



**RED BANK**  
Environmental Commission

## 2021 Annual Report



## Executive Summary

The Red Bank Environmental Commission (RBEC) was established by ordinance in 1990 and is composed of volunteer Red Bank residents appointed by the Mayor and is consistent with NJ state laws creating environmental commissions.

RBEC advises the Mayor, Borough Council, Business Administrator, and municipal department heads on environmental issues that may affect the natural resources and inhabitants of the community including but not limited to, solid waste management and recycling, energy conservation and renewable energy, stormwater management, preservation and use of parks and open spaces, clean water resources, and protection of flora, fauna, soil and landscape throughout the Borough. Additionally, the commission reviews and comments on the building and development applications for the Planning and Zoning Boards.

RBEC met online via Zoom meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All RBEC meetings were opened to the public as we encouraged public participation and action in our discussions, programs and projects.

### RBEC Member:

Nancy Facey-Blackwood  
Paulo Rodriguez-Heyman  
Denelle Johnson  
Travers Martin  
Roy Meyer  
Kristina Bonatakis  
Dave Johnson  
Jenna Leder  
Ana Almerini  
Kate Triggiano

### Title:

Chair  
Vice Chair  
Secretary  
  
Planning Board Liaison  
  
Council Liaison

The RBEC renewed its two sub-committees, Green Team (GT) and Creative Team (CT), to collaborate on RBEC projects and events throughout the year, and in keeping with Sustainable Jersey's community partnership and outreach best practices.

<b>Green Team Members*</b>	<b>Creative Team</b>
Matt Hershberger	Sarah Mastriano
David Schmetterer	Monika McCall
Helena Blyskun	Eileen Kennedy
Mary Jo Hinds	Juana Santamaria
Bob D'Addario	
Cliff Keen – Dept of Public Utilities	
Charles Hoffman/ Lou Del Pra – Parks and Rec	

**\*All EC members are automatically Green Team members per ordinance 2021-07**

## **RBEC Activities and Accomplishments**

The RBEC and the Green Team were productive this year. Two public-facing events held were the GreenFair in May and assisting the Borough with the launch of a Pilot Plastic Film Recycling Program in October.

### **Plan Reviews:**

Reviewed building plans and presented comments to the Municipal Planning and Zoning Boards for best environmental practices. RBEC often suggested increased open space and setbacks, rain gardens, increased use of native trees and plants, use of pervious materials replacing commonly used asphalt, and use of green building practices when possible. Some of the plans reviewed in 2021 include:

- 141 West Front St—new apartment building with first floor retail
- 234-240 Shrewsbury Ave—an apartment building with first floor retail
- 120 Monmouth St—new apartment building with first floor retail
- 96-98 West Front St—new apartment building
- 21 East Front St—conversion of the first floor of a building to a luxury car rental store
- 121 Monmouth St—new apartment building
- 121 Dr James Parker Blvd—Expansion of Lunchbreak building
- 26 Wallace St—teardown of a historic home to make a parking lot

## **Ordinances and Resolutions**

The EC provided support for the following ordinances and resolutions:

- Ordinances
  - 2021-04 Clean Soil Fill Ordinance
  - 2021-05 Statewide Stormwater Ordinance
  - 2021-06 Bamboo Ordinance
  - 2021-07 Designate all EC members as Green Team members in addition to Green Team members appointed annually by resolution
- Resolutions
  - 21-89 Continued support for Sustainable Monmouth Alliance Energy Aggregation Program

## Grants

- Maintained a shared spreadsheet where members can add grant ideas. The EC also participated in discussions of grants with the Borough.
- Successful grants with EC participation in 2021 were:
  - AARP Grant for Wayfinding and a Parklet

## Education and Community Outreach

RBEC, the Green Team, and the Creative Team participated in several community events. RBEC held several community educational workshops and participated in community events for the residents of Red Bank and neighboring townships. Our workshops and events were developed and executed to improve the health and well-being of our citizens and municipal employees as well as to inform the public of improved environmental and sustainable quality of life issues.

All events were promoted on the RBEC website page, Red Bank Borough events calendar, RBEC Facebook page and in local online and press media. Library events were also promoted by the Red Bank Library online, newsletters and traditional media.

### Red Bank 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day/Green Fair

RBEC and the Green and Creative Teams held a Green Fair in Marine Park on Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup>. Features were sign-ups for a pilot program for Plastic Film Recycling, and a donation station for LunchBreak as well as a shredding machine available.

**RED BANK EARTH DAY EXPO**

Red Bank Green Fair  
Saturday, May 1, 2021  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Marine Park - Red Bank  
- Free Admission -  
- Socially Distanced -

Drop off papers to shred, Drop off a donation to LunchBreak  
Meet the Green Team & chat with the Environmental Commission  
about Plastic Film Recycling, Food Waste Composting & More!  
Document Shredding Truck

Follow us on Facebook  
RED BANK

Lunch Break Donate  
• Diapers  
• Wipes  
• Toilet Paper

LUNCHBREAK  
RED BANK BOROUGH

Logos: Red Bank Borough, Jersey Shore, etc.

