



**GLEN ROCK**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**



**2017 Annual Report**



**GREC Responsibilities:**

NJ State Legislation 40:56A which established Environmental Commissions empowered commissions to “study and make recommendations concerning open space preservation, water resource management, air pollution control, solid waste management, noise control, soil and landscape protection, environmental appearance, marine resources and protection of flora and fauna.”

Today the GREC and other environmental commissions are involved in a broad range of activities, such as:

- Advising their governing bodies and boards of health on a variety of environmental issues,
- Informing and advising municipal planning and zoning boards about environmental impacts of proposals for development,
- Informing residents on environmental matters and ways to help protect the environment,
- Interacting with neighboring commissions and other organizations to tackle regional and state problems, and
- Helping to explain to other local officials and residents the programs and regulations of the NJ DEP and communicate local concerns to the NJ DEPC.

**2017 Priorities:**

- 1) Work toward Sustainable Jersey recertification with goal to apply for recertification by June 3, 2018 recertification cycle deadline.
- 2) Advise the Borough Council, Planning Board and Municipal officials on environmental issues and the environmental impacts of borough policies and actions
- 3) Identify new opportunities that can lead to a reduction of our community carbon footprint
- 4) Expand green team to involve more people from the community passionate in protecting the environment
- 5) Continue to work with the Glen Rock Schools to involve students and administration in programs relevant to the environment including the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program.

## **2017 Objectives:**

- Expand the Green Up Glen Rock Team
- Calculate our community carbon footprint to provide guidance and help identify the major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions that can guide our community on best practices
- Enhance our efforts to increase energy efficiency at the residential, municipal and commercial level: renew the home energy audit program sponsored by the borough, implement local government energy audit upgrades
- Promote increased use of renewable energy in the community: utilize funding to implement installation of electric vehicle charging stations, pursue the development of a renewable energy aggregation plan for residential homes, initiate an outreach campaign to educate residents about the benefits of solar panel installation
- Develop a Glen Rock Farmer's Market
- Continue to encourage and mentor GR students in GREC and Green team activities and continue to pursue Sustainable for Jersey Schools grant funding
- Use social media to educate and engage the community with GREC and Green Team initiatives
- Raise awareness about the need for water conservation, and use of responsible outdoor watering
- Advance community understanding of environmental issues
- Improve recycling education
- Identify additional Actions selected for SJ recertification (smoke-free zones, NJSEM)
- Continue to increase environmental expertise of Commissioners through attendance at workshops, seminars and community fairs

## **2017 Accomplishments:**

### **Sustainable Jersey re-certification**



The GREC attained Bronze level certification in the Sustainable Jersey Program early in Fall 2015. Our goal is to achieve enough points ( $\geq 350$ ) to obtain Silver certification in 2018

### **Glen Rock featured in Spring 2017 and Summer 2017 ANJEC reports**

Glen Rock home energy program (HEA) as well as the fruitful collaboration with the school district were showcased in the Spring 2017 ANJEC (association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions) report "Glen Rock is



rocking the environment” (pp 14-16). The report section “Acting Locally” highlighted the role of GREC in helping residents conserve energy and reduce cost through the HEA program (see details later). Since the inception of the program a total of 184 Home Energy Assessments have been performed and retrofit projects were completed on 28 Glen Rock houses with Ciel Power.

In addition, the role of GREC in assisting the school district register for the Sustainable Jersey for Schools (SJfS) program and mentoring students in applying for SJfS grants was also presented in the report (three grants have been so far been awarded for student-led initiatives). Past projects mentored by GREC were mentioned in the ANJEC report, including reducing use of plastic bottles at



Styrofoam tray:  
nonrecyclable, toxic



Compostable tray:  
biodegradable, healthy

the high school, replacing Styrofoam trays with environmental-friendly compostable trays, reducing idling at the schools and in the community, improving recycling practices at the high school, increasing awareness and offering of healthy foods at all schools of the school district. The students benefit from the partnership by practicing leadership skills which are valuable for their personal development. These activities also can provide effective testimony of their environmental concern, motivation, and organizational skills for their college applications.

