

# COMMUNITY ENERGY PLAN

Borough of New Providence

Union County, New Jersey



**Date:** March 16, 2026

**Prepared by:**



**New Providence Community Energy Plan**

**Borough of New Providence**

**Union County, New Jersey**

**Adopted by the Borough Council: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Prepared by**



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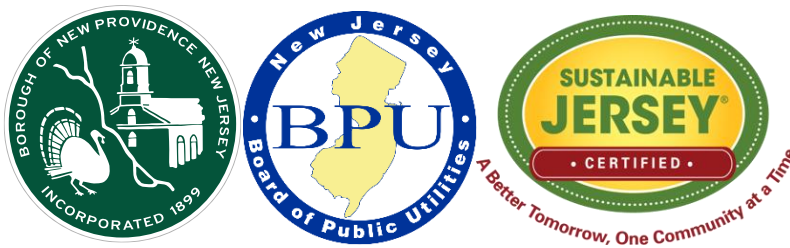
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## Acknowledgements



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## I. Introduction

The Borough of New Providence has received a grant from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“NJBP”) to develop a Community Energy Plan (“CEP”). A CEP helps a community work toward a better environment for all residents by using the State’s 2019 Energy Master Plan (“2019 EMP”) as a guide to align local efforts. The EMP outlines seven strategies for rapid reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, including reducing energy use, cutting emissions, increasing renewable energy, and more.

- **Strategy 1: Reduce Energy Consumption and Emissions from the Transportation Sector**

This strategy broadly emphasizes initiatives such as improving municipal and commercial fleet efficiency and switching to electric vehicle (EV) fleets; expanding public EV charging station access; promoting alternative transportation modes like bike shares or e-bike programs; and developing or enhancing safe pathways for pedestrians and bicyclists in key areas of the Borough.

- **Strategy 2: Accelerate Deployment of Renewable Energy and Distributed Energy Resources**

This strategy mainly focuses on initiatives like encouraging public and private solar projects through outreach and incentives, pursuing community solar projects; purchasing renewable energy for municipal facility use; and pursuing a municipal-wide shift to renewable energy providers.

- **Strategy 3: Maximize Energy Efficiency and Conservation and Reduce Peak Demand**

This strategy broadly emphasizes initiatives such as retrofitting municipal facilities to increase energy efficiency; encouraging residential and commercial energy efficiency; and conducting outreach to large energy users in the Borough regarding energy efficiency programs and incentives.

- **Strategy 4: Reduce Energy Consumption and Emissions from the Building Sector**

This strategy broadly emphasizes initiatives such as constructing new municipal buildings as model green buildings; encouraging the incorporation of efficiency benchmarking for existing buildings; and conducting outreach to developers of new construction regarding energy efficiency programs and incentives.

- **Strategy 5: Decarbonize and Modernize New Jersey’s Energy System**

This strategy broadly emphasizes initiatives such as planning for necessary distribution system upgrades to handle the increasing demand and shift towards electric-based

systems; modifying rate design and ratemaking processes to align utility incentives with state goals; and planning for future reductions in natural gas consumption. *Note that Strategy 5 will not be included in the CEP, as municipalities do not have jurisdiction over grid regulatory issues.*

- **Strategy 6: Support Community Energy Planning and Action with an Emphasis on Encouraging and Supporting Participation by Low- and Moderate-Income and Environmental Justice Communities**

This strategy broadly emphasizes initiatives such as ensuring that planning is inclusive of various work schedules, abilities, and languages; conducting outreach beyond the standard pathways to increase engagement of low- and moderate-income residents; and supporting programs such as shared mobility.

- **Strategy 7: Expand the Clean Energy Innovation Economy**

This strategy broadly emphasizes initiatives to incentivize energy infrastructure improvements and storage capacity, such as developing a local microgrid or participating in a district energy system.

Beginning in 2024, the Borough of New Providence started reviewing the Sustainable Jersey “Guide for Sustainable Energy Communities” and “Community Energy Plan Workplan Template,” which list 42 initiatives that municipalities can consider implementing to support the statewide energy goals. To determine how to prioritize and strategically implement these initiatives, meetings with municipal staff and appointed consultants were organized, and a public survey summarized in Table 1 was distributed, yielding 97 responses.

Municipal meetings included the following:

- Borough Administrator
- Department of Planning & Development
- Department of Public Works
- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Department of Community Activities & Recreation
- Borough Council
- Planning consultants from Heyer, Gruel & Associates

New Providence’s CEP uses municipal and community-informed data to guide the Borough’s transition to sustainable energy. Relevant community data was collected from the Sustainable



Jersey Data Center, and community input was gathered through an in-person tabling event and a digital survey (see “Public Outreach” for more information).

While the feasibility of all 42 initiatives was assessed for the Borough, several were not included in the final CEP due to their limitations. Initiatives for this CEP were ultimately chosen based on proven effectiveness, unique local opportunities, and co-benefits for the community, such as improved air quality, energy savings for residents, and workforce development potential.

This plan recommends that the Borough review and update the CEP every ten years. The purpose of this schedule is to ensure that the CEP stays current with the latest technologies, research, and best practices in the fast-changing field of sustainable and renewable energy.

## II. Background

The 2019 EMP offers seven strategies for the State to implement in order to reach its goals of 100% clean energy and an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050. However, the 2019 EMP strongly stresses that these goals cannot be achieved without active participation at the municipal level as well. The Borough of New Providence is dedicated to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, aligning with the objectives outlined in the 2019 EMP.

The 2019 EMP influenced the Borough's decision to prepare this Community Energy Plan (CEP), and funding for the CEP was provided by a Community Energy Grant from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and assistance from Sustainable Jersey.

### SUSTAINABILITY IN NEW PROVIDENCE

Sustainable practices are ingrained in the Borough's history. Since 2009, the Borough has voluntarily taken part in Sustainable Jersey's points-based certification program, which recognizes municipalities for adopting green, sustainable, and resilient policies and measures. Points are earned by completing key actions such as forming a green team, hosting farmers' markets, engaging in green infrastructure planning, and establishing an environmental assessment ordinance, among many others. Municipalities can attain Bronze or Silver Certification by fulfilling required actions and earning points. The Borough achieved Silver Level certification in September 2025, with 350 points.

The Borough has an active Green Team, and the Borough Council has a Sustainability Committee. The Green Team, known locally as Sustainable New Providence, meets monthly, publishes articles in the Borough newsletter, and organizes community events.

In 2024, New Providence Recreation and Sustainable New Providence hosted the first Green Challenge, in which participants received a weekly sustainability task and were rewarded for posting a Facebook update or an email about their progress. Raffles were held to boost participation, and over 300 families attended the event. New Providence Recreation and Sustainable New Providence plan to make this event an annual tradition.

In 2021, New Providence launched its Green Business Recognition Program to celebrate the community's leading environmental advocates. The goal of this initiative is to motivate and recognize businesses that adopt sustainable practices, such as using eco-friendly products,

promoting recycling, utilizing renewable energy, and improving the energy efficiency of their operations.



*Figure 1. Green Challenge Promotional Flyer, 2024*

To build a resilient and sustainable future, New Providence understands it must take local actions to reduce the causes of climate change and adapt to its related hazards.

### **MEETINGS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH**

Throughout the preparation of this plan, the Borough provided several opportunities for public input, including tabling at multiple events. To supplement these in-person sessions, the Borough also distributed a digital sixteen-question survey to gauge the community's priorities. The survey was promoted by the Borough on social media and in local TAPinto publications, and in-person assistance with filling out the survey was offered to residents during the Fall Street Fair on October 26, 2025.

The survey was open for about one (1) month, from October 8 to October 28. During this period, 97 individuals completed it. Of these, 91 were Borough residents, 28 worked in the Borough, 3

were business owners, and 1 respondent was a frequent visitor. The main points of the survey responses are summarized in Table 1 below.

<b>Table 1: New Providence CEP Survey Response Summary</b>		
<b>Question</b>	<b>Prompt</b>	<b>Summary of Responses</b>
2	Of the following strategies, which do you think are the most important for New Providence?	1. 62% said "increase the use of renewable energy like solar" 2. Other responses included "reducing energy use and emissions from the building sector" and "using clean energy in municipal buildings"
3	Do you own an electric vehicle?	1. 80% = No 2. 20% = Yes
4	Would you consider switching to an electric vehicle?	1. 32% = No 2. 29% = Yes, within 5 years 3. 20% = Unsure
5	If not interested in switching to an electric vehicle, is there a specific barrier for you?	1. Fear of not finding a charging station 2. Fear of running out of battery 3. Cost and preference of gasoline-powered vehicles were other common responses
6	How do you heat your home, business, or property?	The majority (93%) responded natural gas, followed by electricity.
7	Do you currently use any renewable energy sources at your home, business, or property?	1. Majority = No 2. 24% = No, but interested 3. 9% = Yes
8	If you don't have any renewable energy sources at your home or business, what is the primary reason you don't?	1. Cost was the primary barrier to renewable energy at home or business. 2. followed by not knowing enough about the options for renewable energy. 3. Other notable responses were not knowing enough about the Borough's solar ordinances and aesthetics.
9	Are you interested in programs that help reduce energy costs?	1. 58% responded yes, followed by maybe or need more information. 2. 7 respondents selected no
10	Would you consider having an energy audit to identify ways to reduce energy costs?	1. The majority of respondents were split between yes and maybe/need more information. 2. 14 respondents selected no.
11	Are you aware of the PSE&G free home energy audit?	1. Only 14 respondents were familiar and had one at their home 2. 46% said yes but have not had one 3. 40% were not familiar
12	Are you aware of the JCP&L home energy savings program?	1. 58% were not familiar 2. 30% were familiar but have not utilized it 3. 11.5% were familiar and have utilized it
13	What types of local energy programs would you support?	1. Tree plantings were the most popular

		2. Followed by energy efficiency upgrades for municipal buildings and vehicles, rain gardens, community solar, education around energy savings, permeable pavement, public electric vehicle infrastructure, and anti-idling campaigns.
14	What is your primary mode of transportation to work and daily activities?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 70% of respondents utilize a personal gasoline-powered vehicle</li><li>2. Followed by an electric or hybrid vehicle, walking, and public transportation.</li></ol>
15	What have you done to lower the costs of your household utilities?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The most common response was installing energy-efficient light bulbs and appliances.</li><li>2. Installing energy-efficient windows, using less electricity and water, and installing low-flow toilets and dishwashers were other common responses.</li></ol>
16	What ideas or priorities would you like to see in the New Providence Community Energy Plan?	<p>This was an open-ended question and some common themes were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Saving on costs</li><li>• Composting</li></ul>

### III. Community Overview

To develop strategies based on current conditions and trends, the following community data was compiled and reviewed. Below is a summary of population characteristics, housing statistics, energy use and emissions, transportation modes and distances, renewable energy use and potential, and current energy efficiency options.

#### POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

The Borough of New Providence covers 3.7 square miles and has a population of 13,577, according to the 2023 5-year ACS estimates (Table 2). This shows a slight decline of 73 residents from the 2020 Census, although there has been a general trend of population growth since 2000. The median age is 42.8, and the largest age group is 10 to 14 years, followed by 45 to 49 years, based on the 2020 census.

The Municipal Revitalization Index (MRI), developed by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJ DCA), uses eight indicators that assess social, economic, physical, and fiscal conditions to score and rank municipal distress. Based on 2020 data, the Borough has an MRI score of 11 out of 100, indicating low distress (Table 3). The Borough ranks 531 out of 565 municipalities, making it one of the least distressed communities in the state.

