

anjec

2008 Annual Report

THE ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONS



ADVANCE TO GREEN

Strategies for Sustainable Communities

theme of the 2008 Environmental Congress

Dear Friends and Supporters,

2008 was another productive and rewarding year for ANJEC. We continued to support the work of the 3,000 volunteers who serve on their towns' environmental commissions - conserving natural resources, curbing pollution and improving quality of life for community residents. Our comprehensive training programs and high-quality publications help them to be more effective stewards of the local environment. And our Resource Center provides answers to questions that arise or problems that they face.

While continuing these successful programs, ANJEC has worked to keep up with changing times. We rely more and more on email to correspond with commissioners and to alert them to new grant opportunities, actions required on developing issues and upcoming events and conferences. Our comprehensive website supplies commissioners and others who are interested in local environmental protection with accessible information and publications that help them work effectively in their towns.

In 2008, ANJEC introduced webinar training sessions - where participants can join by conference call and see a simultaneous presentation on the internet. This format opens up our training to people in far reaches of the state. We are placing recordings of our webinars on our website, so people can get ANJEC training at any time they choose.

We thank our many friends for supporting our organization so that we can continue our services to commissioners, other local officials and the people of New Jersey. Foundations, corporations, businesses and individuals provide the critical financial assistance that enables us to continue our valuable environmental and educational programs.

Handwritten signature of Sandy Batty.

Sandy Batty
Executive Director

- ANJEC awarded \$170,000 in grants ranging from \$1,400 to \$12,750 to help 30 municipalities develop planning documents and studies that protect the environment. Funded by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, ANJEC has contributed a total of \$1.24 million in matching grants since the program's inception seven years ago.
- ANJEC's workshops and conferences trained over 1,000 local officials, giving them information and advice to use to protect the environment in their towns. Thirteen workshops on different environmental topics, held throughout New Jersey attracted 463 people, and 20 Road Shows held at the request of commissions trained 402 more. A total of 220 local officials and environmentalists attended the annual day-long Environmental Congress.
- ANJEC introduced the "webinar," a new form of training where participants heard a lecture over a conference call while they viewed the on-line slide presentation. This convenient form of instruction saves travel time and production of greenhouse gases.
- Our Urban Program launched its Leading Green series, four day-long sessions that trained a selected group of environmentalists and civic leaders from urban and developed communities. The program included a weekend retreat at the Princeton Blairstown Center and sessions on land use, water and air issues in urban New Jersey.
- ANJEC's comprehensive website, www.anjec.org, attracted an average of 9,300 visitors each month. Over 2,000 people downloaded issues of the quarterly magazine, the *ANJEC Report*, and an equal amount downloaded many ANJEC publications. The website gives practical information on the reasons for environmental protection, the actions that local governments can take and examples of what different towns are doing.
- ANJEC greatly expanded efforts in the rapidly growing area of sustainability. Over 60 people attended our workshops on Energy Audits and Emissions Inventories and on the Sustainability Elements of Master Plan. We also did Sustainable Communities Road Shows in Middlesex, Hopatcong, Red Bank and Hazlet. We continued to add to our popular Sustainable Communities Guide on our web site and created tabletop displays for commissions to use in outreach efforts.

For 39 years, ANJEC has supported the efforts of environmental commissions, other governmental officials and individuals interested in protecting the environment on the local level. We offer them assistance through our Resource Center, conferences, courses, publications and website.

Resource Center

One of ANJEC's greatest strengths is our Resource Center, which includes an extensive environmental reference library, the most comprehensive database of sample ordinances and municipal plans in the state, and the incomparable expertise of the ANJEC staff. Environmental commissions and municipal officials turn to the Resource Center for help in developing ordinances, strengthening their master plans, preserving open space, protecting natural resources and supporting their efforts to ensure environmentally sound land use. As a testament to the unique value of the Resource Center, we frequently receive inquiries from other nonprofit organizations and learning institutions seeking information and insight on environmental issues.

Workshops

In March, ANJEC's annual Commissioners Course covered effective commission operations, environmental resource inventories, master plans and ordinances, and site plan review. We repeated the course in three locations – Bordentown, Clifton and Galloway – with a total of 79 commissioners attending. ANJEC presented ten other workshops on topics including Highlands protection, flood and stream regulations, environmental resource inventories, State Plan Endorsement, energy audits, and sustainability elements. We also introduced a four-session series on urban leadership this year.

In addition, ANJEC presented 20 Road Shows, for which commissions chose the date, location and topics to be covered. A total of 402 people attended, including members of environmental commissions, town councils, planning and zoning boards, open space committees, and the public. Commissions selected presentations on effective commission operations, sustainability practices, site plan review, open space preservation, environmental resource inventories, bike and pedestrian plans, gorilla marketing and stormwater management.

Webinars

This year ANJEC introduced a new training device – the "webinar" – where participants heard a lecture by telephone and simultaneously viewed the on-line slide presentation. Our inaugural series of three webinars in June covered Effective Environmental Commissions, Land Use Tools, and Environmental Considerations in Site Plan Review. About 30 people registered for each session. Three of the callers put us on speaker phone, so their whole commission joined on one connection. Participants were enthusiastic about this new form of teaching, which saves travel time and production of greenhouse gases. Webinar recordings are on our website to enable participants to review the content.

Environmental Congress

Over 220 people attended the annual Environmental Congress *Advance to Green: Strategies for Sustainable Communities* on October 3rd, at Mercer County Community College. Keynote speaker David Gershon, author of *Low Carbon Diet*, talked about the urgent need for rapid and fundamental social transformation to tackle climate change. NJ DEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson spoke about the state's current environmental initiatives, many of which focused on energy and sustainability. Two sets of workshops covered topics including the ratables chase; the NJ Energy Master Plan; innovations in recycling; educating the next generation; Transit Villages; affordable housing and the environment; wastewater planning; and greening the economy. Thirty nonprofits and government agencies cosponsored the Congress. ANJEC also presented five environmental commissions with achievement awards for projects including a carbon emissions inventory, park improvements, computer recycling, a natural resources inventory and a green home and garden tour.

ANJEC Report

More than 2,800 environmental commissioners, municipal officials and interested citizens read ANJEC's quarterly magazine, and thousands more refer to it on our web site. The *ANJEC Report* offers in-depth articles on local and statewide environmental issues and regular columns highlighting the urban environment, smart growth, commission achievements, news, Resource Center tips and practical ideas commissions can use. The *ANJEC Report* has become an ever more vital source of information for municipalities as they undertake sustainability initiatives, strive to understand and respond to the implications of climate change, and keep up with evolving environmental plans and regulations at the state and national level.

ANJEC Web Site www.anjec.org

ANJEC's web site offers a wide range of comprehensive information on approaches to local environmental issues. This year, ANJEC volunteer Ann Campbell redesigned and continued to support the web site. As a result, the fresher, livelier site includes links to key topics, new navigation tools to help people get around more effectively and photos on the home page. With the new design, an average of 9,300 people visited the site monthly. ANJEC's most popular page, Sustainable Communities, contains details from NJ communities and other states, funding opportunities for present and future environmental, social and economic needs, current news and resource information, and links to *ANJEC Report* articles. Other popular pages cover water resources, open space, conservation easements, the *Green City Gazette*, and more than 40 ANJEC on-line publications.

With foundation grant support, ANJEC is able to develop and administer special projects that address current issues affecting environmental commissions throughout the state.

Smart Growth Grants

Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation

For the seventh consecutive year ANJEC offered matching grants to New Jersey municipalities and counties with environmental commissions through its Smart Growth Planning Grants Program. The 2008 round brings to \$1.24 million the total awarded since the program's inception in 2002. The goal of the Smart Growth Program is to help towns and their environmental commissions develop land use plans that will reduce sprawl, protect natural resources, and create efficient, walkable communities with sufficient open space and green infrastructure.

Competition for the \$170,000 available grant funds for 2008 was strong. Of the 62 applications submitted, ANJEC was able to award grants ranging from \$1,400 to \$12,750 to 30 projects involving 29 municipalities and one county. Projects included environmental/natural resource inventories, open space and recreation plans, bike/pedestrian/trails plans, conservation easement inventories, a buildout analysis, a hydrogeology study and a forest analysis/conservation plan.

