhill, Principal, Johnson Elementary School
Alexander Rosenwald, Curriculum Supervisor, Science, Cherry Hill Public Schools

Molly Schultz, Student, Cherry Hill High School East
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