



Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification Report of Unity Charter School (Morris), a Sustainable Jersey for Schools bronze certified applicant.

Unity Charter School (Morris) was certified on September 22, 2015 with 150 points. Listed below is information regarding Unity Charter School (Morris)'s Sustainable Jersey for Schools efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Jersey for Schools contact for Unity Charter School (Morris) is:

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Sustainability Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Unity Charter School (Morris) was approved for in 2015 appears below. Note: Standards for the actions below may have changed and the documentation listed may no longer satisfy requirements for that action. Additionally, points associated with actions prior to 2013 certifications may not be accurate.

Board Leadership & Planning

Professional Development for Sustainability

20 Points Bronze Priority Silver Priority School District

Program Summary:

Staff at Unity are required to attend professional development meetings every Wednesday throughout the school year. A portion of this professional development is dedicated to sustainability training in an effort to further our mission. We've included 2 examples of this past years professional development that ties into the mission of sustainability. Voluntary Simplicity was held over the 2014/2015 winter as a discussion course. Outsmart waste was held October 2014. <http://unitycharterschool.org/blog/2013/10/03/ucsstaffaturbanfarm/>
<http://unitycharterschool.org/blog/2014/01/31/4th-grade-presents-plps-parents/>

-  [Voluntary Simplicity PD](#)
-  [Voluntary Simplicity syllabus](#)
-  [Outsmart Waste Documentation](#)
-  [Staff Names and Participants List for PD Workshops](#)

Diversity & Equity

Accessible Communications 10 Points School District

Program Summary:

An important board committee at Unity Charter School is Community Engagement. This committee has surveyed current and past Unity students and staff to try to improve communication among the commUnity. Attached is the communication committee minutes from last December that detail what the communication committee has been working on. The minutes give a detailed description of the efforts made to better engage the school community as well as the local community. In addition we have included a presentation that details the community survey results. Lastly, there is a diversity report that shows the breakdown of Unity Community.

-  [Communications Committee Meeting Minutes](#)
-  [Diversity Report](#)
-  [Community Survey Results](#)
-  [From the Director: Reaching out to the Latino Community](#)

Food & Nutrition

Healthy Food Choices Beyond the Cafeteria

10 Points School District

Program Summary:

The Unity lunch program is designed to combat common food and ecological problems found today in our schools. We are concerned with the serious increase in childhood obesity and nutrition related illnesses, as well as the incredible haste and waste often associated with school lunches. Recognizing that the average school lunchroom experience (including poor-quality meals, shortened lunch periods, and excessive packaging and waste) often undermines important health and learning issues for our children, Unity has created a zero-waste, family style dining program. This approach offers solid life-lessons of nutrition and healthy eating habits for our children. In the month of June we've worked closely with our food vendor simply gourmet to add additional healthy options for our students. On June 1st we had a tasting event, attended by approximately 50-75 parents and students. The tasting allowed a chance for students to sample foods with their parents in hopes of better educating both on their choices and to encourage families to try new things. Our lunch vendor is Simply Gourmet Lunches, they can be found at <https://www.simplygourmetlunches.com/>

-  [Healthy Food Choices Documentation](#)
-  [Healthy Food Choices Documentation](#)
-  [Healthy Food Choices Documentation](#)

Promote Locally Grown Foods

10 Points School District

Program Summary:

The staff at Unity has organized several walking field trips to the local community garden. This has been a great learning experience for our children and has taught them about how Grow it Green community garden has been able to support the local food pantry and schools by providing produce from their garden. Students are able to plant and help harvest and test on these field trips. Unity has also organized several outdoor lunch days. We have taken the opportunity to offer students local foods on these days as a special treat, a great opportunity to teach them about local foods. In the month of June Unity has been proactive in bringing

more locally grown foods into our lunch program. Our food vendor Simply Gourmet has partnered with the local Urban Garden to bring local produce into the kitchen to serve in our healthy lunch menu. We are also in the process of expanding our herb garden so that we can use more fresh herbs in lunch entrees. See the attached menu for more specific details.

 [Promote Locally Grown Foods Documentation](#)

 [Promote Locally Grown Foods Documentation](#)

 [Promote Locally Grown Foods Documentation](#)

School Gardens

10 Points

School

Program Summary:

At Unity each classroom is assigned a section of the garden to care for. The garden is on school grounds and has been a great learning tool for students. Summer harvest is done by Unity families and taken to the local food shelter.

