



From stream cleanups, to tree plantings, Shred Day Assistance, a Rain Barrel Workshop, Green Roof Tour, Trunk or Treat, & Restaurant Week, the EGT is involved in Ewing!



Ewing Township Green Team 2024 Annual Sustainability Report

Ewing Township, NJ
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John Bennett, Staff Rep.; David Schroth, Council Rep.; Aaron T. Watson, Admin
Rep.



Green Team Vision Statement and 2025 Summary

The Ewing Green Team envisions a Ewing Township that incorporates sustainability into the actions and decision-making processes of community members and municipal offices. Ewing will be a community that leads in efforts to: create and maintain sustainable ways of living; build strong and diverse economic opportunities; and welcome people from all walks of life.

Summary

We tender this Annual Sustainability Report as our primary means of reporting on the Ewing Green Team's sustainability activities over the past year and in pursuit of our Sustainable Jersey Certification in 2025.

First established by resolution in 2009, the Sustainable Ewing Green Team has successfully maintained a strong and committed presence in the township since that time. While leading on sustainability actions, as well as education and outreach, the Green Team has successfully led the township in the following Sustainable Jersey awards and certifications:

- 2013: Bronze Certification, 14 actions for 185 points across 8 categories
- 2016: Silver Certification, 36 actions for 460 points across 14 categories
- 2016: Sustainability Champion Award for Medium Size (5,000 - 39,999) Municipalities. (The award is for receiving the highest number of points in this population category)
- 2019: Silver Certification, 45 actions for 510 points across 16 categories
- 2022: Silver Certification, 43 actions for 465 points across 16 categories

Sustainable Jersey recognition revolves around a 3-year cycle, and Green Team leadership determined to take 2024 to reenergize the team with a year of learning and rebuilding while preparing for recertification in 2025. Educational seminars were offered during monthly meetings and team members were encouraged to take advantage of webinars offered by organizations like ANJEC, the Forest Service, and the Watershed Institute, while maintaining our regular activities such as Shred Days, clean-ups, and the Ewing Fall Spring Bike Ride, and more...

We would like to note that the loss of the Senior and Community Center in the fall of 2022 to fire and water damage has been most impactful to EGT operations. This was where we met, stored materials, and held events. Fortunately, the community center at Hollowbrook has been a dependable back up and Ewing's Recreation Department has done a great job juggling all the Ewing groups that need a meeting space. But this new reality has certainly affected our Green Team members, our dynamics, and our actions. We are excited to see that the groundbreaking for the new center is now scheduled.

We extend our thanks to Mayor Bert Steinmann and Township Business Administrator Aaron T. Watson who have been key partners in helping us attain our goals, and Township Council for their unfailing support. We would also like to recognize in particular, Recreation Director Ted Forst and Director of Public Works, Ryan Rollero, who regularly partner with us on important projects.

February 2025

In 2024, for the third year running, the Green Team participated in the NJ Salt Watch. We selected 2 local sites in Ewing for our stream salt testing: behind the Hollowbrook Community Center at 320 Hollowbrook Drive, and the other along the D&R canal on Lower Ferry Road. Our goal was to collect a water sample from each site before and after a snow or bad weather event. Test results were entered into the NJ Watershed Watch Network by Green Team volunteers Joanne Mullowney, Mark Wetherbee, Karen Kissel, Evan Crumiller, and John Bennett. We tried to collect before and after rain/snow events and did a final collection in April.

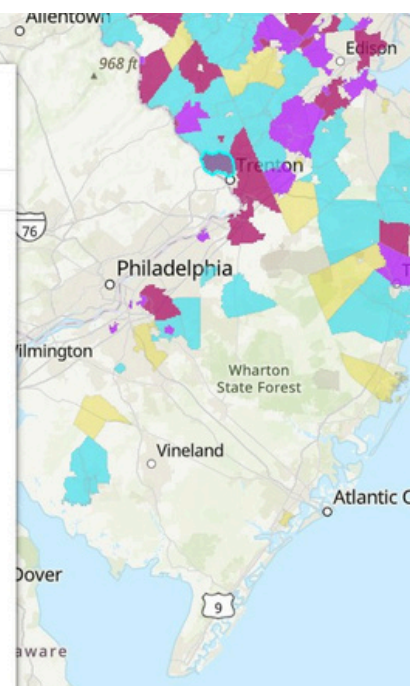
The NJ Salt Watch data was collected in 152 municipalities and the results for Ewing from the Assessment of 2020 – 2023 Data show a Salt Watch Chloride Assessment of “high.”