The elimination of styrofoam trays for the Middle/High School cafeteria was also reported in the Summer 2017 ANJEC report. Following the publication of these ANJEC reports that are published and distributed to all NJ environmental commissions, GREC was contacted by another town’s environmental commission seeking advice for the implementation of the styrofoam trays from the school cafeteria. <http://www.anjec.org/pdfs/Spring2017ANJECReport.pdf>

### **Recruit/replace GREC members**

The establishment and active involvement of a municipal Green Team is required for a community to be certified by Sustainable Jersey. The GREEN UP GLEN ROCK TEAM was created in 2009 by Glen Rock Council Resolution No. 103-09, “Resolution for Sustainable Glen Rock”, to lead the effort to help Glen Rock achieve certification as a Sustainable Community by Sustainable Jersey. In July 2012, the Glen Rock Borough Council reaffirmed its commitment to pursuing Sustainable Jersey certification and the continued role of the GREEN UP GLEN ROCK TEAM. Glen Rock received its first certification by Sustainable Jersey in NOVEMBER 2012, and its second in NOVEMBER 2015.

Laura Occhipinti joined the commission in January 2017 and Ben Meyer agreed to serve as co-chair with Sylvia Rabacchi. In October 2017, commissioner Chris Leishear left GREC.

Considering the upcoming SJ recertification plans in 2018, each commissioner has agreed to select several of the Action programs that will add up to over 150 points needed for Bronze, or 350 needed for Silver level. They also committed to seek out other residents to help with the Action programs and be part of our GREEN UP GLEN ROCK TEAM.

## **Recruit Green Team and Educate Community**

In 2017 we started having separate Green Team meetings, occurring on the 4th Thursday of each month. Consistently, ten new people come to these Green Team meetings each month. The Green Team has worked to improve recycling by boosting residents' education, run a pollinator garden sale, researched the idea of plastic film recycling, created a new Rock Recycles logo, and more.



**GREEN UP GLEN ROCK**

Come check out  
the next  
**GREEN TEAM**  
meeting.

## **Updated GREC page on borough website**

Following a restructuring of the borough website in late Fall 2016 GREC has made a complete reorganization of the GREC page ([www.glenrocknj.net/grec](http://www.glenrocknj.net/grec)). The GREC webpage has been regularly updated and used to post agenda/minutes, annual reports, as well as information and literature on current programs. Videos of relevant presentations for on-going programs are also made available (i.e. R-GEA, NJ Clean energy program, pollinator garden etc).

## **Energy-related activities:**

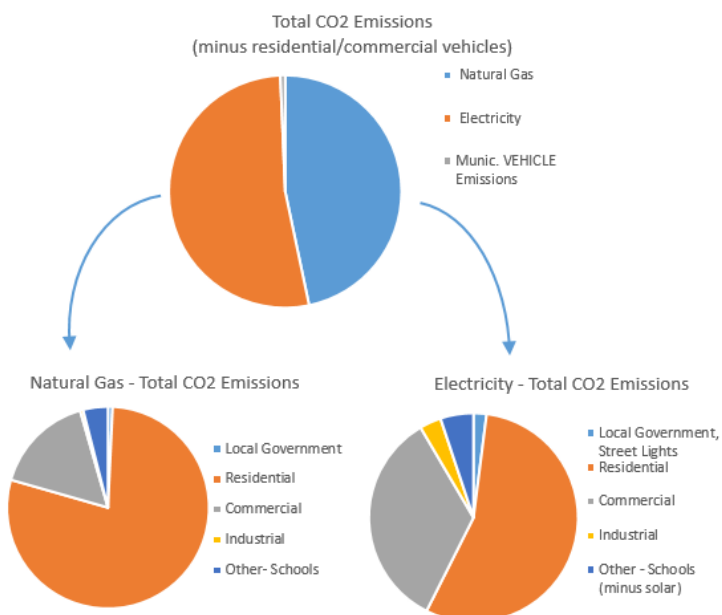
With the goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our community, GREC is envisioning a two-prong approach: improve energy efficiency and also, promote the use of renewable energy. We believe that combining these two efforts represents the best strategy to help mitigate the effects of climate change on our planet.

