

Feb. 8 HVGT Mtg Minutes
HOPEWELL VALLEY GREEN TEAM
February 8, 2024, via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

In attendance: J. Held, S. Fulmer, Heidi Wilenius, K. Harringer, R. Parker, C. Meyer, A. Johnson,
Uma Purandare, Frank

HOPEWELL BOROUGH CERTIFICATION

Will submit it in May. Working as a team to get certification and hopefully some green team members. Heidi is heading up the certification effort and hoping to get social media started for the boro. Writing up a grant proposal for \$2K. Want to reduce curbside items going into the landfill and looking into curbside composting. Joann would like to revisit composting at the March meeting. Dolph is ready for a pilot! Scott thinks the “pay to throw” model incentivizes people to divert from the waste stream.

PSEG GRANTS FROM SUSTAINABLE JERSEY

Hopewell Borough? Heidi is submitting a proposal that will include a monthly potluck zero waste event, backyard composting, making the boro more sustainable, and having an event at the train station. The green team is not submitting a proposal this round.

MERCER COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY COALITION

Green Gathering Report Out. MCIAC has a new director, Anthony Verrelli! We need to continue developing a strategy for persuading the county to purchase a styrofoam densifier. <https://mercerme.com/hopewells-verrelli-tapped-to-head-mcia/>. Bergen County has a densifier and may be open to speaking with us before we meet with Verrelli.

COMMUNITY ENERGY PLAN GRANTS FROM BPU - heard about this at the green gathering. HT is considering applying for a grant to develop community energy plans consistent with the state’s energy plan. After you receive the \$10K grant, you meet with Sustainable Jersey experts who look at the possible plans and strategies. Basically, it is getting a resolution passed and putting your name in for consideration. Pennington Borough is putting in for the grant. Hopewell Township may follow suit. The deadline has been extended until **May 24, 2024**.

<https://www.sustainablejersey.com/grants/community-energy-planning-implementation-grants/community-energy-plan-grants/>

REDUCE/REUSE/RECYCLE

Metals Recycling Event, will be on the hill at the HT public works building. We will have 1 HT worker, and HT will get whatever funds the metal will bring in.

Recycling Flyer Updates - we workshopped the flyer to give out at the metal collection
Summer farmer's market collections - add art supplies for Homefront
Suggestion to have a green team presence at the Hopewell Farmer's market

WEBSITE (Scott)

Take Action - <https://hopewellvalleygreenteam.org/take-action/>

Joann asked everyone to choose a Take Action item, write suggestions, and provide information, ex. rain gardens, stormwater management, carbon footprint calculator, EV buying, tree planting (Sourlands Conservancy), trash pickup, community solar, etc. Pick an action, write a sentence, include a link, and send it to Joann and Scott.

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For Future Discussion

- WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY
- CIRCULAR ECONOMY PARADIGM
- RESIDENTIAL FLOODING
- NATIVE PLANTS & POLLINATORS

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Feb 10: Metal Recycling 12-3 pm

Mar 14: HV Green Team Meeting 7:30-9 pm

April 22: Earth Day

April 24: Stop Food Waste Day

May 18: Pennington Day