Camden County received a second grant for a multi-town bike plan involving ten adjacent municipalities. The project will extend the regional bike plan it developed with ten other towns under a 2007 grant. In addition, individual grants were awarded to the following municipalities: Andover Township, Barnegat, Bedminster, Clinton, East Amwell, Evesham, Ewing, Frankford, Franklin (Hunterdon), Franklin Lakes, Galloway Glen Rock, Green, Greenwich Township (Cumberland), Hopewell Township (Mercer), Little Egg Harbor Livingston, Manalapan, Millburn, Montclair, Mount Olive, Old Bridge, Pequannock, Ridgefield, Salem, Southampton, Stanhope, Upper Freehold and Washington (Gloucester).



Community trails visioning session in Manalapan, NJ

South Jersey Bayshore

William Penn Foundation

ANJEC has continued to coordinate the South Jersey Bayshore Coalition, a group of 23 environmental and historic nonprofits working to protect the cultural heritage and environmental integrity of the Delaware Bay watershed region. Working together, the Coalition members have accomplished many conservation and preservation initiatives in the region. In March, the Coalition became the sponsoring organization for the 122-mile Bayshore Heritage Byway scenic byway that will run from the Delaware Memorial Bridge to Cape May. In addition, the Coalition successfully opposed a Wal-Mart Super Center proposed within the acquisition boundaries of the Supawna National Wildlife Refuge, and helped get an extension of the Horseshoe Crab Moratorium. On-going efforts include work to get the region designated a National Heritage Area and a Special Resource Area in the State Plan. The protection of the patterned brick house, Eagle Manor in Fairfield continued as a main focus of the Coalition in 2008; however, limited funding has hindered progress for its preservation.

In addition, our southern staff supported the efforts of environmental commissions in Gloucester Salem, Cumberland and Cape May Counties. They helped the commissions in Quinton and Middle Townships to address environmental issues of proposed developments and sand mining; in Westville to fight the threat of disbandment; Alloway on concerns regarding a proposed development containing wetlands, vernal ponds and swamp pink; Mannington on its Master Plan re-examination; Woodstown-Pilesgrove on the Commission website (www.wpjec.org) and the issue of field tiles; and Millville on a build-out study of the city. ANJEC offered South Jersey commissions training on the Bayshore Inventory, marketing and commission powers, and site plan review.

Highlands

Victoria Foundation

ANJEC staff continued to attend and provide written and verbal testimony at NJ State Highlands Council meetings, and meetings of its Natural Resources and TDR committees. For the first half of the year, ANJEC was busy reviewing the Draft Highlands Regional Master Plan and developing comments. In July when the Highlands Council voted to adopt its final Plan, ANJEC and the NJ Highlands Coalition were critical of several sections of the Plan and met with Lisa Jackson, NJ DEP Commissioner, and Governor Corzine to discuss our concerns. On September 5, the Governor signed the minutes of the Council meeting and also issued Executive Order 14 that addressed many issues that we raised. These actions formally adopted the Plan and started the "Conformance Period" for municipalities to bring their plans in agreement with the Highlands Plan.

We kept municipal commissioners informed about developing topics and Council actions through frequent email alerts and issues of the *Highlands Herald*. We also hosted two Highlands workshops in 2008, on Highlands environmental resource inventories and on Plan Conformance.

Water Resources Protection

Environmental Endowment for New Jersey

Mary Owen Borden Foundation

Region 2 US EPA

ANJEC studied, wrote articles for the *ANJEC Report* and the ANJEC web site, and held three workshops to explain the newly amended and expanded NJDEP Flood Hazard Area Regulations. Officials and environmental commissions from 34 towns attended the workshops, which also included information on stormwater management. ANJEC also organized a stormwater session for the League of Municipalities annual conference in Atlantic City that attracted an audience of over 60 officials, mostly engineers.

We initiated work on a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to promote protection and enjoyment of the Passaic River. Working with the Passaic River Institute, we will be creating a Passaic River web page, holding workshops and developing exhibits to loan to organizations and commissions in the Passaic watershed.