## **Community and municipal carbon footprints**



In fall 2017 GREC recruited a group of students from the Glen Rock high school to collect energy data to allow us to calculate the carbon footprint of the municipal buildings and of the community. A college student who graduated from the High School subsequently helped to complete the calculations, prepare the graph summaries and present the results at a monthly GREC meeting. We will use this as baseline to assess potential reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in our community as we work on promoting and implementing projects aimed at improving energy efficiency and enhancing use of clean renewable energy in the future in our community. The two graphic representations below illustrate CO2 emissions due to electricity and natural gas usage from all residential homes, street lights and municipal buildings. The largest contributors to the Glen Rock carbon footprint are the residential (~40%) and commercial sectors (~15%), followed

by the municipal buildings (~5%). Note that, due to lack of accurate data, emissions from vehicles are currently missing, although an estimate from a similar town, Montclair, suggests that 24% of the community greenhouse gas emissions may be derived from residents vehicles. The results from the carbon footprint calculations will be useful for the development of a Climate Action Plan in 2018.



### **Residential renewable government energy aggregation (R-GEA)**



Increasing the use of renewable energy is one of the most important strategies for developing a more sustainable approach to energy generation and use. Ultimately, to meet climate change and other strategic goals, most consumers will need to use renewable energy rather than depending on traditional electricity supplies based on fossil fuels. Through the R-GEA mechanism, the municipality can make a “group purchase” of electricity for the entire community that makes consumer access to renewable energy safe, convenient, and affordable.

A renewable energy team composed of four GREC and green team members reviewed SJ guidelines for an R-GEA and researched what other towns in NJ have done or are currently doing, and developed a detailed education and public outreach plan based on published recommendations and feedback from the mayor and council in April. Educational materials included a poster and FAQ that were used at tabling events at the Glen Rock Farmers market where public opinion was documented by a survey. These tabling events proved very beneficial for understanding key public misperceptions and for improving messaging. Public presentations were developed for focus groups such as seniors, and for 2 public events at the library and the town hall in the fall. The latter



two events included outside experts, representatives from the BPU, and energy consultants, to lead the discussion.



The energy team also researched energy consultants and selected 3 for in-person interviews during the fall. Based on pre-specified criteria that included significant experience in establishing GEAs in other NJ towns, one of these consultants was recommended to the mayor and council. A resolution to engage this consultant was passed by the town council in December.

Planned actions for the first half of 2018 include introducing an ordinance that would permit the energy consultant to gather the aggregate electricity usage data for the town in preparation for the development of bid specifications, solicitation of bids, and initiation of the program once a suitable supplier is identified. Goals for the new supply include renewable content of approximately 40% with savings of approximately \$75 annually per household.

### **Education on solar energy**



To educate homeowners or businesses that are considering solar energy, and to address any misconceptions, GREC organized two Solar 101 presentations by solar energy expert Geoscape Solar. This interactive seminar covered topics that many residents have expressed interest in, including how solar is doing in New Jersey, why are residents and businesses going solar, how does solar work with the homes, a description of the different technologies and warranty coverages, and the financial incentives available to consumers.

### **Electric vehicle charging stations – “It Pays to Plug In program”**



Work was continued on a grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for the installation of up to 6 electric vehicle charging stations around Glen Rock. The program called “It Pays To Plug In” was designed to encourage New Jersey residents and commuters to make the switch to electric vehicles (EV’s). In January 2017, sales of EV’s in the United States increased 41% year compared to 2016, and Plug-in Hybrid sales increased 86% in the same period. This NJDEP program will make it easier for Glen Rockers to use electric vehicles around town, and should encourage EV drivers from neighboring communities to visit Glen Rock for their shopping and dining. A demonstration of electric vehicles was conducted as part of the Glen Rock Fourth of July parade with two electric vehicles, a Chevrolet

Volt and a Chevrolet Bolt. The event received coverage in the local newspapers and was publicized on Facebook and other online forums.