Table 2: Population Trends, 1930-2023 New Providence Borough, Union County, and New Jersey									
Year	New Providence Borough			Union County			New Jersey		
	Population	Change		Population	Change		Population	Change	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
1930	1,918	-	-	305,209	-	-	4,041,334	-	-
1940	2,374	456	23.8%	328,344	23,135	7.6%	4,160,165	118,831	2.9%
1950	3,380	1,006	42.4%	398,138	69,794	21.3%	4,835,329	675,164	16.2%
1960	10,243	6,863	203.0%	504,255	106,117	26.7%	6,066,782	1,231,453	25.5%
1970	13,796	3,553	34.7%	543,116	38,861	7.7%	7,171,112	1,104,330	18.2%
1980	12,426	-1,370	-9.9%	504,094	-39,022	-7.2%	7,365,011	193,899	2.7%
1990	11,439	-987	-7.9%	493,819	-10,275	-2.0%	7,730,188	365,177	5.0%
2000	11,907	468	4.1%	522,541	28,722	5.8%	8,414,350	684,162	8.9%
2010	12,171	264	2.2%	536,499	13,958	2.7%	8,791,894	377,544	4.5%
2020	13,650	1,479	12.2%	575,345	38,846	7.2%	9,288,994	497,100	5.7%
2023	13,577	-73	-0.5%	572,549	-2,796	-0.5%	9,261,699	-27,295	-0.3%
Total Change	-	11,659	607.9%	-	267,340	87.6%	-	5,220,365	129.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census and 2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Table S0101

<b>Table 3: Population Characteristics for the Borough of New Providence</b>						
	<b>Population</b>	<b>Households</b>	<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>Percent of Population in Poverty</b>	<b>NJ DCA MRI Score</b>	<b>NJ DCA MRI Rank</b>
<b>New Providence</b>	13,650	5,500	\$162,877	4.5%	11	531
<b>New Jersey</b>	8,885,418	3,272,054	\$85,245	9.7%	--	--

Table 2. 2020 Population Characteristics

Source: Sustainable Jersey, Community Profile Data by Municipality / 2020 US Census ACS Data

## HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

The majority of homes in the Borough were built between 1950 and 1969, indicating that the community features many historic buildings (Figure 2). Additionally, the majority of housing units are single-family detached homes (Figure 3). With an occupancy rate of 94.6%, most units are occupied, including 71.5% owner-occupied and 23.1% renter-occupied. The average household size is 2.58, which is slightly lower than Union County's average of 2.81.

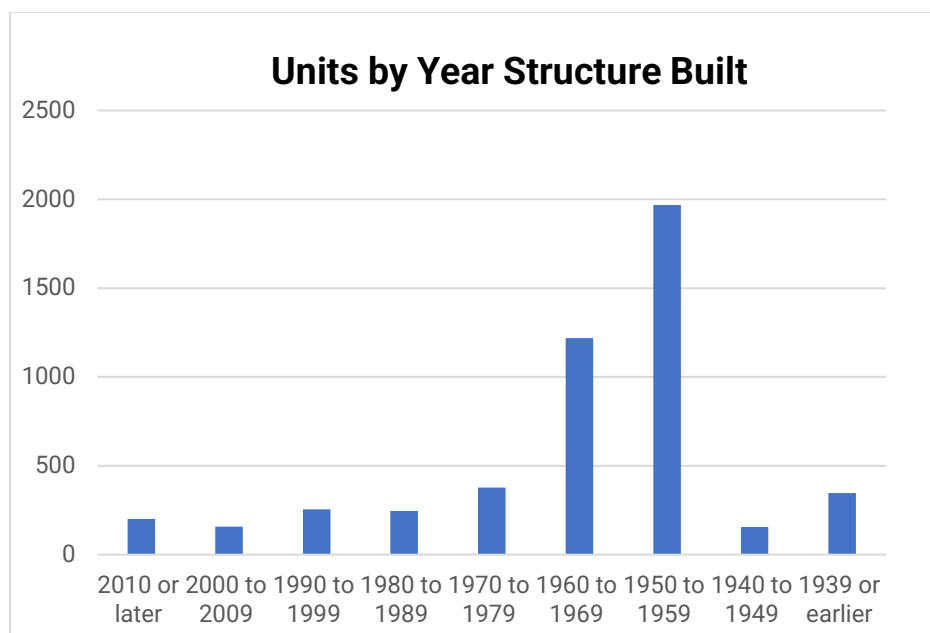


Figure 2. Units by Year Structure Built

Source: Sustainable Jersey Community Profile data (2020)

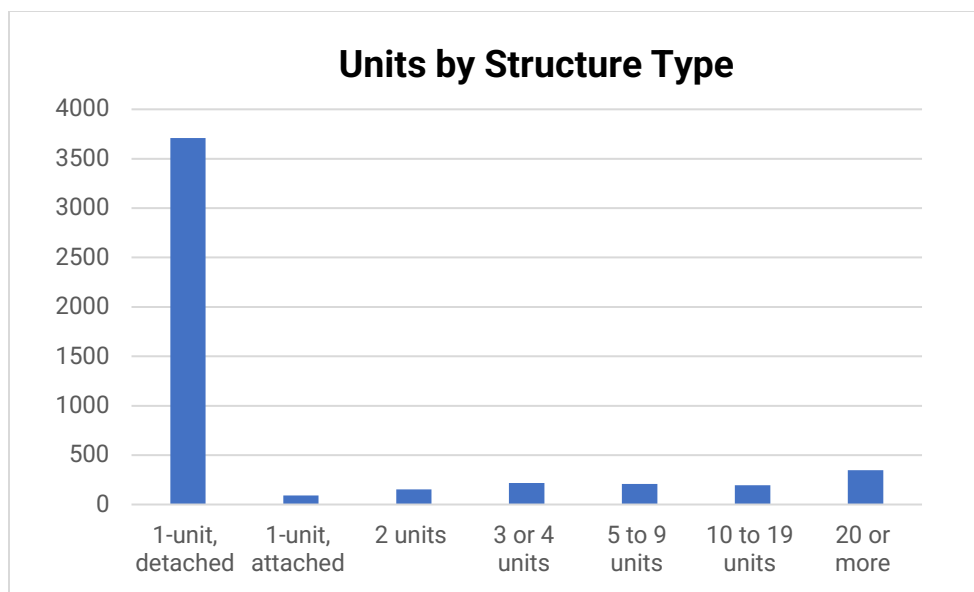


Figure 3. Units by Structure Type  
Source: Sustainable Jersey Community Profile data (2020)

Table 4: Housing Data, 2023 New Providence Borough			
	Number	% of Total Housing Units	% of Occupied Housing Units
<b>Total Housing Units</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	-
Occupied Housing Units	5,201	94.6%	100.00%
Owner Occupied	3,932	71.5%	75.6%
Renter Occupied	1,269	23.1%	24.4%
Vacant Housing Units	299	5.4%	-

Source: 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

Table 5: Household Size of Occupied Housing Units, 2020 New Providence Borough and Union County				
	New Providence Borough		Union County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1-person household	1,250	24.6%	46,394	23.2%
2-person household	1,332	26.3%	53,184	26.5%
3-person household	839	16.5%	36,586	18.3%
4-person household	1,091	21.5%	35,561	17.7%
5-person household	406	8.0%	17,011	8.5%
6-person household	110	2.2%	7,021	3.5%
7-or-more-person household	43	0.8%	4,615	2.3%
<b>Total Households</b>	<b>5,071</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>200,372</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



<b>Average Household Size*</b>	<b>2.58</b>	<b>2.81</b>
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Source: US Census Bureau 2020, Tables H9 and B25010

## ELECTRICITY AND GAS USAGE

Most housing units are heated by gas (87.6%), followed by electricity (9.2%). Only 1.2% of housing units use solar energy for heating (Table 6). Jersey Central Power & Electric (JCPL) provides electric service, and Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) supplies natural gas for the Borough.

<b>Table 6: Housing Conditions, 2023</b>		
<b>New Providence Borough</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>House Heating Fuel-Occupied Housing Units</b>		
Total	5,201	100.0%
Utility gas	4,555	87.6%
Bottled, tank, or LP gas	66	1.3%
Electricity	480	9.2%
Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.	0	0.0%
Coal or coke	0	0.0%
Wood	0	0.0%
Solar energy	63	1.2%
Other fuel	0	0.0%
No fuel used	37	0.7%

Sources: 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Tables DP04, B25047, B25051

The following charts display the amount of electricity and natural gas purchased by sector in New Providence. Energy use has remained relatively steady in recent years, with residential consumption making up the largest portion of total usage. The original data was provided by the seven investor-owned energy utility companies in New Jersey and processed by Sustainable Jersey. In 2016 and 2017, there was a reporting issue with data from JCPL; therefore, no data is available for those years.

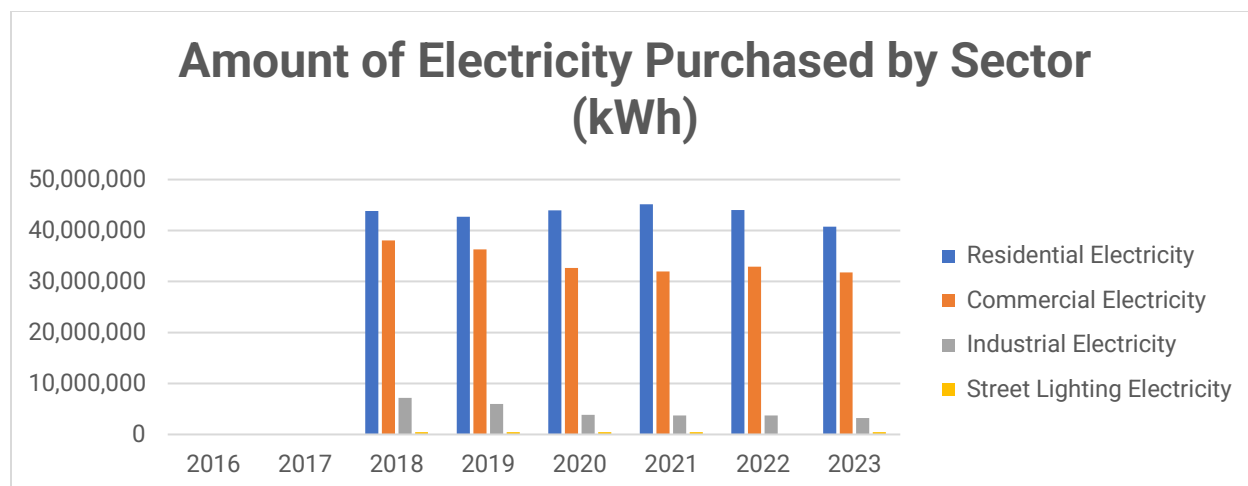


Figure 4. Amount of Electricity Purchased by Sector

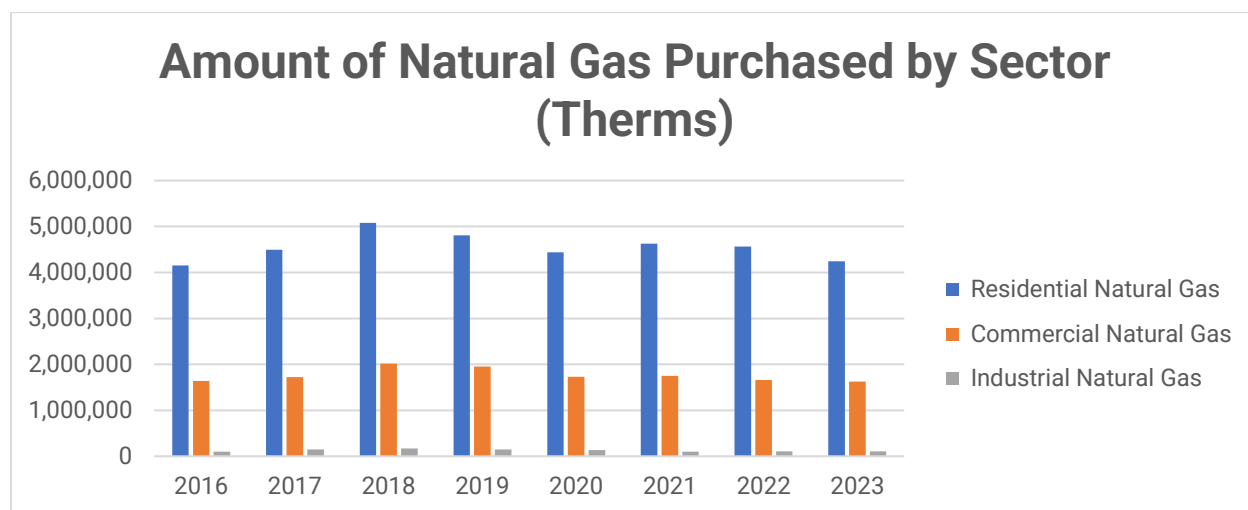


Figure 5. Amount of Natural Gas Purchased by Sector

## COMMUNITY GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM ENERGY USE

In 2020, total community-wide greenhouse gas emissions from electricity, natural gas/heating fuel, and transportation energy use in New Providence amounted to 117,149 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (carbon dioxide equivalent). As shown in Figure 6, the largest share of community emissions came from on-road vehicles, followed by residential natural gas and electricity use.

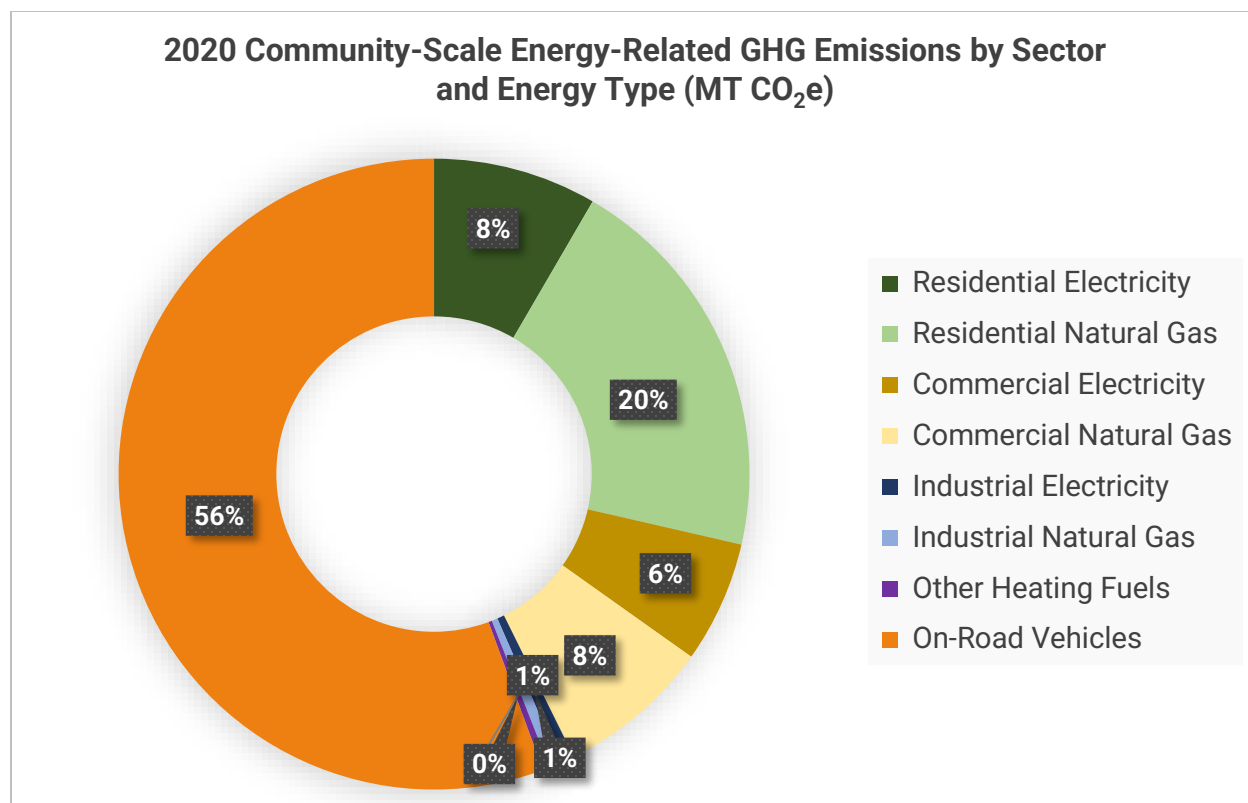


Figure 6. Overall GHG Emissions by Source

Source: Sustainable Jersey. Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Data

## COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION CHARACTERISTICS

The following tables provide an overview of transportation trends in the Borough. As shown in Table 7 below, the most common way to get to work is driving alone in a car, truck, or van, followed by working from home. The average commute time to work in the Borough is 34.2 minutes. Figure 7 shows that passenger vehicles account for the largest share of miles traveled, followed by light trucks.

Table 7: Means of Travel to Work, 2023 New Providence Borough		
	Number	Percent
Workers 16 years and over	6,098	100.0%
Car, truck, van - Drove Alone	3,398	55.7%
Car, truck, van - Carpooled	208	3.4%
Public Transportation	723	11.9%
Walked	71	1.2%
Taxicab, Motorcycle, Bike, or Other	34	0.6%
Worked at home	1,664	27.3%

Source: 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table DP03

<b>Table 8: Travel Time to Work, 2023 New Providence Borough</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Workers who did not work at home	4,434	100.0%
Less than 5 minutes	146	3.3%
5 to 9 minutes	510	11.5%
10 to 14 minutes	373	8.4%
15 to 19 minutes	606	13.7%
20 to 24 minutes	240	5.4%
25 to 29 minutes	345	7.8%
30 to 34 minutes	380	8.6%
35 to 39 minutes	285	6.4%
40 to 44 minutes	318	7.2%
45 to 59 minutes	337	7.6%
60 to 89 minutes	461	10.4%
90 or more minutes	433	9.8%
<b>Mean Travel Time to Work (minutes)</b>	<b>34.2</b>	

Source: 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B08303 and DP03

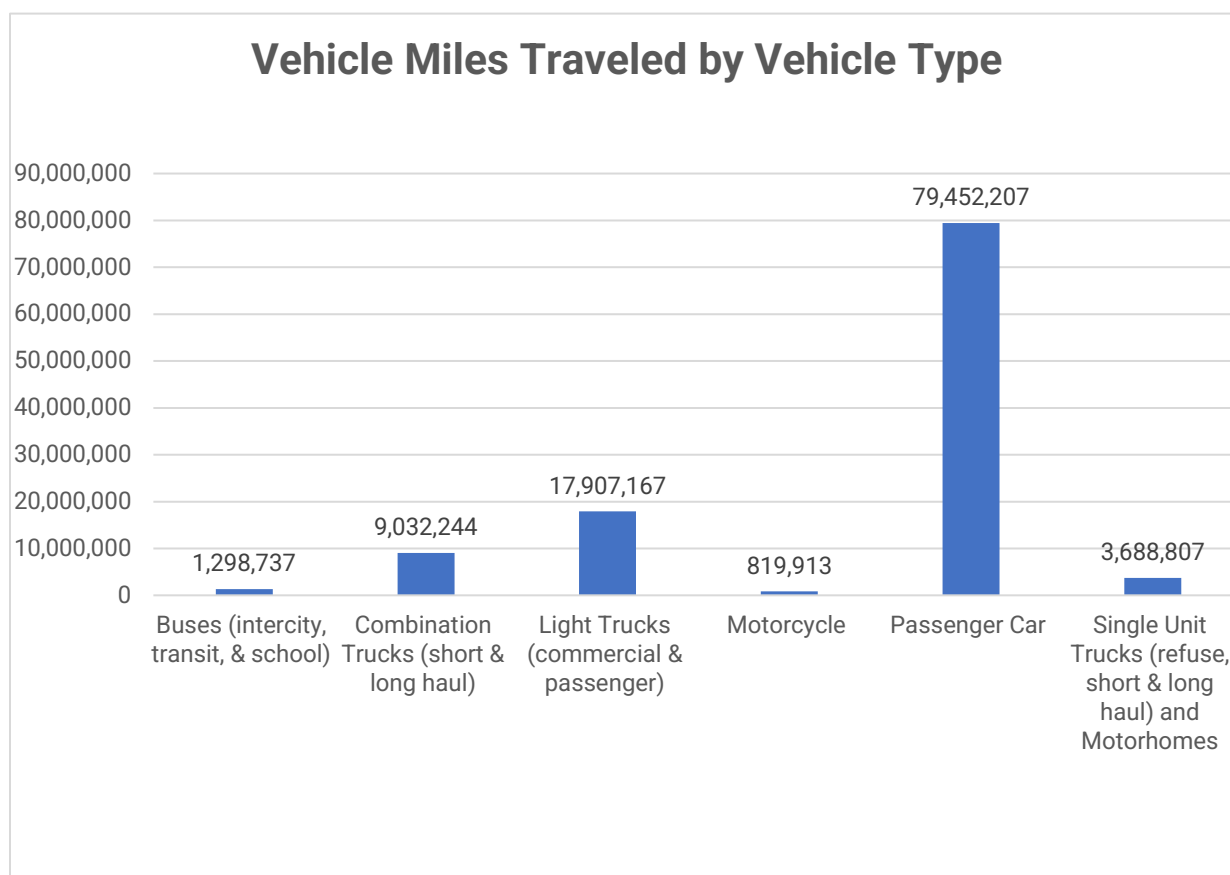


Figure 7. Vehicle Miles Traveled by Vehicle Type  
Source: Sustainable Jersey. Vehicle Miles Traveled

*Original Source: NJTPA On-Road VMT Data*

Between 2015 and 2020, electric vehicle ownership in New Providence increased from 5 in 2015 to 617 in 2025 (Table 9), accounting for about 6.8% of all passenger vehicles in the borough. Of the 617 registered EVs, 602 are Light Duty (Class 1-2A) vehicles, and 5 are labeled as “unknown”. Among the total EVs, 455 are battery-electric vehicles, and 162 are plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

<b>Table 9: New Providence Estimated Numbers of Vehicles &amp; Electric Vehicles (2015-2020)</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Est. Total Passenger Vehicles</b>	<b>Est. Electric Vehicles</b>	<b>% Electric Vehicles</b>
<b>2015</b>	7,562	5	0.06%
<b>2025</b>	9,015	617	6.8%
<b>Change (#)</b>	<b>1,453</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Change (%)</b>	<b>19.21%</b>	<b>12,240%</b>	<b>6.75%</b>

*Source: Sustainable Jersey. Electric Vehicle Ownership Data*

*Original Source: NJDEP Alternative Fueled Vehicles Report. NJ State EV Registration Data (2025)*

Across New Jersey, electric vehicle ownership has grown significantly in recent years. This rise aligns with recent statewide efforts to increase the use of alternative-fuel vehicles.

On July 9, 2021, Governor Phil Murphy signed P.L. 2021, c. 171 into law, establishing new standards and parking requirements for installing Electric Vehicle Supply/Service Equipment (EVSE) and Make-Ready parking spaces. It also mandates the designation of EVSE and Make-Ready spaces as permitted accessory uses in all zoning districts. On September 1, 2021, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) released a model statewide electric vehicle ordinance to ensure consistent compliance across municipalities. In 2020, the Borough adopted ordinance 2020-06 to provide a regulatory framework for constructing Plug-In Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. To align with DCA standards, the Borough incorporated updated electric vehicle regulations into its 2022 comprehensive zoning ordinance. Moving forward, it is important for New Providence to evaluate and strengthen its network of publicly accessible electric vehicle infrastructure to maintain compliance and support future growth.

New Providence currently has four publicly accessible electric vehicle charging stations (shown in Figure 8 below), located at the following sites:

1. 41 Spring Street: 2 charging ports

2. Best Western Plus Murray Hill Hotel & Suites: 4 charging ports
3. Tower Spring Gardens: 8 charging ports
4. Rescue Squad Parking Lot at 7 Academy Street: 2 charging ports (*recently installed/not mapped below*)

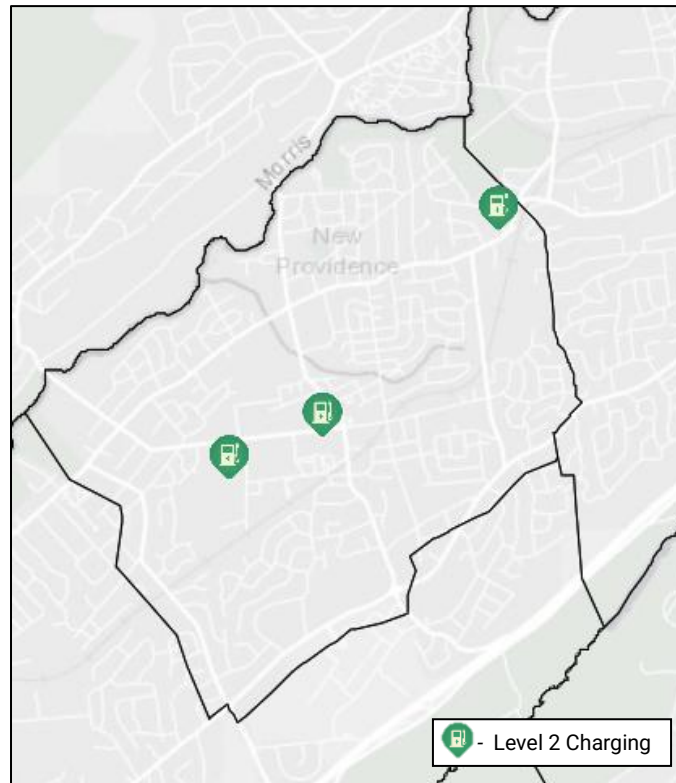


Figure 8. Public EV Charging Infrastructure in New Providence  
Source: NJDEP. Public Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Locator Map



*Figure 9. New EV charger installed at Rescue Squad Parking Lot  
7 Academy Street in New Providence*

## EXISTING RENEWABLE ENERGY

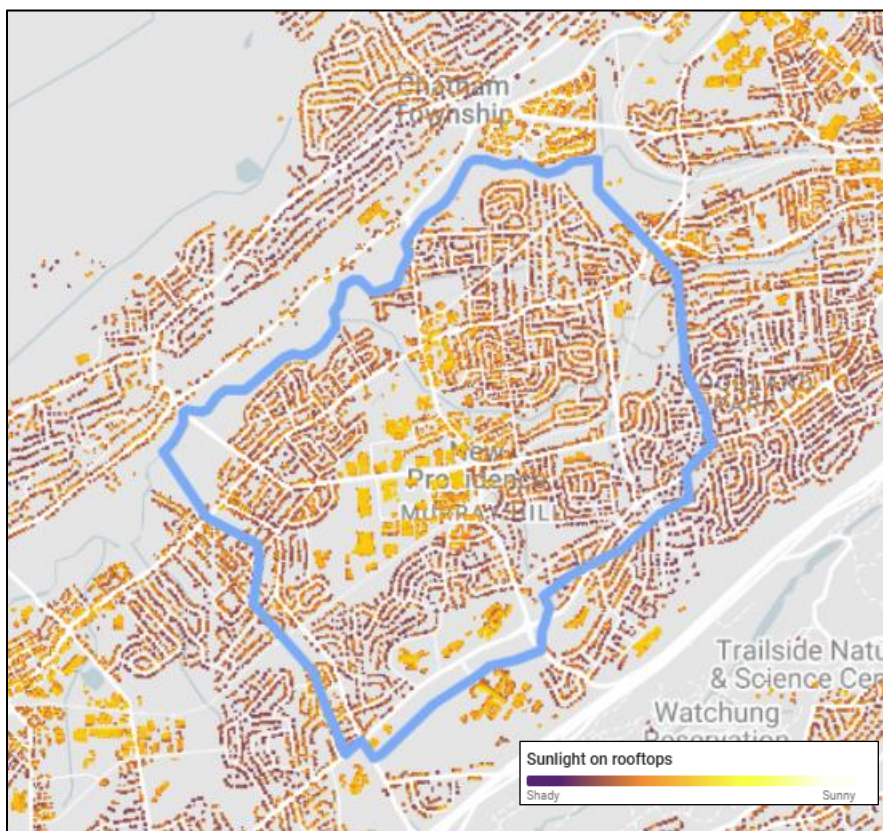
The Solar Registration Program (SRP) was New Jersey's original system for tracking and qualifying solar projects to earn Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs). Although the program is no longer open to new applicants, as of 2020, forty-two (42) solar installations were registered and still receive credits in the Borough. These include ten (10) commercial installations, thirty (30) residential installations, and two (2) listed as "other," which covers farms, government facilities, nonprofits, and schools. In 2015, there were only 12 installations, showing a rise in solar infrastructure in recent years.

Additional data is available for the Transition Incentive Program (TI) and the Administratively Determined Incentive Program (ADI). The Transition Incentive Program was created as a temporary bridge between the SRP and the State's Successor Solar Incentive (SuSI) Program, providing fixed payments through Transition Renewable Energy Certificates (TRECs) to solar projects in development during the transition period. Although the program is now closed to new applicants, existing projects still receive TREC payments. The Administratively Determined



Incentive Program (ADI) offers fixed-rate incentives for behind-the-meter solar installations, including residential, commercial, and public-sector projects. Overall, considering all three programs, there are 68 solar installations on record.

A solar analysis for New Providence found that 57% of properties are suitable for solar panels, as shown in Figure 10 below. This represents about 2,400 rooftops that could host solar installations and generate energy.



*Figure 10: Solar Potential by Property*

*Source: Google. Project Sunroof.*

*Note: Darker shades indicate shady rooftops and lighter shades indicate sunny rooftops.*

The viability of rooftop solar is enhanced by the borough's housing composition, with detached single-family homes accounting for over 75% of the units (Table 10). Additionally, 71.5% of housing units are owner-occupied. While these characteristics do not directly determine the feasibility of rooftop solar on any specific structure, they suggest greater owner control, which can lead to more opportunities for installations. Conversely, renter-occupied units or owner-occupied attached/multi-family units may encounter more limitations when implementing rooftop solar systems.



<b>Table 10: New Providence Units by Structure Type</b>		
<b>Unit Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>1-Unit Detached</b>	3708	75%
<b>1-Unit Attached</b>	92	1.8%
<b>2 Units</b>	152	3%
<b>3 or 4 Units</b>	219	4.4%
<b>5 to 9 Units</b>	208	4.2%
<b>10 to 19 Units</b>	196	3.9%
<b>20 or More Units</b>	348	7%
<b>Total</b>	4932	100%
<b>% Owner-Occupied</b>	3,932	71.5%
<b>% Renter-Occupied</b>	1269	23.1%

Source: Sustainable Jersey. Community Profile Data

Original Source: US Census. 2020. American Community Survey

There is still potential for renters and owners of attached or multifamily units to install or access solar energy systems. Community solar installations offer an option for individuals who cannot install solar on their property due to factors like cost, rental status, and significant shading, among others. These programs let multiple subscribers benefit from the energy generated by a large solar installation. Once subscribers choose their community solar project, they receive a community solar billing credit on their monthly electric bill and pay a separate subscription fee for community solar, leading to energy savings. BPU and Sustainable Jersey host the New Jersey Community Solar Project Finder, which lists community solar projects by zip code. For each project, details such as eligibility requirements, subscription contract terms, and estimated customer savings are provided. In zip code 07974, twenty-two (22) projects are listed.

## **ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS**

### **Residential, Commercial, and Industrial**

New Jersey's statewide Clean Energy Program, established in 2018, provides financial incentives to building owners to encourage the adoption of cost-effective, energy-efficient design choices in new construction or renovation projects. According to data from the New Jersey Clean Energy Program, 101 residential energy efficiency incentive projects were completed in New Providence between 2008 and 2021. There are also energy efficiency incentive programs for commercial and industrial properties through the state's Clean Energy Program (NJCEP) and PSEG (Table 11). Commercial and industrial properties are shown in Figure 11.

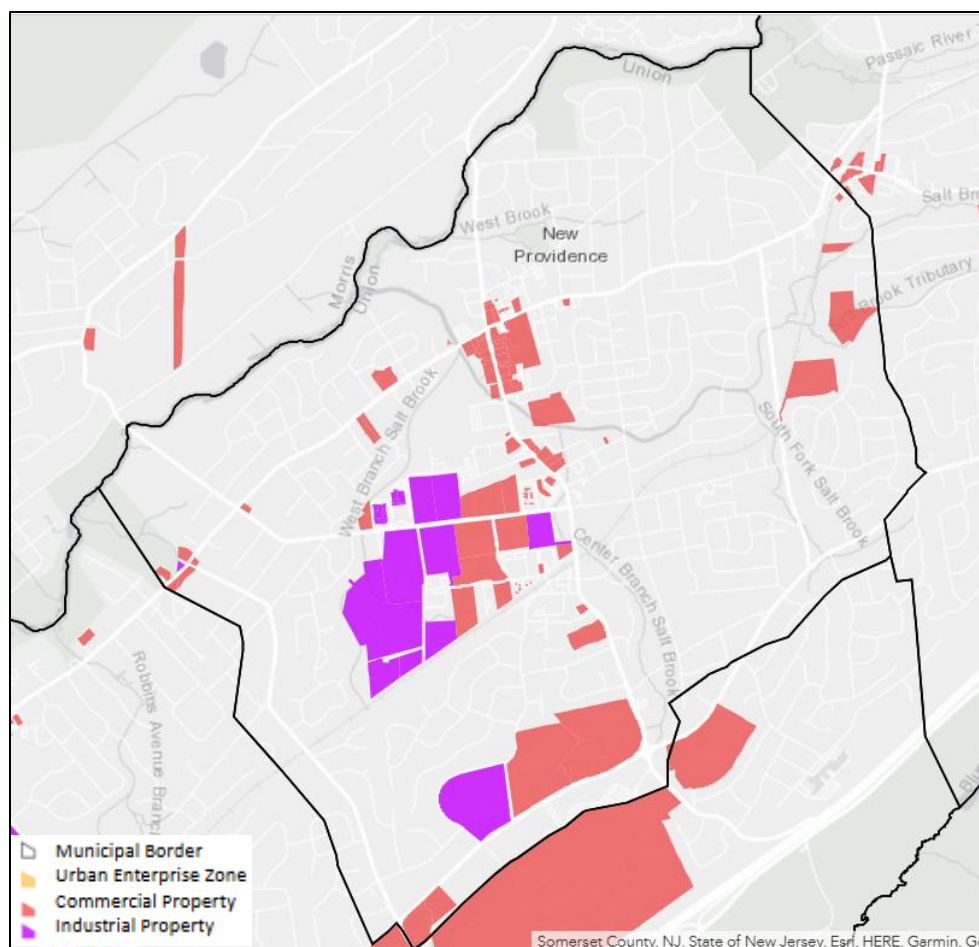


Figure 11: Commercial and Industrial Properties

Source: Sustainable Jersey. NJ Commercial and Industrial Properties Map. 4A/4B MOD-IV parcels and NJ UEZ mapping layers

Table 11: New Providence Lifetime Participation in Energy Efficiency Incentive Programs (2021)		
	Residential	Commercial
Units in Structures with 4 Units or Less	3,914	-
Number of Commercial/Industrial Taxed Parcels	-	153
Total Completed Projects	101	20
Current Lifetime Rate %	2.58%	13.07%

Source: Sustainable Jersey. Energy Efficiency Program Participation (2021) Lifetime Residential and Commercial Participation Data

### Municipal

Municipal entities can also participate in New Jersey's Clean Energy Program. From 2008 to 2021, several Local Government projects were completed by the Borough, the Board of Education, and the Summit Speech School in the New Jersey Clean Energy Program (NJCEP). An example of these initiatives is the Direct Install program, which assists small businesses, nonprofits, and

government organizations in identifying hidden energy and natural gas savings in their facilities and implementing energy-efficient upgrades at a low cost. Since 2021, this program, previously managed by the New Jersey Clean Energy Program, has been operated by local utility companies statewide. Each utility offers a different variation of the program. For example, Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G) provides free energy audits, recommendations for energy-efficiency upgrades, and detailed cost estimates. PSE&G then covers the upfront costs in full and contracts with an authorized entity for the upgrades. After completing the work, participants repay a portion of the costs interest-free. Both Direct Install and C & I Retrofit projects can include upgrades to lighting, HVAC, and commercial refrigeration equipment.

## IV. Action Plan

The Community Energy Plan aims to guide achievable actions and implementation within the Borough of New Providence. This “Action Plan” section outlines the initiatives chosen as the Borough’s top priorities for the next decade (2026-2036), including details such as initiative leads, expected start dates, involved departments and groups, recommended actions, projected costs, funding sources, and more.