**RED BANK EARTH DAY EXPO**

La Feria Verde de Red Bank  
Sábado 1 de Mayo 2021  
De 9:00am a 12:00pm  
Marine Park - Red Bank  
Con todas las normas  
de distanciamiento social  
- Entrada gratis -

Traiga documentos para triturar. Entregue una donación para el Lunch Break  
Conocer y charlar con el equipo de la comisión ambiental de Red Bank (THE GREEN TEAM).  
Para conocer más del reciclaje de plásticos, residuos de alimentos (composta), y mucho más.  
Habrá una máquina trituradora de documentos.

Siga con nosotros Facebook  
RED BANK

Entregue una donación para el Lunch Break de Red Bank como los siguientes:  
• Pañales  
• Toallitas para bebé  
• Papel higiénico

LUNCHBREAK  
RED BANK BOROUGH

Logos: Red Bank Borough, Jersey Shore, etc.



## Curbside Plastic Film Recycling Program

Under a [one-year agreement](#) entered with S.C. Johnson & Sons in June, Red Bank became the fourth New Jersey municipality to team up with the consumer products giant to recycle film packaging. (The others are Bradley Beach, Loch Arbour, and Matawan.)

Materials eligible for recycling include grocery bags; bread bags; food storage bags, including Ziploc bags; newspaper bags; bubble wrap; shrink wrap, including that used with multipacks of bottled beverages; and boat wrap.

The plastic film is collected by Red Bank DPU and transported to Mazza Recycling who then sends it to a plastic film recycler to repurpose the film.

A screenshot of a web form titled "Red Bank Plastic Film Recycling Signup". The form has a header with a green and blue geometric pattern. Below the title, it says "Provide your information to the Red Bank DPU to participate in this exciting recycling pilot program!". There is a text input field with a red asterisk and the word "Required" below it. Below that is a paragraph of text: "Plastic Film Recycling for participating Red Bank residents will take place on the first Wednesdays of the month, beginning November 3rd, 2021. Participants will receive a container for recycling of bread bags, plastic wrappers, dry cleaning bags, clean Ziploc bags and more. More info at <https://www.redbanknj.org/208/Public-Utilities>". Below this is another text input field labeled "Full Name \*" with a red asterisk. At the bottom, there is a "Your answer" label and a "Screenshot" button.

Figure 1 Photo Credit John Ward

RBEC/GT created the sign-up form used by residents to sign up for the program. The information went to a spreadsheet used by DPU to have a list of the addresses for the monthly pickup. Participants who signed up early had their buckets delivered to them. A bucket signup/pickup event was held October 16<sup>th</sup> handing out over 125 buckets. The program began the first Wednesday in November and as of the second month, Red Bank collected more than 15 cu yards or around 440 pounds of plastic film.

## Turtle Habitat at Bellhaven Nature Preserve

Bellhaven is home to different animal species, including at least three turtle species—diamondback, snapper and box, a protected species. Hatchlings trying to cross the emergency access road near the Primary School could not make it all the way across. Residents reached out to the EC and Animal Welfare. A team consisting of the EC, Clean Ocean Action, and Animal Welfare reached out to Project Terrapin to investigate ways the Borough could make it safer for the turtles. Project Terrapin's research concluded that a habitat would provide the turtles with the space they needed and avoid any future mishaps. Turtle gardens are artificial nesting sites built with mounds of a sand blend. Bellhaven was then surveyed and a perfect location for a turtle habitat was selected.



## Collaboration with Other Organizations

### The Red Bank Public Library

- The Green Team collaborates with the Red Bank Public Library about monthly topics on sustainability for its **Sustainable Red Bank Series**. Topics covered were:
  - January           How to Talk to your Kids about Climate Change
  - February        Stormwater Management and your Community
  - April             *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* Viewing Party
  - May              Discussion: *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*
  - June             How to Make Your Home More Energy Efficient
  - August          Solar Q&A
  - October         Sustainable Fashion
  - November       Curbside Recycling

### Sustainable Jersey Recertification

- The Green Team achieved silver certification status with Sustainable Jersey with 380 points by documenting the sustainable actions in Red Bank.
- The Borough received the Creative and Innovative Project Award for the Senior Lockbox and the Volunteer Translator Program. Both programs are run through the Red Bank Police Department.

### Sustainable Jersey Monmouth Hub

- Green Team members actively participate in the bimonthly meetings where county Green Teams come together and discuss topics and share actions in their community.

### Environmental Partnership

- EC members actively participated in the bimonthly meetings hosted by the Monmouth County Urban Coast Institute where local municipal environmental members meet and discuss topics, issues, and share actions in their community.

## Memberships

- Red Bank is a signatory to the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.
- RBEC is a member of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC).