

Cranford Environmental Commission

Accomplishments for 2011

- **Green Business Program** – Working with the Chamber of Commerce, we developed a program to recognize local businesses for taking sustainability actions, i.e., those that benefit the environment while being economically beneficial. Twenty businesses have been certified. Cranford is the only community in New Jersey to have such a program.
- **Anti-idling Program** – We placed 52 signs around town, including at the schools, urging residents to turn off their engines when standing. We received excellent cooperation from the Police and the School System. We held kick-off sessions at the schools. The Township Committee passed a resolution in 2010 supporting this effort.
- **Composting** – We met with the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Carrick, and a number of representatives of the School System to discuss our goal of town-wide composting. As a result, twelve 55-gallon composters were built and placed at the schools. Students are learning about the appropriate kitchen waste to compost. The ultimate goal is to involve the school cafeterias.
- **Cloud Institute's Educate for Sustainability Program** – The Commission initiated a contact with the Institute whereby a Commission member and a high school teacher attended NJ Learns Training. Using a grant from the Dodge Foundation, the school district participated in a two-day training course held by the Institute on December 7 and 8. Two members of the Commission attended as members of the community.
- **Stormwater Policy Work Group** – We formed a committee to develop recommended ways to lessen the impact of flooding. Items under consideration include reducing impervious cover, rain barrels, rain gardens, and landscaping changes.
- **Community Gardens** – As part of the Sustainable Jersey program in 2010, the Green Team established an eight-plot community garden at Walnut Avenue School. Working in conjunction with the teachers and students, we continued the gardens this year.
- **Rake For The Planet Program** – For the third year, we encouraged residents to keep their leaf blowers in their storage sheds and rake instead on one or more days in the fall. This idea was supported by a resolution adopted by the Township Committee.
- **Energy Audit at Community Center**– In 2010, we received a grant to have an energy audit performed at the Community Center. One of the auditor's recommendations was to install light sensors in the hallways and meeting rooms. The Township obtained another grant and in 2011 the sensors were installed.
- **Solar Panels** – Members of the Commission attended a meeting of the UCIA in 2010 concerning solar panels. We also organized a presentation by the UCIA's attorney to the Committee. Subsequently, the Committee approved the installation of the panel at the Library and the Community Center. We were pleased to see that the panels were recently installed.
- **My Green Cranford** – We continued to maintain our web site and to distribute a newsletter.
- **Rain Barrel Workshop** - Cosponsored by the Commission and the Rahway River Association, one of our members conducted a workshop for building rain barrels.
- **Earth Day Celebration** – We distributed brochures from the Clean Energy Program and collected nearly 100 Energy Star pledges at the Kean University Earth Day Fair.
- **Environmental Education Committee** – Members of the Commission continued to attend the quarterly meetings of this committee established by the School District. It is led by the Assistant Superintendent and is composed of educators from each of the schools.