ANJEC serves as the link between commissions, who are the local environmental protectors, and the NJDEP. ANJEC organized two meetings of environmental groups with NJDEP staff, one to discuss implementation of stormwater regulations, the other to review several changes in freshwater wetlands regulations.

Sustainable Communities

The Fund for New Jersey

ANJEC greatly expanded its efforts in the rapidly growing area of sustainability in 2008. Two workshops - *Energy Audits and Emissions Inventories* in April and *Elements of Sustainability: Greening Your Master Plan and Ordinances* in October attracted over 60 attendees, and to respond to demand we plan to repeat the program in 2009. We also did Sustainable Communities Road Shows in Middlesex, Hopatcong, Red Bank and Hazlet.

We continued to add to our Sustainable Communities Guide on the ANJEC web site, which has become the most visited section of our site. Also to help meet the increasing demand for resources that commissions can use for "green events," we added two "Go Green" tabletop displays and created a new "Green This House" display for commissions to use in outreach efforts. Each has a companion handout suitable for photocopying. These displays were used at over 27 events around the state in 2008. We also developed a toolkit brochure offering ideas and resources for traffic-building activities at green events.

Our comments on the *New Jersey Energy Master Plan Draft* were all incorporated into the final Plan. On the *Energy Master Plan* Education and Outreach Working Group coordinated by the NJ Board of Public Utilities, ANJEC inventoried energy-related communications activities and offered recommendations for communicating with and through municipalities. As active members of the Sustainable Jersey initiative, we helped author several toolkits designed to help local governments become certified as sustainable communities.

State Plan

Victoria Foundation

ANJEC staff members have continued to attend and provide comments at meetings of the State Planning Commission as it developed the third edition of the State Plan and its Plan Endorsement Guidelines and Rules. We informed environmental commissions and other local officials about how they can implement the State Plan at the local level by petitioning for Plan Endorsement. When towns filed for Endorsement, we alerted the local environmental commission, so it could give environmental advice on the process. Each issue of the *ANJEC Report* has carried "Smart Growth Updates" on topics covering the Highlands Regional Master Plan, the proposed COAH rules, the adoption of the Water Quality Management rules and eminent domain cases dealing with redevelopment.

In April, ANJEC held a workshop "Preparing for Plan Endorsement," where 23 municipal officials heard Ben Spinelli, Executive Director of the Office of Smart Growth, speak on Endorsement requirements and Caroline Armstrong, Planner with Melvin Design, speak on Woolwich's experience. In October Woolwich Township adopted New Jersey's first Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Ordinance under the State TDR Act. Woolwich has implemented the required steps for Initial Plan Endorsement, including an Environmental Resources Inventory completed in 2004 under a grant from ANJEC.

Environmental Summit

ANJEC coordinates the monthly meetings of the Environmental Summit – composed of over 30 NJ environmental organizations. The Summit provides participants a chance to exchange ideas and learn from colleagues. Members are able to concentrate on their specific areas of expertise and then enlist support from the other environmental organizations. In 2008, ANJEC invited several guest speakers to the Summit, including NJDEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson, and Adam Zellner, at that time the Director of Governor's Office of Policy and Planning. During the year discussions at the Summit included funding for the Garden State Preservation Trust, the Permit Extension Act, the Highlands Plan, proposal for ports for liquefied natural gas, the NJ Energy Master Plan and appointments to the State Planning Commission, Highlands Council and Pinelands Commission.

Urban Project

The Fund for New Jersey

Schumann Fund for New Jersey

In May ANJEC kicked off its Leading Green program, four day-long sessions that offered training to a selected group of environmentalists and civic leaders from urban and developed communities. The participants were concerned about a wide range of issues, from preventing asthma to land preservation, brownfields remediation, cleaning up the Passaic River, creating alternate means of transportation and advocating for walkable and bikable communities. The program included a weekend retreat at the Princeton Blairstown Center and sessions on land use, water and air issues in urban New Jersey

To support our urban program, each issue of the *ANJEC Report* covered urban topics including eminent domain and open space, using the precautionary principle, environmental justice and green jobs. We also continued to compile and email the monthly electronic newsletter, the *Green City Gazette*, which gives information on upcoming events, news items, and web links for further information. As a member of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, ANJEC worked on the issues of school siting on contaminated land and eminent domain abuse.



