

**2018 ANNUAL REPORT
RED BANK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Red Bank Environmental Commission (RBEC) was established by ordinance in 1990 and is comprised 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, storm water 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 once a month and all RBEC meetings were opened to the public as we encouraged public participation and action in our discussions, programs and projects.

RBEC MEMBERS

Kate Triggiano	Chair
Pat Pinto	Vice Chair
Helena Blyskun	Secretary
Michael Paul Raspanti	
Travers Martin	
Boris Kofman	
Kristina Bonotakis	
Travers Martin	
Roy Meyer	Alternate
Nancy Facey-Blackwood	Alternate
Mark Taylor	Council Liaison

The RBEC renewed its two sub-committees, Green Team (GT) and Creative Team (CT), as part of Sustainable Jersey requirements and to collaborate on RBEC projects and events throughout the year.

Green Team Members

Pat Pinto	Chair
Matt Hershberger	
Nancy Facey-Blackwood	
Sean Walsh	
Gayle Hallet	
Kristina Bonatakis	
Mark Taylor	
Charles Hoffman	
Cliff Keen	
Dave Schmetterer	
Anne Kelterborn	

Creative Team

Kate Okeson
Chair
Pat Pinto
Mark Taylor
Monika McCall
Eileen Kennedy
Stephen McMillion
Joseph Pulito
Gary Saphire
Dorothy Ferlanti
Jon Arcara

RBEC ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GRANTS & ASSISTANCE

SUSTAINABLE JERSEY (SJ) CERTIFICATION: After reaching bronze certification in 2017, our goal was set on silver certification for last year. In September 2018, we reached bronze level and our Chair, Kate Triggiano, and Red Bank Business Administrator, Ziad Shehady, accepted this honor on behalf of RBEC at the Municipality Conference Luncheon on Tuesday, November 13, 2018. In early December, we were confirmed for Silver Certification and will be honored at next year's luncheon.

For silver certification, the collaboration between RBEC, Green Team and Creative Team completed additional action items and expanded our sustainable reach by completing 375 points with 34 action items and 20 categories.

Below is a sampling of actions that enhanced our efforts and secured our Silver Certification:

- Municipal Carbon Footprint
- Anti-Idling Campaign
- Emergency Communications Planning
- Lead Education and Outreach Programs
- Prescription Drug Disposal
- Complete Streets Resolution
- Green Development Checklist
- Earth Day Event

THE COLLEGE OF NJ VOLUNTEERS: Through SJ, Red Bank applied and was selected to receive a team of volunteers to work on prepping our community garden for the 2018 season. Unfortunately due to a late season snow storm, the event was cancelled.

TACTICAL URBANISM PROJECT: Red Bank was awarded technical assistance from Sustainable Jersey (\$ value not to exceed \$10K) – this is a quicker, less expensive way to demonstrate how long-term change could work. Along with SJ, RBEC, Traffic Safety, River Center and Red Bank Planner identified sites to use: Intersection of Chestnut and West Street, Intersection of Drs. James Parker Blvd and Bridge Street, White Street near Broad Street. Implementation is planned for Spring 2019.

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Red Bank Environmental Commission, Green Team and 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.

RBEC expanded its Green Business Recognition Program by partnering with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The DEP in collaboration with New Jersey Sustainable Registry created a Red Bank Community page which highlights our current participants in the program.

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.

- First Annual Earth Day Expo: Our first expo was held in the borough parking lot the Saturday before Earth Day. Local businesses sponsored the event by donating food, drink and contest/raffle prizes. Our event kicked off with a ribbon cutting ceremony for our new electric car charging station followed by:
 - bike rodeo teaching riding & safety skills
 - art projects from recycled material including a trash-ion show
 - education about our borough's committees and non-profit organizations
 - give-aways and activities by our Parks & Rec Department and Department of Public Works
 - seedling give-away by Shade Tree Committee
 - live music and folk dancing
- Earth Day Display at Red Bank Public Library: RBEC was asked by the Red Bank Library to create an Earth display for the month of April. RBEC took the opportunity to use the display to educate the community and promote our Earth Day Expo. In addition, the library highlighted books on the environment as a companion piece to the display.
- National Night Out hosted by the Red Bank Police Department: Commission members hosted a table display featuring information about recycling and Red Bank/New Jersey natural resources. We held a recycling contest to see how well our young people know about what or what not to put in the recycling bin.
- Touch a Truck hosted by Monmouth Day Care: RBEC members spoke to attendees about local environmental issues with a special focus on Red Bank's Anti-Idling efforts at this annual event.
- Rally for the Rivers Eco-Fest: Recycled art project hosted by Creative Team on June 2.

- Lead in Water – What You Need To Know: Hosted by the Green Team at the Red Bank Public Library on October 11th. Panelists included Roy Meyer/Toxicologist and former Bureau Chief of the NJDEP, Amy Goldsmith/NJ State Director, Clean Water Action, Cliff Keen/Director, Red Bank Public Utilities.
- RBEC members attended workshops offered by Sustainable Jersey and NJTPA forum at Rutgers to learn more about issues facing our community.

PLAN REVIEWS: Reviewed dozens of building plans and open space development for 2017 and presented comments to the Municipal Planning and Zoning Boards for best environmental practices. RBEC often suggested increased open space and set back, 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 2018 include but not limited to:

- 316 Shrewsbury Avenue: construction of 3 family dwelling
- 170 Monmouth Street: mixed use building
- 94-98 East Front Street: 3 story medical building
- 42 Monmouth Street: convert existing retail space into a restaurant & brewery & add two floors with residential apartments
- 390 Shrewsbury Avenue: proposed Dunkin Donuts
- Metrovision Anderson 218-220 Monmouth Street: revisions to previous approval with loading zone, refrigeration box, & rooftop mechanicals (Sickles Market)
- 67-71 Monmouth Street: rehab two vacant 2nd story apartments, add exterior stairs, redesign parking.
- Phoenix Productions: changing use of existing structure to music conservatory

In addition to reviewing plans with an eye on environmental concerns, the RBEC created a Green Development Checklist and a Recommended Plant List. Both the checklist and plant list can be found on the RBEC web page.

MEMBERSHIPS:

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

PHOTO GALLERY

RED BANK EARTH DAY EXPO

April 21, 2018 12-4pm
Borough Hall Parking Lot
90 Monmouth St
@RedBankEnvironmentalCommission Facebook for updates
Rain date April 29

All ages! Fun: Bike Rodeo, Community
Recycled Art Project, Trash-ion Show,
Music, Games, Demonstrations & more!







LEAD POISONING WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

In the wake of Flint, many want to know more about lead poisoning and drinking water safety -- especially here in Red Bank. The Red Bank Public Library, along with the Red Bank Environmental Commission, invite you to a

PANEL DISCUSSION

Featuring

Amy Goldsmith, NJ State Director of Clean Water Action
Roy Meyer, Toxicologist and former Bureau Chief of the NJDEP
Cliff Keen, Director of the Red Bank Department of Public Utilities

Thursday, October 11th at 7 P.M. at the Red Bank Public Library

 64 West Front Street
Red Bank, NJ 07701