Implementing these initiatives will not only help the State achieve the NJEMP goals but also embed greater sustainability and resilience into the New Providence community. The initiatives outlined in this Plan include:

- **Strategy 1: Reduce Energy Consumption and Emissions from the Transportation Sector**
  - 1.1 Adopt Supportive Zoning and Regulations for EV Infrastructure
  - 1.2 Provide Training to First Responders on EVs and EVSE Incidents
  - 1.3 Train Non-Emergency Staff on EVs and EVSE
  - 1.4 Purchase Alternative Fuel Vehicles for Municipal Use
  - 1.5 Improve Municipal Fleet Efficiency
  - 1.6 Install Public EV Charging Infrastructure
  - 1.8 Encourage Installation of Workplace EV Charging Infrastructure
  - 1.9 Expand Community EV Outreach
  - 1.10 Implement an Anti-Idling Policy and Enforcement
  - 1.11 Prepare and Adopt a Circulation Element of the Master Plan
- **Strategy 2: Accelerate Deployment of Renewable Energy and Distributed Energy Resources**
  - 2.1 Adopt Supportive Zoning and Permitting for Private Solar
  - 2.2 Provide an Accessible Solar Permitting Checklist
  - 2.3 Train First Responders on Solar Infrastructure Incidents
  - 2.4 Train Non-Emergency Staff on Relevant Solar Initiatives
  - 2.5 Install On-Site Municipal Renewable Energy Generation
  - 2.6 Buy Renewable Energy for Municipal Facilities
  - 2.7 Offer an Employee Solar Benefit Program
  - 2.8 Institute a Community-Wide Solar Purchasing Program
  - 2.10 Support Community Solar as a Project Ambassador

- 2.11 Support Community Solar as Outreach Coordinator
- **Strategy 3: Maximize Energy Efficiency and Conservation and Reduce Peak Demand**
  - 3.1 Upgrade Energy Efficiency in Municipal Facilities
  - 3.2 Residential Energy Efficiency Outreach Campaign
  - 3.3 Commercial Energy Efficiency Outreach Campaign
  - 3.4 Conduct Energy Efficiency Outreach to Large Energy Users
- **Strategy 4: Reduce Energy Consumption and Emissions from the Building Sector**
  - 4.1 Implement a Green Building Policy
  - 4.2 Construct New Municipal Buildings as Model Green Buildings
  - 4.3 Encourage Benchmarking and Commissioning for Existing Buildings
  - 4.5 Target Outreach Towards New Construction in the Community
- **Strategy 6: Support Participation of Low- and Moderate-Income Residents and Environmental Justice Communities in the Community Energy Planning and Implementation**
  - 6.1 Make Community Energy Planning Inclusive
  - 6.2 Conduct Energy Efficiency Outreach to Low- and Moderate-Income Residents
  - 6.4 Support Low- and Moderate-Income Community Solar Subscriptions
  - 6.5 Conduct Energy Efficiency Outreach to Community-Serving Institutions
- **Strategy 7: Expand the Clean Energy Innovation Economy**
  - 7.1 Adopt Energy Storage Policies
  - 7.3. Develop a Local Microgrid

## **STRATEGY 1. REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND EMISSIONS FROM THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR**

In New Providence, on-road vehicles are the primary source of community emissions. Only 6.8% of the vehicles in the Borough are electric, and most residents commute by car. This presents an opportunity for the Borough to focus on transportation and significantly lower local emissions and energy use.

### **1.1 Adopt Supportive Zoning and Regulations for EV Infrastructure**

**Initiative Summary:** Pass NJDCA's Model Statewide Municipal EV Ordinance specifying electric vehicle charging stations (EVSE) as a permitted accessory use, establishing the permitting process for charging stations, and requiring Make-Ready and EVSE parking in new multifamily

developments and parking lots. Modify the model ordinance standards, safety, signage, etc., as needed.

**Priority:** Low

**Initiative Lead:** Department of Planning & Development

**Departments Involved:** Business Administrator, Police Department, Fire Department

**Potential Stakeholders:** Planning Board

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** In-Process

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** N/A

**Next Steps:**

1. The Borough has adopted NJDCA's model ordinance.
2. To ensure safe installation of Make-Ready and EVSE parking, the Borough plans to revise the ordinance to account for additional safety measures, including requiring smoke and temperature alarms for indoor EV chargers.
3. Post permitting application process on the Borough website.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** N/A

### **1.2 Train First Responders on EVs and EVSE**

**Initiative Summary:** To further public confidence and maintain emergency preparedness, require training on electric vehicles and associated infrastructure for local first responders.

**Priority:** Medium

**Initiative Lead:** Police Department

**Departments Involved:** Fire Department, Business Administrator

**Potential Stakeholders:** New Providence EMS

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** In-Process / Annual

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** N/A

**Next Steps:**

1. The Borough has registered and accessed the free National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) training.
2. Confirm that all current members have completed the training, and if the training has not been completed, require completion by a specific date.

3. Establish policy to require training for new responders annually (including volunteer firefighters and EMTs).
4. Set a regular frequency for these training and education programs (e.g., once every 3 years).
5. Plan how ongoing trainings and education programs for First Responders on EVs and EVSE can be integrated into department policies and procedures.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** Training will need to be scheduled around other priorities, as first responder departments are typically very busy.

### **1.3 Train Non-Emergency Staff on EVs and EVSE**

**Initiative Summary:** Initiate cross-training on electric vehicles for non-emergency staff, including code officials, automotive technicians, and electricians.

**Priority:** Medium

**Initiative Lead:** Department of Planning & Development

**Departments Involved:** Department of Public Works, Department of Construction, Public Information Officer, IT Department

**Potential Stakeholders:** Planning Board

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** Ongoing / Annual

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** N/A

**Next Steps:**

1. Work with the concerned departments to identify a list of all non-emergency personnel who need to undergo this training and education program.
2. Register for access to NFPA training, or explore additional training opportunities, including the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium and the Interstate Renewable Energy Council.
3. Send an email to the Building Department, IT, and other relevant personnel and request that all code officials complete it by a specific date.
4. Establish a policy to require training for new personnel annually.
5. Create an informational outreach package regarding the benefits of EV training and post to the Borough website.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** Training will need to be scheduled around other priorities.

#### **1.4 Purchase Alternative Fuel Vehicles**

**Initiative Summary:** Replace existing municipal fleet vehicles with plug-in hybrid, battery electric, or other sustainable alternative-fuel vehicles, using fleet analysis to inform purchasing decisions.

**Priority:** Low

**Initiative Lead:** Borough Administrator, Department of Public Works

**Departments Involved:** Department of Planning & Development, Department of Finance, Department of Community Activities/Recreation, Fire Department, Police Department, Public Information Officer

**Potential Stakeholders:**

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** Ongoing / Initial Steps (1-5): 6 months-1 year & Step 6: Ongoing

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:**

1. [NJBPUC Clean Fleet Electric Vehicle Incentive Program](#): Local entities can receive incentives toward the purchase of battery electric vehicles, Level 2 EV charging equipment, and direct current fast chargers (DCFCs) for their fleet charging.
2. [NJDEP It Pays to Plug In Grant Program](#)
3. [Work Clean: Diesel Modernization Program](#): Purchase incentives for cleaner vehicles/equipment, including garbage trucks, delivery trucks, transit buses, forklifts, etc.

**Next Steps:**

1. Conduct fleet analysis to determine needs and strategically prioritize vehicles in the fleet for replacement.
2. Plan for how the EV will be charged.
3. Determine procurement method (RFQ for Direct Purchase; Fleet Leasing; Purchasing Cooperatives/Government Contracts; Service Contracting with Alternative Fuel Vehicles)
4. Identify and secure funding sources/financial incentives
5. Site and install charging infrastructure for municipal EVs
6. Procure first fleet EV, use as a "model".
7. Continue to replace vehicles with EVs.



**Obstacles / Barriers:** Financial barriers are significant; grants and other funding sources will be crucial. The timeline is also a factor: depending on the current fleet's status, not all vehicles will need replacement within the next 5-10 years, and the Borough will need to prioritize accordingly.

### **1.5 Improve Municipal Fleet Efficiency**

**Initiative Summary:** Implement strategies such as interdepartmental coordination to right-size the municipal fleet by replacing or retiring vehicles and optimize fuel use through better route planning, driver efficiency, and reduced idling to lower operational costs and GHG emissions from municipal fleets—such as public works, police, fire, and others.

**Priority:** High

**Initiative Lead:** Department of Public Works

**Departments Involved:** Department of Planning & Development, Department of Finance, Fire Department, Police Department

**Potential Stakeholders:** Municipal services contractors, Fleet management companies (ex: transportation analytics firms)

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** Ongoing / Ongoing

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:**

1. [New Jersey Fleet Advisor](#): Public fleet operators in New Jersey can apply for a Fleet Advisor and receive a personalized fleet electrification roadmap, which includes cost projections, infrastructure assessments, financial information (including funding and incentive information), and other information about transitioning to zero-emission vehicles

**Next Steps:**

1. Conduct a comprehensive fleet inventory.
2. Establish process for annual update of fleet inventory
3. Use the Atlas Public Policy DRVE Tool to identify vehicles that can be cost-effectively replaced with electric vehicles
4. Look at the Sustainable Jersey Meet Targets for Green Fleets action to identify additional fleet efficiency measures (fleet tracking tools, idle reduction technology, etc.) that make sense for the Borough's fleet.

5. Set up scheduled maintenance for all fleet vehicles
6. Coordinate with all departments to consider shifting to non-motorized transport options wherever possible.
7. Using fleet inventory findings, develop and implement protocol (ex: prohibit idling of municipal vehicles), procedures (driver training), and vehicle conversions/replacements appropriately with a goal to achieve reduction in miles traveled and emissions.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** Comprehensive fleet development is a concentrated effort that will require the assistance of municipal personnel.

### **1.6 Install Public EV Charging Infrastructure**

**Initiative Summary:** Install electric vehicle charging infrastructure, including chargers, signage, and safety and accessibility features, for public use.

New Providence recently installed two Level 2 chargers in a public municipal lot accessible to residents and the public. Community survey results showed that 29% of residents would consider switching to an EV within the next five years, while 20% were unsure if they would make the switch. The main barrier to adopting an EV was the fear of not finding a charging station. This insight suggests that increasing access to public charging stations and EV infrastructure could encourage more people to switch to EVs.

**Priority:** High

**Initiative Lead:** Department of Public Works

**Departments Involved:** Department of Planning & Development, Business Administrator, Public Information Officer

**Potential Stakeholders:** Business community, Electric utility

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** Ongoing / Ongoing

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:**

1. NJDEP It Pays to Plug In Grant Program
2. [NJBPUC Clean Fleet Electric Vehicle Incentive Program](#): Local and nonprofit entities can receive incentives toward the purchase of battery electric vehicles, Level 2 EV charging equipment, and direct current fast chargers (DCFCs) for their fleet charging.

**Next Steps:**

1. The Borough has several public chargers.
2. Identify strategic locations for additional public charging stations throughout the Borough.
3. Determine if the Borough wants to own/maintain charging stations, work with a sponsoring partner to fund the purchase and installation of chargers (for which they can charge customers a fee to use), or partner with a third party that will manage, install, and maintain the charging stations.
4. Secure partners, if applicable, or secure an installation contractor to implement charging stations.
5. Educate the public regarding the locations of the charging stations using signage and by "publishing" the charger location and availability on at least on public domain "charger directory".

**Obstacles / Barriers:** N/A

### **1.8 Encourage Workplace EV Charging Infrastructure**

**Initiative Summary:** Meet with local employers to ask them to install workplace EV charging. If possible, offer incentives such as promotion in municipal communications, a "ribbon cutting" event with public officials, and/or a fast-tracked permitting process.

The Borough has a business directory on its main website. There is also a website dedicated to businesses in the Borough called "New Providence Business." Monthly meetings of the New Providence business community are held with the town's support, and the Chief Information Office (CIO) facilitates them.

**Priority:** Medium

**Initiative Lead:** Business Administrator

**Departments Involved:** Department of Planning & Development, Public Information Officer, Department of Community Activities/Recreation

**Potential Stakeholders:** Local Business Association, Sustainable New Providence

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** September 2026 / Ongoing

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:**

1. [JCPL L2 Workplace Charging](#): funding for installation of workplace and business EV charging stations.