2008 Leading Green class retreat and trips to Newark's Diamond Alkalai site and the Hackensack River

2008 ANJEC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President - **Chris Allyn**, Lucent Technologies, retired
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2008 ANJEC STAFF

Executive Director - **Sandy Batty**
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 Development Director - **Alison Deeb, Ann Marchioni**
 Resource Center – **Julie Groth, Michele Gaynor**
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 South Jersey Bayshore – **Cheryl Reardon**
 State Plan Implementation – **Barbara Palmer**
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 Urban Project – **Kerry Butch**
 Water Specialist - **Abigail Fair**
 Website Editor - **Sally Dudley**

Project Consultants

Environmental Summit - **Candy Ashmun**

Volunteers

Ann Campbell
Stephen Carroll

ORGANIZATION SUPPORT

Individuals, foundations, businesses and organizations all contribute to ANJEC's fundraising efforts. These generous donations help us continue to reach, inform and empower environmentalists throughout New Jersey. Highlights for 2008 include:

Board Support – Responding to a challenge to give by a fellow board member ANJEC Trustees and Advisory Council members gave \$10,315, with 100 percent of the trustees participating.

Whole Foods - The Whole Foods Markets in Edgewater, Madison, Montclair, Millburn, Ridgewood and West Orange made ANJEC the beneficiary of their Five Percent Day where we received five percent of the net sales in all the stores.

Activities - This year, ANJEC offered several enjoyable activities for its members. In May we invited past donors and corporate supporters to a Garden Party at historic Macculloch Hall in Morristown. ANJEC also booked sailings on the *AJ Meerwald*, the Delaware oyster schooner on the Hudson in July

Earth Share New Jersey - ANJEC continued its affiliation with Earth Share New Jersey This group, which encourages giving through payroll deductions, offers another way to support the environment and raise awareness about environmental issues.

Memberships

Environmental Commissions
Open Space Committees
Individuals

Organizations

Earth Share New Jersey

Foundations

Mary Owen Borden Foundation
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
Environmental Endowment for NJ
The Fund for New Jersey
Sumner Gerard Foundation
The Gollin Foundation
Hyde and Watson Foundation
Peter R. & Cynthia K. Kellogg Foundation
The William Penn Foundation
Prentice Foundation
The Schumann Fund for New Jersey
Mary Reinhart Stackhouse Foundation
Victoria Foundation
Johanette Wallerstein Institute

Corporate Donors

Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
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PSEG Service Corporation
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Professional Business Members

Amy S. Greene Environmental Consultants
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Eco Systems Environmental Consultants
Ecological Solutions
Environmental Compliance
Environmental Liability Management
F.X. Browne
Hatch Mott MacDonald Consulting Engineers

Heyer, Gruel & Associates
Leggette, Brashears & Graham
New Jersey American Water
Omni Environmental
Princeton Hydro, LLC
RTP Environmental Associates
Thonet Associates
Uhl, Baron, Rana & Associates
Van Note-Harvey Associates

FINANCIAL REPORT

2008 Support & Revenue

Project grants	\$539,686	68%
Membership	78,850	10%
Educational activities	30,790	4%
Publications	4,595	1%
Contributions	103,166	13%
Interest and investment return	33,462	4%
Board designated investment return	2,381	<1%
Other	<u>1,234</u>	<u><1%</u>
Total Revenue	\$794,164	100%

2008 Expenses

Program services		
Training & assistance	\$417,719	53%
Publications development	94,466	12%
Research	73,710	9%
Env'l group coordination	78,253	10%
Support services		
Management	94,145	12%
Fund Raising	<u>35,623</u>	<u>4%</u>
Total Functional Expenses	<u>\$793,916</u>	<u>100%</u>
Operating income	\$ 248	
Investment Loss	(\$148,494)	
Decrease in net assets	(\$148,246)	

The complete audited Financial Statement is available upon request.

ANJEC's MISSION

To promote the public interest in natural resource protection, sustainable development and reclamation, and support environmental commissions and open space committees working with citizens, local officials and non-profit organizations.



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