 [School Gardens Documentation](#)

 [School Gardens Documentation](#)

 [School Gardens Documentation](#)

 [School Gardens Documentation](#)

 [School Gardens Documentation](#)

 [School Gardens Documentation](#)

Green Cleaning

Green Cleaning Policy & Plan

10 Points

School

District

Program Summary:

Unity Charter School, recognizing the importance of the safety and health of the school's students, teachers and staff, does hereby adopt a policy. The school community recognizes that many chemicals commonly found in cleaning products used to clean and maintain schools pose significant and unnecessary health risks for children as well as teachers and staff. Exposure to some of these chemicals has been associated with an increased incidence of asthma, allergies, certain types of cancer, learning and behavioral disorders, endocrine disruption, chemical sensitivity, and kidney or liver damage. In addition to these potential health impacts, certain cleaning chemicals can negatively impact air and water quality or may be acutely toxic to marine life. The intent of its operating procedures when related to cleaning and maintenance of our facility is to reduce student, teacher and staff exposure to these

chemicals and reduce environmental pollution by stipulating procurement, implementation and evaluation policies for “green” cleaning products which ensure the highest levels of safety, efficacy and economy. Our cleaning products specified for purchase and use in school facilities are classified into one of the three following categories: 1. Type I products are those which are used daily for routine cleaning in classrooms, hallways and cafeterias, including all-purpose cleaners, cleaning pastes, window and mirror cleaners and dust mop treatments. 2. Type II products are those, which are used to sanitize or disinfect in bathrooms, gymnasiums, nurses’ offices, kitchens, etc. 3. Type III products are those, which are used for floor stripping and finishing, metal polishing, graffiti removal, degreasing and heavy duty, restorative carpet cleaning. Once labeled by tier the products will be used based on tier. Tier I deemed the safest will be preferable and Tier III will only be used when students and staff are not in school. Custodian shall be trained in the hazards, use, proper dilution, safety, maintenance, and disposal of cleaning chemicals, dispensing equipment, and packaging.

 [Green Cleaning Policy & Plan Documentation](#)

Green Purchasing

Recycled Paper Purchase

10 Points School District

Program Summary:

Since Unity was established we have always chosen to purchase recycled paper. We have always purchased the highest percentage of recycled paper possible. Last year that percentage was 30% however this year we have found a resource that can provide 100% recycled paper. We have already purchased our supply for the next school year and it will all be 100% recycled. We only have one copy machine in the building and only one individual responsible for making the copies. Because of this we are able to manage our paper usage more meticulously. We also have a policy containing guidelines about paper usage requiring staff and students to use both sides of paper every time.

 [Green Line Purchasing Letter](#)

 [Recycled Paper Purchase Documentation](#)

 [WB Mason Receipt from last year when using 30% Recycled paper](#)

 [Email from Director about transition to 100% recycled paper](#)

 [Receipts that show 30% recycled paper from 2014/2015](#)

Healthy School Environments

Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement

10 Points

School

District

Program Summary:

We ran a program that focused on transportation which included anti-idling education. The students started a campaign to inform the community about the dangerous effects of idling. They created permanent signage to be displayed along the car pick up line. They also created bumper stickers that would hopefully reach the greater community about the dangers of idling. We are going to look into creating an official policy.

-  Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement Documentation
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Innovation Projects

Innovative Project #2

10 Points

School

District

Program Summary:

This past spring the Unity community built a sustainable cob gazebo. Cob is a building material composed of clay, sand, and straw. Cob is very durable and requires little upkeep. It's non-toxic, creates no waste, and requires minimal tools to construct. Attached are pictures of the cob bench. We have also included a the schedule and description.

-  Cob Bench Description
-  Cob Bench Schedule
-  Cob Bench Picture
-  Cob Bench Picture

Student & Community Outreach

Green
Fair

10 Points School

Program Summary:

Unity Charter School has held an EcoFunFest for the past two years. The day was designed to encourage community bonding, raise environmental awareness and provide the students with a fun, safe environment to play. The students were directly involved in creating many of the games using recycled materials, such as soda bottle bowling and garbage sorting. Over 200 people attended the day and only 1/4 of a large garbage bag of waste was produced at the end of the event. Attendees were encouraged to bring their own plates and water bottles which reduced the amount of waste generated. All of the paper goods used were fully compostable as well. Parent and children also had the opportunity to learn about new energy sources and buy recycled products from "green" vendors. A fun family day was had by all, with little environmental impact.