**Next Steps:**

1. Determine what incentives, if any, the Borough can offer to businesses for installing EV infrastructure.
2. Prepare outreach packet with information on EV charging stations, including: contact information for recommended installers; installation process and estimated cost; benefits of offering EV charging; incentives offered by the Borough; etc.
3. Develop a list of targeted commercial businesses and devise an outreach strategy, with a goal of meeting with a minimum of 5 local businesses.
4. Implement incentives on an ongoing basis.
5. Conduct an outreach campaign to businesses to create awareness of workplace charging incentives.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** Preparing an outreach list with updated contacts will require concerted effort.

**1.9 Community EV Outreach**

**Initiative Summary:** Outreach to residents, businesses, and other entities to encourage adoption of electric vehicles (EV) and electric vehicle charging infrastructure (EVSE) within the Borough.

The Borough has a Communication Plan that is regularly updated and meant to be adapted and improved as the Borough continues to develop. As communication technology and citizen engagement platforms advance, the plan is expected to evolve to address new needs. The plan, as adopted today, reflects the Borough's current communication goals and objectives, offering a unified approach to achieve those goals and best serve New Providence's residents. It includes tactics, practices, tools, structure, and implementation details. It is attached for review.

**Priority:** Medium

**Initiative Lead:** Public Information Officer

**Departments Involved:** Borough Administrator, Department of Community Activities/Recreation

**Potential Stakeholders:** Sustainable New Providence, Local Business Association

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** September 2026 / Ongoing

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** N/A

**Next Steps:**

1. Identify the target audience for the campaign – residents, commercial property owners, multifamily property owners, commercial fleet operators, local workplaces, and automobile dealerships.
2. Identify the objective of the campaign (promoting incentives, EV ride & drive).
3. Develop relevant and up-to-date outreach materials to distribute.
4. Create an outreach campaign plan:
  - a. List existing community events that EV outreach could be included in.
  - b. Consider social media and other outreach channels.
  - c. Identify outreach partners, like community organizations and business organizations.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** Requires the efforts of various Borough volunteer-run committees or commissions, which will require concerted coordination on behalf of the Public Information Officer. A clear outreach strategy should be put in place prior to any outreach.

### **1.10 Anti-Idling and Enforcement**

**Initiative Summary:** Adopt and implement an anti-idling policy, which establishes an enforcement protocol and penalties for non-compliance. Implement an ongoing outreach campaign to create awareness about the policy and train enforcement officers to ensure compliance.

**Priority:** Low

**Initiative Lead:** Police Department, Public Information Officer

**Departments Involved:** Business Administrator

**Potential Stakeholders:** Sustainable New Providence

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** September 2026 / Ongoing

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** N/A

**Next Steps:**

1. Set up a committee to develop the Anti-Idling Policy and Enforcement Plan.
2. Identify the idle-frequent locations in the municipality and select priority locations to target the program.
3. Develop and present the Anti-Idling Policy and Enforcement Plan to the Governing Council for adoption.

4. Develop literature and promotional material and include anti-idling in community events to raise awareness of the effects of idling.
5. Encourage compliance by posting signs at idle-frequent locations.
6. Establish an enforcement protocol and train the officials to ensure compliance with the Anti-Idling Policy.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** Preparing an outreach list with updated contacts will require concerted effort.

## **STRATEGY 2: ACCELERATE DEPLOYMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY AND DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES**

Residential energy use in New Providence accounts for the largest share of energy purchased and is a major source of local emissions. Most residents own their homes, live in single-family, detached houses, and currently use gas for heating. Homeowners have greater control over installing solar panels or other renewables on their property compared to renters, and detached single-family homes offer more space to do so. These factors, along with the fact that many people lack access to renewable energy sources, present an opportunity to boost renewable energy production in New Providence. Additionally, survey respondents identified increasing the use of renewable energy, like solar, as the most important strategy the Borough can pursue, indicating strong public support for such efforts.

### **2.1 Adopt Supportive Zoning and Permitting for Private Solar**

**Initiative Summary:** Provide clear guidance/standards for solar developers and limit barriers to solar adoption, such as lengthy permitting and multiple reviews.

**Priority:** Low

**Initiative Lead:** Department of Planning & Development

**Departments Involved:** Business Administrator, Public Information Officer

**Potential Stakeholders:** Sustainable New Providence, Local Business Association

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** September 2027 / 1 Year

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** N/A

**Next Steps:**

1. New Providence's code currently allows for solar, but standards and guidance could be provided in further detail.
2. Review code to evaluate the extent to which solar is permitted/regulated.
3. Conduct outreach to inform residents and property owners of the solar ordinance and provide an overview.
4. Adopt the municipality's solar ordinance. Amend the permitting fee structure of the ordinance that specifies the permitting fee structure for solar as described in the Sustainable Jersey Guidance Document.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** N/A

## **2.2 Post Solar Permitting Checklist**

**Initiative Summary:** Provide clear guidance/standards for solar developers with a permitting checklist that can be easily found on the municipality's website. After a set amount of time, solicit feedback from users and revise the checklist based on comments.

**Priority:** Low

**Initiative Lead:** Department of Planning & Development

**Departments Involved:** Business Administrator, Public Information Officer

**Potential Stakeholders:** Sustainable New Providence, Local Business Association

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** September 2027 / 1 Year

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** N/A

### **Next Steps:**

1. Develop Solar Permitting Checklist.
2. Post on Borough website.
3. Conduct outreach to inform residents and property owners of the solar permitting checklist and provide an overview.
4. Disperse survey to solicit feedback from users.
5. Revise checklist based on feedback.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** N/A

### **2.3 Train First Responders on Solar**

**Initiative Summary:** To further public confidence and maintain emergency preparedness, require first responders to receive training on solar infrastructure.

**Priority:** Medium

**Initiative Lead:** Fire Department, Police Department

**Departments Involved:** Business Administrator

**Potential Stakeholders:** N/A

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** September 2026 / Annual

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** N/A

**Next Steps:**

1. Work with the first responders, including law enforcement, fire, and emergency response departments to create a list of key emergency response personnel who would need to undergo these training and education programs.
2. Identify the training and education programs on solar and allied infrastructure available for the first responders. e.g.:
  - a. New Jersey Division of Fire Safety & Kean University Fire Safety Training
  - b. Interstate Renewable Energy Council - Clean Energy Resources and Training
  - c. U.S. DOE. - SolSmart Standard Program Guide
3. Document the dates/years of the training and education programs and the details of the personnel who have undergone the same
4. Set a regular frequency for these training and education programs, e.g., once every 3 years.
5. Plan how ongoing training and education programs for First Responders on solar can be integrated into department policies and procedures.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** Training will need to be scheduled around other priorities, as first responder departments are typically very busy.

### **2.4 Train Non-Emergency Staff on Solar**

**Initiative Summary:** To ensure municipal staff are prepared to handle permitting, inspections, etc. for solar installations in the community, require training on solar infrastructure for municipal staff.

**Priority:** Medium



**Initiative Lead:** Department of Planning & Development

**Departments Involved:** Department of Public Works, Business Administrator, Fire Department, Police Department

**Potential Stakeholders:** Local Business Association

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** 2027 / Ongoing

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** N/A

**Next Steps:**

1. Identify the training and education programs on solar and allied infrastructure available for the non-emergency staff, e.g.:
  - a. Interstate Renewable Energy Council - Clean Energy Resources and Training
  - b. U.S. DOE. - SolSmart Standard Program Guide
2. Identify the appropriate non-emergency staff who would need to undergo training and education programs.
3. Document the dates/years of the training and education programs and the details of the personnel who have undergone the same.
4. Set a regular frequency for these training and education programs, e.g., once every 3 years.
5. Plan how ongoing training and education programs for non-emergency staff on solar can be integrated into department policies and procedures.
6. Prepare a packet including links to Solar PV Training and Resources links (articles, training) from the Sustainable Energy Action Committee (SEAC) and Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) (Free).
7. Conduct outreach to local Solar installers, electricians, etc.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** Although not required for this initiative, the Borough should view it as an opportunity to educate relevant non-municipal workers as well. Outreach to non-municipal employees (local installers, electricians, etc.) will need coordination with partners such as Sustainable New Providence and local businesses.

## **2.5 Install On-Site Municipal Renewable Generation**

**Initiative Summary:** Host a solar, wind, or geothermal project on municipal property to generate renewable energy for municipal facilities. Such projects can be leased from a developer or purchased and owned outright.

**Priority:** Medium

**Initiative Lead:** Department of Public Works

**Departments Involved:** Department of Planning & Development, Business Administrator, Public Information Officer

**Potential Stakeholders:** Business community, Electric utility

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** 2024 / 1-5 years, and periodically reviewed

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:**

1. Power purchase agreements, green bonds, renewable energy grants such as NJ Clean Energy's Successor Solar Incentive (SuSI) Program
2. [New Jersey Green Bank Financing](#): Debt financing for renewable energy generation and electric battery storage

**Next Steps:**

1. Prepare a siting analysis to determine appropriate locations and size of potential solar, wind, or geothermal project(s) on municipal property.
2. Prepare a comparative summary of costs and/or cost-benefit analysis to determine which renewable energy source (solar, wind, or geothermal) is most cost-effective and has the highest potential for monetary savings and energy efficiency.
3. Decide on an ownership model for the project – buy outright, finance, contract with a developer, etc.
4. After selecting a site and renewable energy source type, solicit bids and select a vendor to undergo the construction and commissioning process.
5. When construction is complete, disseminate information to the community regarding the project. If applicable, designate a point of contact to manage project viewings, press, etc.
6. The owner of the project (municipality or developer) begins tracking system performance on a regular basis and ensures that the project receives sufficient maintenance.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** One of the more demanding initiatives in terms of time, personnel, and cost. This initiative will require concerted coordination.

## **2.6 Buy Renewable Energy for Municipal Facilities**

**Initiative Summary:** Buy renewable electricity for municipal facilities directly from a green energy supplier or participate in a buying pool that supplies electricity with high renewable content. The accompanying renewable energy credits (RECs) should be certified as PJM Class I.

**Priority:** Medium

**Initiative Lead:** Business Administrator

**Departments Involved:** Department of Finance, Department of Planning & Development

**Potential Stakeholders:** Energy consultant, Energy buying cooperative (e.g., NJSEM)

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** 2028 / Ongoing

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** N/A

### **Next Steps:**

1. Determine what pathway would best fit the municipality's needs and complete necessary procurement efforts. Options include:
  - a. Join an existing aggregation pool offered by a purchasing cooperative (refer to the Sustainable Jersey "Buy Electricity from a Renewable Source" action for more details)
  - b. Execute a third-party supply agreement independently; a full procurement process may be required.
2. Pass a municipal resolution to proceed with the renewable energy purchase.
3. Formally sign a renewable energy purchase contract to finalize the commitment.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** The timeline for this process will vary depending on whether the Borough chooses to join an existing aggregation pool or pursue an independent supply agreement. This initiative may require considerable outreach and support-building within the community. Additionally, if the Borough is already part of a different energy purchase contract, it may have to wait until that contract expires before entering into a new one.

## **2.7 Offer a Solar Employee Benefit Program**

**Initiative Summary:** Offer a collective solar purchasing program for municipal employees, promoted via the existing employee communication network. This type of program utilizes scale and low customer acquisition costs to make installing solar more affordable for participating

employees. Schools and municipalities can collaborate to form a larger pool of potential customers, even including student families in the offer.

**Priority:** Low

**Initiative Lead:** Department of Human Resources

**Departments Involved:** Business Administrator

**Potential Stakeholders:** Borough employee associations, Local solar developers

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** 2027 / Ongoing

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** N/A

**Next Steps:**

1. Survey staff to determine sufficient interest in the program to justify use of Borough time.
2. Identify the type of solar purchasing program that the municipality is interested in implementing. Options include:
  - a. Solarize Program for Business
  - b. Employee Benefit Program
3. Solicit bids for a solar installer partner with a Request for Proposal, then award the contract and advertise the offering to the community. Alternatively, partner with a competitive online solar marketplace to offer residents a custom online webpage to receive quotes.
4. Spread the word on the offerings by the selected vendor to interested staff.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** Some employees may not own their homes or be able to install rooftop solar. An alternative employer-provided solar program is to offer a kind of "community solar plan" for employees, where they receive solar benefits from an off-site installation and save money through solar credits.