### **Home Energy Audit Program** - “The Energy Smart Rock Homes”



The Home Energy Audit Program was continued for 2017 by a resolution of the Glen Rock Borough Council. Under the Home Energy Audit Program residents of Glen Rock can receive a home energy assessment from Ciel Power at a discounted price of \$49. Homeowners who participate can qualify for rebates and zero interest financing, through the New Jersey Home Performance with Energy Star Program. The rebates and incentives will help offset the cost of installing insulation and upgrading heating, cooling, and hot water systems. A portion of these incentives may also be applied towards the remediation of health and safety concerns such as asbestos, knob and tube wiring, and mold.

The assessment takes around three hours and the Ciel Power technician collects approximately 250 “data points” on each residence. The result is a detailed report highlighting the potential for energy savings. The assessment report typically recommends such measures as additional insulation, sealing of cracks and gaps, encapsulating crawl spaces and upgrading appliances and HVAC. Reports are provided showing the “before” and “after” test results so that the homeowner can see the effects of the work completed. After review homeowners are free to decide if they want to move ahead with any of the energy upgrade recommendations and whether they wish to use the auditing firm or another qualified contractor whose work can qualify the homeowner for up to \$5000.00 in state grants and up to \$10,000 in no-interest loans.

While the Mayor and Borough Council have approved the program and the borough’s partnership with Ciel Power, neither the assessment nor the recommended work from the report are in any way mandatory and the consumer is under no obligation to hire Ciel Power for the suggested work. Ciel Power, LLC is both a Building Performance Institute (BPI) accredited contractor and also a licensed New Jersey Home Improvement contractor.

Since the program has started in 2014 a total of 184 home energy assessments have been performed and 28 retrofit projects have been completed with Ciel Power. Additional homes have likely implemented energy efficiency measure with other contractors. An average energy savings of 26% has been realized by the homes that have had energy-efficient updates installed!

**Fleet Inventory** Municipal equipment and vehicles are necessary for carrying out municipal business but they also contribute greenhouse gases as well as other pollutants to the environment. These pollutants degrade air, water quality, and public health. A “Green Fleet” minimizes these negative impacts, as well as operating costs, by improving energy efficiency and reducing emissions through the use of alternative vehicles and fuels. Green fleets are developed by purchasing more fuel-efficient vehicles (cars, buses, and service vehicles), converting to cleaner fuels, training

drivers to operate vehicles for maximum efficiency, downsizing to smaller vehicles, and reducing municipal use of motor vehicles.

Glen Rock fleet fuel usage data has been gathered for all vehicles owned and operated by the Borough. The data has been entered into a standardized reporting format with results showing the total pollutants produced for several classes of vehicles. Totals are reported for N<sub>2</sub>O and CH<sub>4</sub> pollutant levels for the year. The results will be utilized to confirm that our efforts in mitigating the production of pollutants are meeting with success. This activity was continued through 2017 and is ongoing.

### **Energy Audit All Municipal Building (LG&EA)**

This is a major 50 point action which is part of the GREC effort to recertify the Borough's Bronze Certification with SJ. The main requirement is to produce a detailed inventory of the Borough's major buildings together with their energy usage, ultimately leading to Energy Audits to be performed on each. The goal is to determine how and where energy efficiency can be improved and to have the municipality proceed with implementations of the recommended energy efficiency upgrades. After adopting a Resolution agreeing to the audits and after appropriate RFP's procedure, in 2016 the CHA company completed the energy audits of 8 municipal buildings for the 2014 year. The cost of these audits was covered by the NJ Clean Energy Program. The GREC reviewed the documents and made recommendations to the Council to devote part of the budget to the implementation of a subset of energy conservation measure with the shortest pay-back of ~ 1-5 years. These mainly involve lighting upgrades in many buildings, including replacing with LED light bulbs, and adding sensor controls. Capital budgeting was approved for implementation of selected items identified in the CHA reports, with a level of funding up to an amount of \$60,000. Items were selected for further consideration based on the degree of utility they will provide, acceptance by the using department, cost reasonableness, and a payback period.

During 2017 an energy-efficient update was undertaken for the Glen Rock Ambulance Corps building in conjunction with a grant from the NJDEP Direct Install Program to replace an air conditioner unit with a more efficient unit and to update lighting fixtures with energy-efficient LED based fixtures. Thanks to the Direct Install incentives, the borough only paid 30 % of the entire costs (~\$3,700 out of ~\$13,000). Estimated energy cost savings in excess of \$1,800 are anticipated. The NJ Office of Clean energy has calculated an estimated 30%-53% energy savings following the energy efficiency upgrades.