 [Green Fair Documentation](#)

 [Green Fair Documentation](#)

 [Green Fair Documentation](#)

 [Green Fair Documentation](#)

Green
Team

10 Points Bronze Mandatory School District

Program Summary:

We have established a green team this year which includes 4 staff members, 2 parent volunteers and 20 students ranging from K-8th grade. The team has broken themselves down into 4 different groups that allow them to inform the school, track our ongoing green initiatives as well as make suggestions for future green initiatives. We meet once a month after school and we are working on putting out an e-newsletter to get the community involved as much as possible. At our small school many of our Green Team members serve more than one role. For example, one of our leaders is the PTO president and the other is our lunch program server and coordinator. Because of the necessity to have community members serve many roles we may have fewer members on our team but those members are interconnected to the school. We have a broad understanding of the sustainability throughout the school. We are also a K-8 multi age classroom school which requires us to differentiate our Green Team in a unique way. Part of our school's mission is whole child

education and individualized curriculum, we follow this mission in our formation of our Green Team. We formed four committees based on the strengths of the group we had volunteer. Our committees are Newsletter, Tech Support, Bulletin Board and New Ideas. The Green Team activities this year included: research of our ability to have a web presence on our school's website. This group spent time researching website creation of other sustainable organizations and looking into Green Team logo creation. Our Bulletin Board committee was comprised of mostly younger students so they worked in a more tactile way in order to better understand the activities of the group. They created a bulletin board to communicate our actions to the school community. The Newsletter committee put together an e-newsletter that will be distributed quarterly as the program continues. We were able to get one distributed but established the format that can be used in future years. Finally, the Idea committee was an idea generation committee. The students were encouraged to put forth new possible action ideas. This was the most exciting part of the Green Team. We got to see the inspiration in the kids eyes. They were excited by green ideas and motivated to take action.

-  [Student Green Team Newsletter Notes](#)
-  [Board Approves Green Team Minutes](#)
-  [Green Team Meeting Minutes](#)
-  [Green Team Letter from Principle Equivelant](#)
-  [Board Approval of Green Team Names and Titles](#)
-  [Green Team Summary 2014/2015](#)

Student Learning

Education for Sustainability 1st Grade

10 Points School

Program Summary:

In the 2014/2015 school year our 1/2 learning group reflected on the diverse interactions they have had with the community and how they have learned from those interactions. Unity includes education for sustainability in all grades. Comprehensive lesson plans and the EFS standards are attached as well as student work and the rubric the project was measured using. This project as well as other EFS projects were shared with the public at large at our end of year sustainability showcase.

-  [Education for Sustainability in the 1st Grade Classroom Documentation](#)
-  [Education for Sustainability in the 1st Grade Classroom Documentation](#)
-  [Education for Sustainability in the 1st Grade Classroom Documentation](#)
-  [Education for Sustainability in the 1st Grade Classroom Documentation](#)
-  [Education for Sustainability in the 1st Grade Classroom Documentation](#)

Education for Sustainability 3rd Grade

10 Points School

Program Summary:

In the 2014/2015 school year our 2/3 Problem Based Learning Unit had students choose a topic that the students “love”, this unit expanded their understanding of how even things we love can negatively impact our world. Comprehensive lesson plans and the EFS standards are attached as well as examples of student work with their assessment as well as the rubric the project was measured using. This project as well as other EFS projects were shared with the public at large at our end of year sustainability showcase.

-  [Problem Based Learning Lesson Plan](#)
-  [Questionnaire](#)
-  [Rubric](#)
-  [Graded Rubrics Student Work Samples](#)
-  [Reflection](#)

Education for Sustainability Kindergarden

10 Points School

Program Summary:

In the 2014/2015 school year our K/1 learning group focused on defining what an eco-system is and learning about a variety of eco-systems. Comprehensive lesson plans and the EFS standards are attached as well as student work and the rubric the project was measured using. This project as well as other EFS projects were shared with the public at large at our end of year sustainability showcase. The images that are attached compare the following: Rainforest/Forest Artic Ocean/Atlantic Ocean NJ beaches/Florida Beaches Desert (Egypt)/Forest Students used recycled materials to show they knew similarities and differences among the two areas.

-  [Education for Sustainability Kindergarden Documentation](#)
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