## **2.8 Institute a Community-Wide Solar Purchasing Program**

**Initiative Summary:** Partner with solar installers or a solar marketplace to offer special pricing on solar installations to residents and/or businesses. Complete an outreach campaign advertising this to the municipal community.

**Priority:** Medium

**Initiative Lead:** Public Information Officer

**Departments Involved:** Borough Administrator, Department of Community Activities/Recreation

**Potential Stakeholders:** Sustainable New Providence, Local Business Association

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** 2027-2028

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** \$5,000-\$15,000 / NJBPU Grants

**Next Steps:**

1. Identify the type of solar purchasing program that the municipality is interested in implementing. Options include:
  - a. Solarize campaign
  - b. Online Solar Marketplace
  - c. Solarize Program for Business (see initiative 2.7)
  - d. Employee Benefit Program (see initiative 2.7)
2. Devise outreach strategy.
3. Prepare and release RFP to select installer(s).
4. Conduct a public education and outreach campaign to recruit participants.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** It is important that all outreach regarding such a program be done with Borough branding in order to legitimize the program for residents/participants, otherwise the program may not be well received.

### **2.10 Support Community Solar as Project Ambassador**

**Initiative Summary:** Facilitate connections between community solar developers and the local site owner, anchor subscribers, nonprofit sponsors, and/or affordable housing property owners. Municipalities can lend credibility to the multi-benefit opportunity of a potential community solar project.

**Priority:** Low

**Initiative Lead:** Public Information Officer, Department of Planning & Development

**Departments Involved:** Borough Administrator, Department of Community Activities/Recreation

**Potential Stakeholders:** Sustainable New Providence, Local Business Association

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** 2028 / Ongoing

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** N/A

**Next Steps:**

1. Prepare a list of existing community solar projects serving New Providence and initiate contact with those developers; request information for a community packet.
2. Develop an informational packet including information on community solar benefits, how it works, and what it means to be an anchor institution and/or sponsor community solar subscriptions.
3. Prepare a list of organizations and businesses in the Borough that could serve as potential "anchor institutions" and initiate contact; schedule a meeting with representatives from the Borough, community solar developer, and business to discuss.
4. Prepare a list of potential organizations, businesses, educational facilities, and faith-based organizations that could support solar subscriptions for Low to Moderate Income (LMI) households in New Providence; schedule a meeting with a representative from the Borough and the organization.
5. Prepare an informational packet for the public, with a portion dedicated to recruiting LMI households for free or subsidized solar subscriptions; disperse.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** Identifying anchor institutions and solar sponsors may be challenging.

**2.11 Support Community Solar as Outreach Coordinator**

**Initiative Summary:** Use municipal resources and networks (mailing lists, websites, etc.) to educate the community about community solar in general and the details of local projects (e.g., subscription rates and requirements).

**Priority:** Low

**Initiative Lead:** Public Information Officer

**Departments Involved:** Department of Planning & Development, Borough Administrator, Department of Community Activities/Recreation

**Potential Stakeholders:** Sustainable New Providence, Local Business Association

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** 2028 / Ongoing

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** N/A

**Next Steps:**

1. The Borough should work with Council to decide what criteria community solar projects should meet to be included in the municipal community solar outreach campaign. Sustainable Jersey's Municipally Supported Community Solar action provides additional details.
2. Decide if the Borough will work to promote one or more specific projects or conduct a more general outreach and education campaign.
3. Develop relevant and up-to-date outreach materials to distribute. If the Borough selects specific projects, the subscriber organization may have outreach materials to help the campaign. The New Jersey Community Solar Project Finder is an outreach tool that features all the community solar projects.
4. Create an outreach campaign plan:
  - a. List existing community events that Community Solar outreach could be included in.
  - b. Consider social media and other outreach channels.
  - c. Identify outreach partners, like community organizations and business organizations.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** N/A

### **STRATEGY 3: MAXIMIZE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION AND REDUCE PEAK DEMAND**

#### **3.1 Upgrade Energy Efficiency for Municipal Facilities**

**Initiative Summary:** Upgrade municipal facilities to be more energy efficient. New Jersey's Clean Energy Program and electric and natural gas utilities offer incentive programs that guide municipalities through the upgrade process, starting with free audits to establish the most effective measures to reduce energy use. Following implementation, showcase upgrades in energy efficiency outreach to local commercial entities.

**Priority:** High

**Initiative Lead:** Department of Planning & Development, Borough Administrator

**Departments Involved:** Department of Public Works, Police Department, Department of Finance, Public Information Officer

**Potential Stakeholders:** Sustainable New Providence

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** Ongoing / Ongoing

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** TBD / NJ Clean Energy Program

1. Local Government Energy Audit (LGEA) Program: Free energy audits to local government agencies, K-12 public schools, public agencies, state colleges and universities, and 501 (c)3 non-profit agencies. The audit provides a list of recommendations, which include cost-justified measures that can be implemented.
2. [New Jersey Green Bank Financing](#): Debt financing for building retrofits and new net-zero building construction.
3. Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP): Provides government entities with a performance contract that finances improvements through future savings for little to no cost.

**Next Steps:**

1. The Borough is replacing two municipal buildings, the Police Department and Department of Public Works, in the next 3 years, providing opportunities for energy efficiency.
2. Prepare and submit application(s) for NJ Clean Energy Program's [Local Government Energy Audit \(LGEA\) program](#) and similar programs that offer free energy audits as well as subsidies for energy efficiency upgrades.
3. Schedule Borough, fire department, and other applicable buildings for energy efficiency audits.
4. Schedule meetings with appropriate department leads to determine and prioritize building energy efficiency upgrade needs.
5. Prepare a spending plan for upgrades, factoring in any financial grants.
6. Pursue energy efficiency upgrades in order of priority/audit results.
7. Work with the IT Department to track energy efficiency of upgraded buildings.
8. Publish information on the Borough website regarding upgrades and resultant improvements in energy usage and cost savings.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** Costs may provide a challenge, but there are many incentives and subsidies available.



### **3.2 Residential Energy Efficiency Outreach Campaign**

**Initiative Summary:** Implement an outreach effort to help residents take advantage of energy efficiency incentive programs offered by New Jersey's electric and natural gas utilities, including Home Performance with ENERGY STAR and Comfort Partners.

**Priority:** High

**Initiative Lead:** Public Information Officer

**Departments Involved:** Department of Planning & Development, Borough Administrator, Department of Community Activities/Recreation

**Potential Stakeholders:** Sustainable New Providence, Borough School District

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** 2027 / 10-12 months

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** N/A

**Next Steps:**

1. Create an outreach page on the Borough website specifically dedicated to residential energy efficiency information; highlight programs/incentives offered by New Jersey's Clean Energy Program (NJCEP), JCP&L, and [New Jersey Comfort Partners](#) (for income-eligible customers).
2. Develop outreach plan, (a) specifying a scheduled series of informational workshops and events and (b) identifying outreach partners, such as Sustainable New Providence, Community Celebrations Committee, school district, sports teams, and faith-based organizations.
3. Initiate contact and work with identified outreach partners to disperse information about energy efficiency programs and workshops.
4. Share program information across social media platforms, newsletters, etc.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** N/A

### **3.3 Commercial Energy Efficiency Outreach Campaign**

**Initiative Summary:** Implement an outreach effort to help local businesses take advantage of energy efficiency incentive programs offered by New Jersey's electric and natural gas utilities, including the Direct Install program.

**Priority:** Medium

**Initiative Lead:** Public Information Officer

**Departments Involved:** Department of Planning & Development, Borough Administrator, Department of Community Activities/Recreation

**Potential Stakeholders:** Sustainable New Providence, Local Business Association, Borough School District

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** 2028 / 10-12 months

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** N/A

1. Utility-Run Programs can be utilized by businesses to replace outdated equipment with energy-efficient options.
  - a. PSE&G offers prescriptive and custom programs to provide incentives for purchasing and installing energy-efficient equipment (including rebates and interest-free repayment options)
  - b. The PSE&G Direct Install program provides free energy assessments to small and mid-sized businesses with a detailed cost estimate for changes that could help reduce energy use. They then offer coverage of up-front costs and interest-free repayment options to complete improvements.
  - c. The JCP&L Direct Install Program provides businesses with energy advisors who assess energy-saving upgrade options. They also provide incentives to help cover installation costs and have financing options for qualifying customers.
2. [Garden State Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program \(C-PACE\)](#): Tool to help commercial property owners access financing for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects on their buildings.

**Next Steps:**

1. Identify and meet with JCP&L representatives and become familiar with incentive programs offered for commercial buildings.
2. Develop an outreach strategy and schedule of workshops/events (such as breakfast with the Mayor) regarding commercial building energy efficiency
3. Utilize the existing Green Business Recognition Program to recognize businesses that participate in programs.
4. Compile a list of local businesses and commercial developers to target with outreach and education.

5. Compose a letter from/signed by the Mayor on Borough letterhead promoting Direct Install, other incentives for commercial buildings, the Green Business Recognition Program, and a schedule of workshops; mail out to identified businesses
6. Work with JCP&L representatives to conduct follow-ups to businesses and to track participation rates.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** N/A

### **3.4 Conduct Energy Efficiency Outreach to Large Energy Users**

**Initiative Summary:** Contact large energy users in the community to prompt interest in managing energy use, including participating in utility commercial energy efficiency incentive programs like Engineered Solutions and PJM's Demand Response [program](#).

**Priority:** Low

**Initiative Lead:** Public Information Officer

**Departments Involved:** Department of Planning & Development, Business Administrator, Department of Community Activities/Recreation

**Potential Stakeholders:** Local businesses

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** 2029 / 10-12 months

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** N/A

1. PSE&G offers prescriptive and custom programs to provide incentives for purchasing and installing energy-efficient equipment (including rebates and interest-free repayment options)
  - a. PSE&G's Energy Management Program provides free energy audits to identify building operation improvements and incentive options to improve energy efficiency for building equipment. Several pathways are available for different types of facilities, including:
    - i. Strategic Energy Management Program (SEM) for large industrial and manufacturing facilities
    - ii. Retro-Commissioning Program (RCx) for improvement of HVAC systems
    - iii. Building Operations Program for optimization of existing equipment in midsize commercial and industrial facilities.

- iv. Building Operator Certification Programs are available to train building engineers and maintenance personnel on making buildings more efficient.
- b. [PSE&G's Engineered Solutions Program](#) provides guidance, customizable solutions, and financial incentives for institutions, school districts, municipalities, multifamily apartment buildings, and other large commercial and industrial entities.

**Next Steps:**

1. Identify and meet with JCP&L representatives and become familiar with incentive programs offered for commercial buildings; identify the largest commercial energy users in the Borough.
2. Continue the Green Business Recognition Program to recognize businesses that participate in programs.
3. Schedule a welcome event for targeted businesses.
4. Compose a letter from/signed by the Mayor on Borough letterhead, inviting business representative(s) to the welcome event and promoting energy efficiency incentives and green business recognition program; mail out to identified businesses.
5. Work with the PSE&G representative to conduct follow-ups to businesses (follow-ups should be led by the representative) and to track participation rates.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** Identifying the largest commercial energy consumers in the Borough may pose a challenge, depending on the information that the utility can release to the Borough. The Borough may need to obtain information from NJBPU.

**STRATEGY 4: REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND EMISSIONS FROM THE BUILDING SECTOR****4.1 Implement a Green Building Policy**

**Initiative Summary:** Implement a policy encouraging or requiring consideration of green building practices for any new municipal construction project.