## **Establishment of Glen Rock Farmer's Market**



The Glen Rock Farmers Market ran for 20 weeks in 2017 from 10am-2pm at the Borough Hall employee parking lot and adjoining lawn, which is a central meeting point in town and is adjacent to the Glen Rock Borough Hall train stop. The market was a public-private partnership between the Boro and Green Events, LLC. Each week the market hosted 15-20 fresh produce vendors, artisans, prepared food vendors, and more.

Attendance at The Glen Rock Farmer's ranged from 500-1500 visitors per market. Many activities and events were organized during the course of the summer where the farmer's market hosted musicians, local artists, and local businesses. In addition, activities that promote wellness were also offered, including free yoga and exercise sessions.

## **Community clean up:**



For the first time, GREC and the Green Team ran a community wide clean up in 2017. The Green Team started by crowd sourcing the residents to determine where pockets of trash had gathered. Then a clean-up date was picked (4.29.17) and volunteers were recruited. In total, 143 adults and children participated, The Mayor and 2 council members participated, each volunteer collected litter for 1-3 hours and filled 50 large industrial bags. Volunteers brought their own reusable water bottles and gloves. The boro donated some reusable gloves as well (no plastic gloves were allowed). 10 sites were cleaned.



## **Green fair**

The Environmental Commission in partnership with the Green Team Farmer's Market organized a Green Fair titled "Dirty Days" that was held on September 10, 2017 from 10am to 2pm at the borough hall employee parking lot and lawn in front of borough hall. The theme of the fair was focused on promoting composting of food scraps and garden waste as a way to reduce trash reaching the landfill and contributing to greenhouse emissions and climate change. Activities included composting workshops for adults, well as a "paint with worms" activity for children. A demo for worm composting targeting mostly the adults was also available at a GREC commissioner's stand, that also offered wooden raised beds for gardens or for backyard composting. A rolling composting bin was displayed as a demo and was placed at the center of the parking lot.



In addition to composting several other aspects of sustainability were also covered, with a strong focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy. Ciel Power had a table promoting the home energy audit program currently sponsored by the borough, and also offered a popsicle stick house building activity for children. Adjacent to the Ciel Power table, GREC had a table focused mostly on educating the residents about the Renewable Government Energy Aggregation proposal that GREC was proposing to the council for consideration. A high school student and a high school graduate helped two commissioners and two green team members to describe the benefits of the program, and helped attendees fill out a survey to gauge the resident's interest on the program. Local economies

were promoted by inviting vendors that were local, including residents selling their own empanadas, and fermented vegetables. Local farms were selling their organic produce. Also, the "Shop the Rock" logo was displayed at the GREC table on our reusable bags. A few local non-profit eco-friendly organizations were also invited, including the Wyckoff Health Barn, whose mission is to educate families about healthy food, that organized a health food competition for children and MEVO (Mahwah Environmental Volunteers Organization), which carries out sustainability projects in Northern New Jersey and sold some of their produce grown at their local farm.

### **Community Garden**



The Glen Rock Community Garden was founded in 2010. The garden includes 28 plots that are approximately 10 by 20 feet, where gardeners grow a great variety of vegetables and herbs. The garden includes a communal asparagus patch, grape and kiwi vines. Plots are made available to residents of Glen Rock on a first come, first served basis. Insurance, as well as water, are provided by the town. Gardeners are each responsible for taking care of their own plots, but a great effort is made at helping one another out with watering gardens, mowing and maintenance. Located next to a town baseball field, the garden is frequently visited by children.

### **Development of Pollinator Garden program**

As an effort to help revive the health of bees, butterflies, birds, bats and other pollinator populations currently declining in the world, in partnership with a Green team member and horticulturist, GREC decided to develop a demo garden in spring 2017 in front of borough hall. To encourage residents to plant pollinator gardens in their properties the GREC/Green team member advertised on social media and collected orders from residents for a preselected set of pollinator plants seedlings. The plants were then picked up at the Green team member's home upon delivery. A total of 180 plants, for 28 gardens were ordered in March and plants were delivered at the end of April. The demo at borough hall, provided with signage, grew very well over the summer (see photo) and we are planning to repeat the offering in spring 2018.



### **Provide formal comment letters and reports on site plans and major issues**

GREC researched a proposal to build a double pipeline ("Pilgrim Pipelines") to bring unrefined, highly volatile Bakken oil derived from North Dakota fracking from Albany, NY to Linden, NJ and then refined oil back to Albany, NY. The proposed pipeline route would run through the pristine Ramapo mountains and would cause a significant risk of contamination for drinking water for ~5 million NJ residents living downstream. For these reasons, GREC wrote a position paper and recommended the mayor and council to consider adopting a Resolution stating the borough opposition to the construction of the pipelines. The Resolution was then passed in February 2017.

GREC has continued to support the construction of an Educational building at the GR Thielke Arboretum. The council has approved and the construction started in fall 2017.

### **Advance community understanding of environmental issues**

GREC participated in the newly instituted Glen Rock Farmer's market in 3 different events during Summer 2017. For each event we set up a table to inform the residents about the new energy aggregation proposal "DEAL" (Discounted Energy Aggregation Proposal) that, if adopted by the council, would provide residents with higher renewable content in their electricity supply, as well as a moderate discount. A poster was developed to describe the program as well as an FAQ hand out and a survey was developed to gauge resident's interest in the proposal. In addition, our GREC-designed reusable bags ("Shop the rock, bring your own bag") were distributed in exchange for a pledge from residents not to use single-use plastic bags. High school students and a graduate helped man the table and assisted residents in filling out the survey.

Two public forum presentations were also organized in October and November focused exclusively on educating residents about DEAL (see above).

In October 2017 GREC participated in annual Community Showcase at the MS/HS where all organizations in Glen Rock were invited: GREC had a table with a poster and some literature describing the new energy aggregation DEAL (see above). A high school student and a recent college graduate helped man the table and hand out customized Shop the Rock/Bring your own bag reusable bags as part of the plastic bag reduction campaign. Also, literature on composting, and leave the leave program were available.

The GREC/Green Up Glen Rock Facebook page has been updated, and used for raising awareness and posting updates on environmental issues.

Two Solar 101 presentations were organized for GR residents at borough hall in August and October 2017, where a solar energy expert, Geoscape presented the current status of solar energy in NJ Jersey, the technology advances and warranty coverage, the "free solar" option as well as the financial incentives available to consumers.



## **SJ for Schools: Collaboration with GR school district and students**

GREC continues to assist the School District by providing updates on grant opportunities from SJ and SJ for Schools programs to pursue environmental related projects as they become available.



In 2017 GREC mentored a HS student in writing and submitting 2 grant proposals on sustainable gardening and cafeteria composting from Sustainable Jersey for schools. One grant of \$2000 was awarded to fund a pilot project for cafeteria composting, which started in the Spring 2017 and is still continuing through April 2018. Students are sorting their food scraps by collecting all organic material (including the compostable trays and all food scraps) into the composting bin that is picked up and composted off site. The resulting compost is then used as natural fertilizer in the Hudson valley farms. This sustainable practice contributes to decreasing the amount of organic material reaching the landfill, thereby reducing some of the greenhouse gases produced that contribute to climate change.

Since the student that initiated the grant proposal and project has left for college, two High School students have taken over the project in Fall 2017.

In 2017, all Fourth graders participated in the annual Water Day co-sponsored by the Arboretum.

## **Mayor wellness campaign**

As part of the Building Healthier Communities SJ action, Mayor packer has initiated a Mayor Wellness Campaign in Glen Rock in spring 2017. Several initiatives were

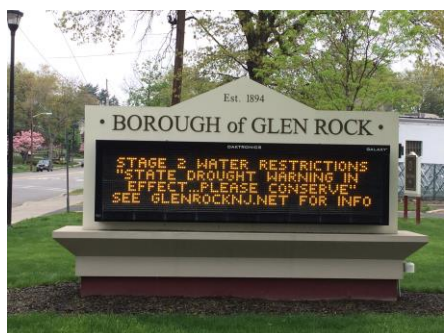


launched, some of which in conjunction with the newly formed Farmer's market aimed at increasing awareness on a healthy diet that includes high consumption of fruits and vegetables, and some encouraging physical activity. A "Walk with the Mayor" program started in April and continued throughout the early summer. The Farmer's market offered Yoga sessions for adults, as well as children and teens led by a volunteer resident at the Farmer's market during the summer. In addition, special sessions for healthy aging were also offered

## **Continue to increase environmental expertise of Commissioners**

In Spring 2016, and 2017 GREC members and members of the Green team participated to the annual Bergen County Environment Conference at Hackensack, NJ Bergen County office. Two commissioners also participated to web seminars offered by Sustainable Jersey on energy grants. A commissioner participated in a public presentation in Ridgewood on the effects of climate change in NJ and the need for water conservation (Dr. David Robinson, Rutgers University), and a presentation on Clean energy at the Ridgewood high school. A commissioner together with several green team members along with the mayor participated to the SJ “NJ Sustainability Summit” on June 21, 2017.

## **Water conservation**



GREC, along with the borough and Ridgewood Water, the local water supplier, have been working to encourage residents to use water in a thoughtful way that will help conserve water. This is particularly critical in the summer months when water usage soars, so as to prevent dire restrictions when water levels drop.

GREC and the borough have actively enhanced outreach to the community to inform residents about the level of water restriction mandated by Ridgewood Water, at any given moment. Glen Rock has been placed on the stage 2 restriction indefinitely by the town, as per Ridgewood Water. Stage 2 is labelled ‘severe’ mandatory restriction and restricts residents to permissible sprinkler/irrigation system watering two days each week during restricted hours and only if it is not raining or has not recently rained. Street address determines which days a particular household may irrigate. Hand-held hose irrigation is allowed at any time.

Information regarding level of water restriction is posted on the electronic board in front of borough hall all year long, and several emails from the Mayor have been sent out especially in the summer months, along with website announcements to reach out to as many residents as possible. Robo calls are regularly made to all households, informing residents of the status of water restrictions at any given moment, particularly if there is a change in the restriction level.

In addition to the rigorous outreach to increase compliance with the stage two water restriction, GREC has continued to work with Ridgewood Water and the borough with the goal of ultimately adopting an ordinance to restrict watering with sprinklers to 2 days/week. The first ordinance draft presented by GREC in 2016 was tabled by the council, in anticipation of a more coordinated effort by all 4 towns served by Ridgewood Water. In Spring 2017 Ridgewood was the first town to adopt a 2 day/week sprinkler ordinance and GREC has revised the GR ordinance drafts based on this. Current efforts are aimed at coming up with a unified ordinance that satisfies all four towns and then re-introducing the ordinance simultaneously in all the towns served by Ridgewood Water in the near future.

**2018 Objectives:**

- Develop a Climate Action Plan, encompassing various solutions aimed at reducing our community's carbon footprint
- Renew the Home Energy Audit Program
- Implement and complete installation of electric vehicle charging stations in town funded by NJDEP grant
- Continue to work with the Boro Council and Gabel Associates to implement a Renewable Energy Aggregation program for the GR residents
- Continue to perform energy audits of Borough vehicles under the Fleet Inventory
- Repeat the "No Idling" campaign
- Develop a pollinator garden demo and raise awareness about the current pollinator crisis
- Provide formal comment letters and reports on major issues
- Continue to recruit and mentor students in GREC activities
- Assist the School District by updating them on grants as they become available to pursue environmental related projects.
- Coordinate efforts on water conservation ordinance with RW towns
- Contribute to the creation of a local SJ hub in Bergen county
- Collaborate with local and regional environmental organizations
- Launch additional SJ actions for SJ recertification

We appreciate the support of the Mayor, Borough Administrator, Council, and other municipal officials and employees as we work for a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable community.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Rabacchi and Ben Meyer  
Glen Rock Environmental Commission, Co-Chairs

Submitted: March 24, 2018