



Calendar

✓ NJ Student Climate Challenge

Session Recordings

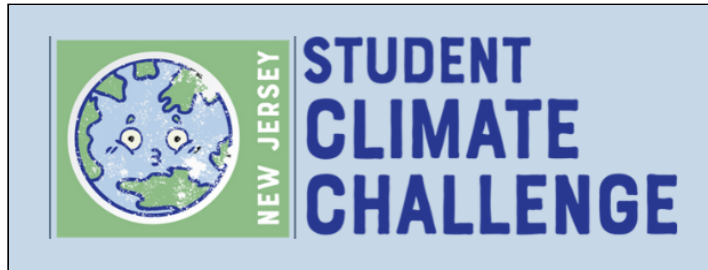
Previous Finalists

2023 Sustainability Summit Presentations

2022 Schools Sessions at NJSBA

Municipal Events

Conference, Training & Webinar Presentations



2022 - 2023 School Year

Climate change is one of the planet’s most pressing concerns, and its effects are amplified in New Jersey. Recognizing that education is a critical agent in addressing the issue of climate change, New Jersey was the first in the nation to incorporate K-12 climate change education across content areas in its 2020 Student Learning Standards. The goal is to equip educators with the tools to help students understand the causes and impacts of global warming and how to adapt to climate change.

The New Jersey Student Climate Challenge was open to New Jersey public school students in grades 6 to 12. It is an innovative way for teachers to motivate their students to learn about climate change through a fun place-based project that aligns with the new Climate Change Education Student Learning Standards. Students worked in small groups to complete a school or community project that addressed a cause or impact of climate change and then shared what they accomplished in a short digital story video.

2022 - 2023 School Awardees

The 2022 – 2023 school year awardees were announced at the Climate Challenge Awards Ceremony on June 5. The ceremony was hosted by First Lady Tammy Murphy at Drumthwacket, the Official Residence of the Governor of New Jersey.

Congratulations!

Middle School Category

1st Place - \$2,500 School Grant Award

C.A.S.T. Climate Action and Sustainability Team, Rosa International Middle School, Cherry Hill Public Schools

Team Members: Tamara Abboud, Makayla Becker, Thomas Cartmell, Sharon Chen, Samara Feist, Logan Freedman, Lyra Geraci, Leiana Gruby, Jenna Huang, Stella Kim, Claire Li, James Manella, Vasisth Medavarapu, Max Owens, Diya Patel, Ada Rein, Sonia Tyagi



Advisors: Albert Morales & Skye Silverstein

Project Summary: After learning about habitat loss due to climate change and its impact on the pollinator population, the team proposed a native pollinator garden at their school. Unfortunately, due to school construction projects they were unable to complete the project this year. Not to be deterred from their goal, they produced 200 native pollinator garden kits and distributed them in their community. The team plans to complete the school project next year and continue to raise awareness of the importance of establishing pollinator habitats in their community.

[View Video](#)

2nd Place - \$1,000 School Grant Award

Carbon Catchers, Howell Middle School South, Howell Township Public Schools

Team Members: Taylor Brennan, Maura Mahon, Joseph Robertozzi, Aksel Tabak

Advisor: Danielle Gianelos



Project Summary: This project focused on planting trees at their school to reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, a major contributor to global warming. The team reached out to their township's Shade Tree Commission for guidance on the best trees to plant and secured a donation of 50 trees to plant. Over the next 50 years, these trees will sequester over 650 pounds of carbon dioxide.

[View Video](#)

3rd Place - \$500 School Grant Award

Edson's Engineers, Ocean Township Intermediate School, Township of Ocean Schools

Team Members: Nicholas Campo, Jay Desai, Sawyer Ernish, William Suozzo

Advisor: Meghan Edson



Project Summary: This project focused on designing and implementing budget friendly aeroponic systems in their school and homes. Growing plants in a controlled aeroponic system requires 98% less space and 95% less water than traditional farming and can yield crops year-round. They can help address food insecurity caused by climate change driven severe weather and reduce the emissions in growing and transporting food.

[View Video](#)

High School Category

1st Place - \$2,500 School Grant Award

Bug Power!, Princeton High School, Princeton Public Schools

Team Members: Luisa Buss, Daniela Gonzalez, Diana Gutierrez, Alecxí Jiguán, Mayda Jiguán, Luis Martinez, Elija Meier, Aisling O'Dell, William Ponder, Milton Rodriguez, Samuel Winn



Advisor: Mark Eastburn

Project Summary: The team's demonstration project with black soldier flies shows that it is possible to reduce methane emissions through the productive use of garbage and repurpose the end products into sustainable materials. The insect's larvae can eat many times their own weight over a three-week growth cycle, consuming everything from rotten fish to moldy grains. The frass that they leave behind is relatively clean, nutrient-rich, and can serve as an amendment to soil that helps gardens grow and the larvae themselves make an excellent staple food for chickens, catfish, tilapia, and other animals.

[View Video](#)

2nd Place - \$1,000 Grant Award

Planet-Over-Profit, South Plainfield High School, South Plainfield School District

Team Members: Jawad Aslam, Vishan Budhan, Salma Elgebally, Dylan Jefferys, Melissa Leon-Tamara, Deep Patel, Pari Patel



Advisor: Kathleen Benton & Angela Green

Project Summary: This team's initiative aimed to tackle the harmful environmental impact of fast fashion through a three-pronged approach: education, action, and application. Fast fashion is a term for inexpensive clothing produced rapidly by mass-market retailers in response to the latest trends. Decreasing demand will reduce the significant amount of greenhouse gas emissions associated with their production, transportation, and disposal. Strategies included presentations at district schools and running Wear-It-Again-Tuesdays, upcycling workshops, and thrift shops.

[View Video](#)

3rd Place - \$500 Grant Award

WHS Environmental, Wall Township High School, Wall Township Public Schools

Team Names: Madison Brody, Sean Coyle, Emily Gill, Maxim Ilin, Dominick Interrante, Dennis Plewa, Mackenzie Reilly, Ryder Solomon



Advisor: Joshua Tennant

Project Summary: Through community teamwork with a local nursery and the Township Environmental Advisory Committee, this team helped their school transform an overlooked courtyard into a thriving ecosystem. Their project educates the community on native plants, sequesters carbon emissions, and inspires students to connect with nature daily.

[View Video](#)

Questions?

Email: njstudentclimatechallenge@sustainablejersey.com

New Jersey Student Climate Challenge Partners

The New Jersey Student Climate Challenge is administered by Sustainable Jersey and the Drumthwacket Foundation. It is made possible through the generous support of Atlantic City Electric and Exelon.



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