**Priority:** High

**Initiative Lead:** Department of Planning & Development, Borough Administrator

**Departments Involved:** Department of Finance, Department of Community Activities/Recreation,

**Potential Stakeholders:** Sustainable New Providence, Green Building consultant, Rutgers University Center for Green Building

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** 2027 / 10-12 months

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** N/A

**Next Steps:**

1. Adopt a Green Building policy through resolution. See the Sustainable Jersey "Green Building Policy/Resolution" action in the resources section for sample Green Building Policy templates.
2. Make the Green Building policy public, sharing it with appropriate departments and posting it to the website.
3. Follow municipal procedures to adopt the green building policy.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** N/A

#### **4.2 Construct New Municipal Buildings as Model Green Buildings**

**Initiative Summary:** Utilize the municipality's Green Building Policy to construct new municipal buildings according to LEED Standards. Following construction, showcase green building features with on-site kiosks and digital webpages to encourage others to follow suit.

The Borough is replacing the Police Department and Department of Public Works buildings; this presents a strong opportunity to rebuild it as a sustainable green building to the maximum extent practicable. Additional chances to develop green buildings should be reviewed periodically.

**Priority:** High

**Initiative Lead:** Borough Administrator, Department of Planning & Development

**Departments Involved:** Department of Finance, Department of Community Activities/Recreation, Department of Public Works, Fire Department, Police Department

**Potential Stakeholders:** Green Building consultant, Rutgers University Center for Green Building,

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** 2026 / 1-3 years

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** \$4-10 million / Capital Improvements Budget

**Next Steps:**

1. The Police Department and Department of Public Works buildings will be replaced over the next 1-3 years. The Police Department design is complete and the DPW plans are underway. Green building practices should be explored.
2. Prepare an inventory of all Borough buildings, including information such as: year constructed; primary use(s)/department; previous improvements; annual maintenance costs; indication of whether the building has participated in energy efficiency programs and/or utilizes renewable energy; annual energy costs. (conduct energy audits, if necessary)
3. Meet with a representative from each Borough facility and develop list of building improvement/upgrade needs.
4. Develop a points-based ranking system to prioritize the order of building replacement; create a "wait list".
5. As buildings require significant upgrades, consider replacement with new construction; if determined to be the right timing, pursue new construction with green building design elements.
6. Issue RFP/hire a consultant to lead the design/construction process.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** Timing and need should be considered; because of the cost and resources required, this initiative should be implemented only when building replacements are needed, not sooner.

#### 4.3 Encourage Benchmarking and Commissioning for Existing Buildings

**Initiative Summary:** Educate local building managers about benchmarking and commissioning. Inform building managers of utility building management programs that include benchmarking and/or commissioning.

**Priority:** Low

**Initiative Lead:** Department of Planning & Development

**Departments Involved:** Public Information Officer, Borough Administrator

**Potential Stakeholders:** Local businesses

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** 2028 / 10-12 months

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** N/A

**Next Steps:**

1. Develop an informational packet regarding building benchmarking and commissioning; post to the Borough website.
2. Develop an outreach strategy and schedule of workshops/events regarding building benchmarking and commissioning.
3. Compile a list of local businesses to target with outreach and education.
4. Compose a letter from and signed by the Mayor on Borough letterhead promoting building benchmarking and commissioning, and a schedule of workshops; mail out to identified businesses.
5. Conduct follow-ups with businesses and track participation.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** N/A

**4.5 New Construction in the Community**

**Initiative Summary:** Reach out to developers to encourage participation in NJCEP's New Construction Energy Efficiency incentive programs.

**Priority:** Low

**Initiative Lead:** Department of Planning & Development

**Departments Involved:** Public Information Officer, Borough Administrator

**Potential Stakeholders:** Builders' trade associations, Building architects and developers, Local businesses, Sustainable New Providence

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** 2028 / 10-12 months

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** N/A

**Next Steps:**

1. Develop an informational packet regarding NJCEP's New Construction Energy Efficiency incentive programs; post to the Borough website.
2. Develop outreach strategy and schedule of workshops/events regarding new construction incentive programs.
3. Compile a list of local developers of new/proposed construction to target with outreach and education.

4. Compose a letter from and signed by the Mayor on Borough letterhead promoting incentive programs and workshops/events; mail out to identified developers.
5. Conduct follow-ups with developers and track participation.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** N/A

**STRATEGY 6: SUPPORT COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANNING AND ACTION WITH AN EMPHASIS ON ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING PARTICIPATION BY LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES**

**6.1 Make Community Energy Planning Inclusive**

**Initiative Summary:** Ensure low- and moderate-income residents are represented in energy planning processes, both on the core planning team and among those contributing via public comment. Methods include scheduling meetings at convenient times (varying meeting times if needed), engaging with community organizations that can bring in underrepresented voices, and advertising planning meetings in appropriate media.

**Priority:** High

**Initiative Lead:** Department of Planning & Development

**Departments Involved:** Public Information Officer, Borough Administrator, Department of Community Activities/Recreation

**Potential Stakeholders:** Sustainable New Providence

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** Ongoing / Ongoing

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** N/A

**Next Steps:**

1. Release call for resident volunteers to serve on planning team, prioritizing low- to moderate-income residents; develop planning team combining municipal employees and resident volunteers.
2. Issue and review survey results regarding resident participation and availability; conduct additional research at community events, via digital communications, etc.
3. Work with identified community partners (meeting hosts, school district, faith-based organization, etc.) to promote engagement opportunities, conduct surveys, and recruit volunteers as needed.



**Obstacles / Barriers:** To equitably accommodate as many residents as possible, it will be important to understand when residents are available and in which media they prefer to participate. Future work may be needed to develop a comprehensive understanding of the community's scheduling needs, with a particular focus on low- and moderate-income households. The Borough might also consider providing transportation to/from meetings for residents without reliable access to transportation.

## **6.2 Conduct Energy Efficiency Outreach to Low- and Moderate-Income Residents**

**Initiative Summary:** Promote state and utility energy efficiency programs for low- and moderate-income residents using community-serving institutions as messengers, using non-English promotional materials where appropriate, and emphasizing co-benefits of energy efficiency upgrades (health, safety, and comfort).

**Priority:** High

**Initiative Lead:** Public Information Officer

**Departments Involved:** Department of Planning & Development, Borough Administrator, Department of Community Activities/Recreation

**Potential Stakeholders:** New Providence School District, CGP&H (Borough Administrative Agent), Faith-based organizations, Civic organizations, Affordable housing owners and managers

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** 2027 / Ongoing

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** N/A

1. M-RISE Grant Program: grants fund energy efficiency and electrification programs for LMI communities.

### **Next Steps:**

1. Compile information regarding (a) JCP&L, discounts, and home energy assessments and (b) New Jersey Comfort Partners Program; prepare information packet on these programs, benefits of energy efficiency, and dates of Borough workshops and/or assistance regarding these programs.
2. Identify organizations in the Borough that serve low- and moderate-income residents; compile a list.

3. Schedule meetings with representatives from identified organizations; distribute informational packets and request assistance in dispersing information to low- and moderate-income residents served by these organizations.
4. Distribute informational packet digitally on website and social media.
5. Host workshops and/or provide assistance to residents wishing to apply for programs.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** N/A

#### **6.4 Support Low- and Moderate-Income Community Solar Subscriptions**

**Initiative Summary:** As a partner in a community solar project, implement a policy that reserves some project capacity for LMI residents and/or a discount for LMI subscribers to the project.

**Priority:** High

**Initiative Lead:** Department of Planning & Development, Borough Administrator

**Departments Involved:** Public Information Officer, Borough Administrator, Department of Community Activities/Recreation

**Potential Stakeholders:** New Providence School District, Community solar developer(s), Faith-based organizations, Civic organizations, Affordable housing owners and managers

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** 2028 / 6-8 months

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** N/A **Next Steps:**

1. Utilizing the [New Jersey Community Solar Project Finder](#), identify local solar developers; create a list.
2. Conduct outreach to developers and schedule meetings with any of those in the process of developing new community solar projects that will serve the Borough, with the intention to discuss being a municipal partner (project supporter or site host).
3. Negotiate conditions of partnership to include requirements that benefit low- and moderate-income residents, such as: reserve 51% of the community solar project capacity for low- and moderate-income residents; offer discounted subscription prices (15% off or more) for low and moderate-income residents; and/or offer low-and moderate-income contracts that are shorter in length/will not incur penalties and will not increase in cost throughout the contract.
4. Finalize contract and provide support to the developer throughout the site plan/permitting process.

5. Develop outreach/marketing campaign including paper media, digital media, and outreach at community events and via organizations that serve low- and moderate-income residents.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** N/A

### **6.5 Conduct Energy Efficiency Outreach to Community-Serving Institutions**

**Initiative Summary:** Reach out to limited-capacity entities that serve low- and moderate-income communities to encourage participation in state and utility energy efficiency programs. Outreach strategies include messaging indirect benefits of energy efficiency to organizational mission and segmenting outreach to different types of organization with different needs.

**Priority:** Medium

**Initiative Lead:** Public Information Officer, Borough Administrator

**Departments Involved:** Department of Community Activities/Recreation

**Potential Stakeholders:** Sustainable New Providence, Affordable housing owners and managers, Health clinics, Faith-based organizations, Civic organizations

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** 2028 / 4-6 months

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** N/A

**Next Steps:**

1. Create a list of identified organizations in New Providence with limited capacities that serve the community.
2. Develop an informational packet regarding state and JCP&L energy efficiency programs and incentives, energy efficiency benefits, and cost savings, etc. Schedule a list of informational/technical assistance workshops; include these dates in the packet.
3. Conduct outreach to identified organizations and send an informational packet.
4. Perform periodic follow-ups with organizations to offer assistance/provide information.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** If there are community-serving organizations in New Providence, the Borough may also look to support such organizations in neighboring municipalities with overlapping constituencies.

## STRATEGY 7: EXPAND THE CLEAN ENERGY INNOVATION ECONOMY

### 7.1 Adopt Energy Storage Policies

**Initiative Summary:** Adopt standards and establish requirements for permitting battery energy storage systems. Post information about energy storage regulations on the municipal website and ensure that appropriate municipal staff are informed.

**Priority:** Low

**Initiative Lead:** Department of Planning & Development

**Departments Involved:** Public Information Officer, Borough Administrator

**Potential Stakeholders:** Electric utility, Large energy users

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** 2029 / 2 years

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:** \$30,000-\$60,000 / NJBPU Grants

**Next Steps:**

1. Utilizing NYSERDA's "New York Battery Energy Storage System Guidebook for Local Governments - Model Law" document as a reference, draft language permitting battery energy storage systems within the code. Specifically, this should specify the applicable standards and requirements.
2. Adopt a modified model ordinance.
3. Update appropriate chapters within the Borough code to reflect the standards of the newly adopted ordinance.
4. Post standards and requirements on website; conduct outreach to local developers.
5. Circulate information internally amongst municipal employees; host department meetings, ensuring all relevant employees are aware.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** A model ordinance for New Jersey has not been released; the closest reference is NYSERDA's model law, which can serve as a foundation but will need careful review to ensure alignment with NJ law.

### 7.3 Develop a local microgrid

**Initiative Summary:** Participate in development of a microgrid. Microgrid development generally starts with a feasibility study, followed by project design, then project implementation. Following

construction, showcase the project with on-site kiosks, a municipal webpage, and/or ribbon-cutting event.

**Priority:** Low

**Initiative Lead:** Department of Planning & Development

**Departments Involved:** Borough Administrator, Public Information Officer, Department of Public Works

**Potential Stakeholders:** Electric utility, Local Business Association

**Planned Start Date / Initiative Length:** 2028 / 3-5 Years

**Anticipated Costs / Funding Sources:**

1. [Community Energy Plan Implementation Grant Program](#)
2. [New Jersey Green Bank Financing](#): Debt financing for renewable energy generation and electric battery storage

**Next Steps:**

1. Identify interested partners. The feasibility study in step 2 will evaluate the viability of each prospective project partner based on site conditions and other elements.
2. Contract with a consultant to complete a feasibility study.
3. Complete necessary permitting and authorization for the project.
4. Procure contractors for project design, then construction.
5. Once complete, showcase the project with on-site kiosks, a Borough webpage, and/or a ribbon-cutting event.
6. Identify funding opportunities and apply for incentives.

**Obstacles / Barriers:** This is a costly and time-consuming endeavor that may take longer than anticipated. Uncertainty around funding is another barrier.