



**Melissa Velez-Morales**

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**From:** Masser, Michelle  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 22, 2016 3:49 PM  
**To:** Harris, Laura  
**Cc:** Melissa Velez-Morales  
**Subject:** FW: Sustainability Summit Highlights & Announcements

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**Sent:** Wednesday, June 22, 2016 3:46 PM  
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**Subject:** Sustainability Summit Highlights & Announcements

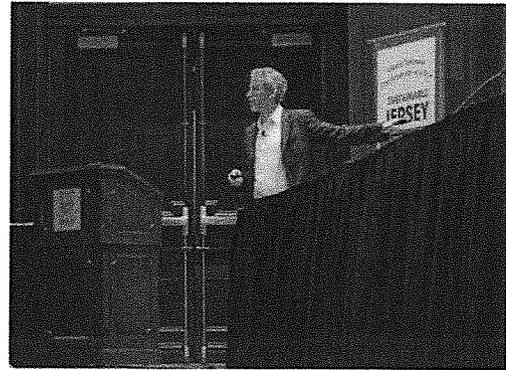
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## Sustainability Summit Highlights & Announcements

Thank you to all who attended the 2016 Sustainability Summit! The presentations are now available on our 2016 Sustainability Summit on the [Speaker Presentations page](#). For those that were unable to attend, see below for important announcements made during the day.

**1. Release of the Sustainable State 2016 Update and the New Gold Standard:** The establishment of 'Gold,' Sustainable Jersey's highest level of certification, forges the link between the municipal program and the broader, long-term outcomes desired. The roll-out of gold will begin with gold star standards for energy and waste because they are fundamental dimensions of sustainability for which there are widely accepted metrics of performance supported by readily available quantitative data.



*Dr. Benjamin Strauss gives his keynote presentation*

**2. Announcement of the Sustainable Jersey Solar Challenge:** Sustainable Jersey and EnergySage announced a new program that is designed to provide a simple, cost effective way to help municipalities drive interest among homeowners and small businesses to install solar. This 6-month community-led program allows communities to take advantage of an online marketplace and a suite of locally-branded social media marketing tools to facilitate access to information and resources regarding solar installation. Through careful vetting of contractors and online competition, the program increases confidence and lowers the time and costs associated with installing solar on residences and businesses.

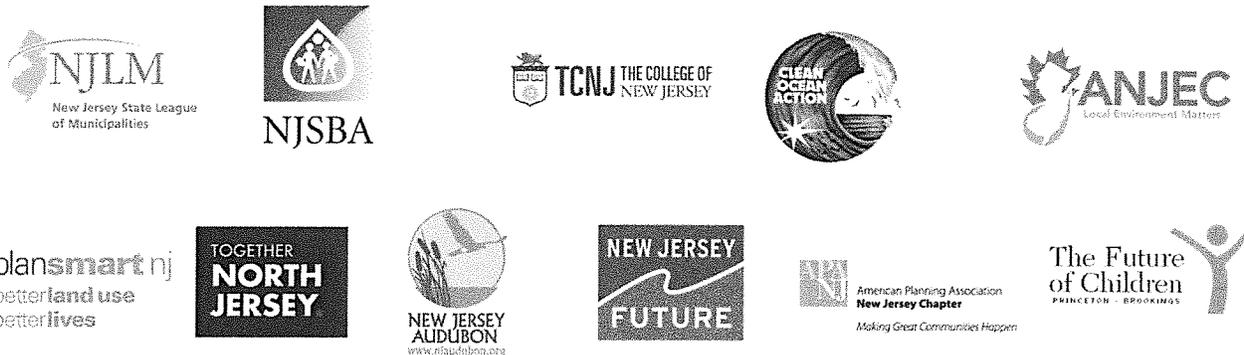
**3. Announcement of New Jersey's Electric Vehicle Charging Grant Program-It Pay\$ to Plug In:** Bob Martin, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Richard Mroz, President of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities announced the Workplace Charging Grant Program which provides grants to employers to offset the cost of purchasing and installing electric vehicle charging stations. This program is designed to support and encourage employees to purchase and drive electric vehicles to work, which reduces vehicle emissions. For more information, visit their [website](#).

**4. Release of the 2016 New Jersey Sustainable State of the State Report:** The overall picture for New Jersey points to mounting challenges. In 2016, the state's performance on two additional goals merited a 'thumbs down,' so that overall New Jersey is moving in an unsustainable direction for 27 out of the 57 goals. There is good news as well. Racial and ethnic disparities narrowed in education and health. Violent crime continued to drop, air quality is improving and renewable energy production is up.

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**Upcoming Sustainable Jersey Webinars**

## **Pathways and Incentives to Financing Clean Energy**

An energy efficient home or office not only saves money, it also makes your living space or workplace healthier and more comfortable. Upgrading heating and cooling equipment, increasing insulation, and making sure the building envelope is properly air-sealed can also significantly improve indoor air quality by reducing allergens, mold, and other pollutants.

Join us for this educational webinar to learn more about energy efficiency incentives offered by utility companies in your area. Incentives are available for homeowners, businesses, non-profits, and local government agencies. You will learn about the latest changes in the New Jersey Clean Energy Program as well as incentives available to help finance energy efficiency upgrades to municipal buildings and schools. Hear about Sustainable Jersey's Pathways to Clean Energy guidance concept, to help you identify the most cost effective pathway to achieving energy savings.

**Wednesday, July 13, 2016, 1:00pm - 2:00pm**

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## **Building Local Resilience to Climate Change Webinar**

This workshop will review tools and actionable steps that communities can take to be more prepared and resilient to the impacts of climate change. The tools were developed and vetted by public, non-profit and academic partners throughout the state, including Sustainable Jersey's Task Forces. As such, they represent some of the most current resiliency tools available to New Jersey municipalities. Topics to be covered include the NJ Municipal Resilience Cycle, coastal and tidally influenced vulnerability assessments, extreme temperature event plans, emergency preparedness self-assessments ("Getting to Resilience"), emergency communications for vulnerable populations, and more.

**Wednesday, June 29, 2016, 1:00pm - 2:00pm**

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## **Other Upcoming Events**

### **The State of Sustainability Programs in the Northeast Webinar**

This webinar, sponsored by APA Chapters & Divisions, will feature speakers from New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New Hampshire speaking on sustainability programs and planning support for local governments offered in each state. They will describe the results of state programs that have encouraged sustainability planning as well as the status of current initiatives, including the Clean Energy Communities and Climate Smart Communities Programs in NY; Massachusetts' Green Communities program, climate change vulnerability assessments, and coastal zone green infrastructure planning grants; Sustainable Jersey; and New Hampshire's Granite State Future project. An update on efforts to build a national network of state-based sustainability programs will be highlighted.

Sustainable Jersey's Co-Director, Donna Drewes, will speak about the Sustainable Jersey program, the assistance offered to communities, resources to help towns complete actions, and the work done so far with a national network of state programs.

**Friday, June 24, 2016, 1:00pm - 2:30pm**

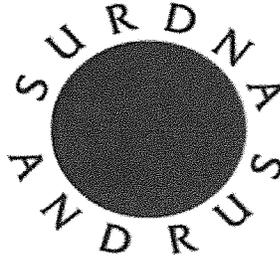
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