To merit such an assessment municipalities needed at least two chloride measurements above the Surface Water Quality Standard of 230 mg/l (also called an "exceedance"). See the monitoring from the downloaded Excel data.

The Team is continuing its participation in the study for the winter of 2025, and we are monitoring 5 sites.



Salt Watch Municipal Assessment: Ewing Township	
Zoom to	
Municipality	Ewing Township
County	MERCER
Salt Watch Chloride Assessment	High
Mean Chloride Reading (ppm)	112.1
Median Chloride Reading (ppm)	81
Maximum Chloride Reading (ppm)	592
Minimum Chloride Reading (ppm)	0
Number of Measurements	34
Mean Chloride Score	2.1



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Date	Weather	Longitude	Latitude	Waterbody	Chloride Reading (ppm)	Chloride Category	Chloride Score	Comments	Location Description	Municipality
2	1/28/2022	Snow	-74.81906417	40.24487066	drcanalewing	32	Low (50 and below)	1		Lower Ferry Road by the bridge going over the canal.	Ewing Twp
3	2/16/2022	Snow	-74.8189192	40.24488159	drcanalewing	32	Low (50 and below)	1		Lower Ferry road, River Road, Ewing, NJ	Ewing Twp
4	2/19/2022	Rain	-74.81936539	40.24497	drcanalewing	61	Moderate (Above 50)	2		Canal By NJM	Ewing Twp
5	3/17/2022	Rain	-74.81906417	40.24487066	drcanalewing	0	Low (50 and below)	1	This measurement was taken as part of the Ewing Green Team effort.	Lower Ferry Road. Canal crosses under bridge. Golf course on one side, NJM up the road. Measurement taken on canal side, opposite golf course side.	Ewing Twp
6	1/16/2023	Dry	-74.81902323	40.24486719	drcanalewing	0	Low (50 and below)	1	48" and sunny. End of first period of three days without rain in quite some time.	right sat the bridge over the canal on Lower Ferry Road in Ewing	Ewing Twp
7	1/24/2023	Rain	-74.81903174	40.24478581	drcanalewing	0	Low (50 and below)	1		Lower Ferry Road, Ewing, NJ near The Trenton Country Club and NJM Insurance Co.	Ewing Twp
8	1/28/2023	Rain	-74.81906682	40.24480725	drcanalewing	31	Low (50 and below)	1		Lower Ferry Road new Route 29	Ewing Twp
9	1/28/2023	Rain	-74.81905477	40.24481684	drcanalewing	31	Low (50 and below)	1	I already submitted this, but accidentally as myself (Evan Crumiller) instead of the Ewing Green Team.	Lower Ferry Road near Route 29	Ewing Twp
10	3/10/2023	Dry	-74.81902167	40.24493809	drcanalewing	31	Low (50 and below)	1		near bridge over canal on Lower Ferry Road in Ewing	Ewing Twp
11	3/17/2023	Dry	-74.8194941	40.24503103	drcanalewing	31	Low (50 and below)	1		Lower Ferry Road in Ewing near the little bridge going over the canal.	Ewing Twp
12	4/12/2023	Dry	-74.81914636	40.24470933	drcanalewing	0	Low (50 and below)	1	Beautiful sunny breezy evening		Ewing Twp
13	3/23/2022	NA	-74.83227559	40.25170824	drcanalewing	32	Low (50 and below)	1	I was not able to get to exactly the same location on the Canal as the road was closed. I went down to the next closest street.	Wilburtha Road	Ewing Twp
14	2/19/2022	Rain	-74.7695871	40.26502706	hollowbrook	337	High (230 and above)	4		Hollowbrook Community Center	Ewing Twp
15	3/23/2022	NA	-74.77021438	40.26566609	shabakunkcreek	237	High (230 and above)	4		320 Hollowbrook Road Ewing	Ewing Twp
16	1/16/2023	Dry	-74.77019267	40.26566248	shabakunkcreek	81	Moderate (Above 50)	2	Mistakenly did not take photo with whole chart so I added it in with photo editing software.	Behind the Hollowbrook Community Center, 320 Hollowbrook Road	Ewing Twp
17	1/28/2023	Rain	-74.7698867	40.26543835	shabakunkcreek	64	Moderate (Above 50)	2	48" and sunny. First time we had a dry period of 3 days running to start of the data collection.	Behind Hollowbrook Community Center	Ewing Twp
18	3/10/2023	Dry	-74.77021438	40.26566609	shabakunkcreek	81	Moderate (Above 50)	2		320 Hollowbrook Road, Ewing, NJ	Ewing Twp
19	4/12/2023	Dry	-74.7699598	40.26548723	shabakunkcreek	81	Moderate (Above 50)	2		Behind the Hollowbrook Center at the outfall of the driveway drainage swale	Ewing Twp
20	2/16/2022	Snow	-74.7708287	40.26666032	shabakunkcreek	361	High (230 and above)	4		Hollowbrook Dr. and Green Lane, Ewing, NJ	Ewing Twp
21	1/24/2023	Rain	-74.7708042	40.26663359	shabakunkcreek	37	Low (50 and below)	1		Green Lane and Hollowbrook Drive Near TCNJ	Ewing Twp
22	3/1/2022	Dry	-74.7940265	40.26391835	shabakunkcreekwestbr	175	Elevated (Above 100)	3	I will include a photo of the stream site during my next submission.	Where the creek passes under Lower Ferry Road (between Theresa St and Terrace Blvd)	Ewing Twp
23	3/2/2022	Dry	-74.79401308	40.26391487	shabakunkcreekwestbr	134	Elevated (Above 100)	3		Water sample collected where the creek passes under Lower Ferry Road (between Theresa St and Terrace Blvd)	Ewing Twp
24	3/6/2022	Rain	-74.79402918	40.26392811	shabakunkcreekwestbr	100	Moderate (Above 50)	2		Where Lower Ferry Rd crosses over the creek (between Theresa St and Terrace Blvd)	Ewing Twp
25	3/9/2022	Rain	-74.79403186	40.26391426	shabakunkcreekwestbr	80	Moderate (Above 50)	2		Sample taken where Lower Ferry Road passes over the creek (between Theresa St and Terrace Blvd)	Ewing Twp
26	3/12/2022	Rain	-74.79402542	40.26391883	shabakunkcreekwestbr	340	High (230 and above)	4		Water sample taken where the creek passes under Lower Ferry Road (between Theresa and Terrace)	Ewing Twp
27	3/17/2022	Rain	-74.79402333	40.26391087	shabakunkcreekwestbr	592	High (230 and above)	4	There was significant salt on the local roads following the March 12th storm.	Water sample collected where Lower Ferry Road passes over the creek (between Theresa St and Terrace Blvd).	Ewing Twp
28	2/14/2023	Rain	-74.79399163	40.26389277	shabakunkcreekwestbr	112	Elevated (Above 100)	3		Lower Ferry Road, between Theresa St and Terrace Blvd	Ewing Twp
29	2/18/2023	Rain	-74.79389507	40.26390969	shabakunkcreekwestbr	81	Moderate (Above 50)	2	I wish I was able to check the pH of the water following the Feb 15-16th rain. Very curious to know if there was any impact from the Ohio train derailment.	Lower Ferry Road, between Theresa St and Terrace Blvd	Ewing Twp
30	2/28/2023	Rain	-74.79399163	40.26392552	shabakunkcreekwestbr	136	Elevated (Above 100)	3	Brine was applied to Lower Ferry Road on Sunday, February 26th.	Lower Ferry Road between Theresa St and Terrace Blvd	Ewing Twp
31	3/9/2023	Dry	-74.7940265	40.26390873	shabakunkcreekwestbr	91	Moderate (Above 50)	2	I was pleasantly surprised to encounter a pair of mallard ducks in the stream as I collected the water sample. They can just been seen in the waterbody photo.	Lower Ferry Road, between Theresa St and Terrace Blvd	Ewing Twp
32	3/11/2023	Rain	-74.79399163	40.26392552	shabakunkcreekwestbr	91	Moderate (Above 50)	2		Lower Ferry Road, between Theresa St and Terrace Blvd	Ewing Twp
33	3/24/2023	Rain	-74.79394871	40.26389277	shabakunkcreekwestbr	91	Moderate (Above 50)	2		Lower Ferry Rd, between Theresa St and Terrace Blvd	Ewing Twp
34	1/28/2022	Snow	-74.77039892	40.26574162	shabakunkcreekwestbr	147	Elevated (Above 100)	3		Hollowbrook Drive in Ewing at the Hollowbrook Community Center (left parking lot)	Ewing Twp
35	3/17/2023	Dry	-74.77011401	40.2655548	shabakunkcreekwestbr	81	Moderate (Above 50)	2		320 Hollowbrook Drive, Ewing, NJ 08638	Ewing Twp

For easier viewing go to:

<https://ewinggreenteam.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/salt-watch-data-tables-2020-2023-ewing-onlyprintable.pdf>

As part of our effort to better inform ourselves and local citizens about stormwater requirements, best management practices, and what we can do to better address Ewing water quality, we hosted a guest speaker from The Watershed Institute, Susan Bristol, on Feb 28th. Susan came to update the EGT and guests on stormwater policies, regulations, and groundbreaking legislation. Municipalities were required to pass an updated storm water ordinance by July. Our prior update was in 2020, but the NJDEP has updated its requirements since that time and the ordinance needs to be revisited.

As per the new NJDEP regs, all NJ municipalities are required to not only regulate the activities of developers, but to manage their own stormwater systems in such a way as not to pollute our streams. The updated Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) regulations also require an active public participation and education component in the program.

MS4 areas have their own plans which need to redefine major developments, address small developments, address redevelopment, low impact design, and incorporate water quality. The Watershed Institute offered to help with guidance and monitoring. It was an informative evening and we were grateful to The Watershed Institute for their continued support and guidance on water quality issues.

Native Plantings and Sustainable Landscaping Practices

March

On March 27th, Chair Joanne Mallowney provided a brief presentation about the need to provide a “soft landing” for insects underneath our (native) trees with information also available in a handout. The presentation was a part of a series of presentations on the critical necessity of gardening for wildlife using native plantings and sustainable gardening practices.



In summary, while mulch (properly applied) offers many benefits, far better is the practice of surrounding your trees with living plants (not lawn), a diverse native planting, a living landscape where plants grow together in communities. Coined “soft landings,” it is a strategy that mimics the way plants exist in nature. Soft landings allow a place for leaves to collect in autumn and for the small critters that make the world run to complete their life cycles in the leaf litter. Learn more at: izelplants.com/blog/soft-landings/

Annual Stream Clean Up with The Watershed Institute

April



On a cold and damp Saturday morning, April 13th, the Green Team, Environmental Commission, and The Watershed Institute partnered to perform a cleanup of the Shabakunk Creek at Ewing's Hollowbrook Community Center and its environs. This event was a part of a Stream Cleanup held every spring where volunteers from local municipalities come together to remove trash and debris from our local waterways to protect and preserve essential wildlife habitat, safeguard our water quality, help control flooding, and engage the citizenry in the beautification and care of our local environment.

This marks The Watershed's 18th annual cleanup in local watersheds and the 5th in which Ewing participated. Over the past decade, 8,700 enthusiastic volunteers have removed more than 152,000 pounds of trash from our communities.

Our haul this year totaled 1855 pounds of trash, removed by the 56 volunteers who braved the cold and drizzle. The most commonly found items included cardboard, glass bottles, and plastics. Special finds this year were air conditioner parts, a rusty bike, deer stand, lots of concrete (construction) waste, a mailbox, trash cans, a car bumper, bike crossing road sign, seed spreader, seat cushion, half of a ninja blender, a traffic cone, and chicken wire fence.

Somewhat sadly, Ewing had the highest number of pounds of trash collected for that first weekend of cleanups, but we ranked 2nd in the number of volunteers who braved the cold and rain. We thank everyone who so generously gave of their time at this event: local students, scout groups, corporate groups, families and, of course, our friends at The Watershed for organizing this once again and including us in this critical effort in watershed protection.



Restaurant Week 2024

April



Restaurant Week 2024 was held from April 13th - 21st. A mailing was sent out to local restaurants by the Township for the Green Team. An email invitation was also sent from our list of restaurants provided by the Health Department. Members also went door to door to solicit restaurant participation. This was our 3rd installment of this now annual event offering a variety of culinary options.

The event was a week-long promotion bookended by two full weekends that featured a dozen unique dining options in the community. Participants could treat themselves to breakfast out, a quick lunch, a delicious dinner dining experience, or even just enjoy a quick pick up a dessert or treat.

Restaurants offered diners a variety of discounts, from small discounts on a particular food item or a more robust pre-fixed price menu – encouraging Ewingites to 'get a taste' of what Ewing restaurants have to offer. Specials for the week and restaurant contact information were available at the bottom of the Restaurant Week page of ewingnj.org.

Arbor Day Celebration

April

The Ewing Green Team has been organizing an Arbor Day celebration every spring since 2018. Each year we partner with the Ewing Environmental Commission to purchase and donate a tree to plant in one of our local parks. Our 2024 event was on Saturday morning, April 27th. A short educational program about tree care and planting was given. About 25 people attended. The donated tree was a Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), a great native tree for wet sites. The tree was planted at Watson Park, certainly a wet site location. This was our second planting of a Black Gum at this park. Dan Burke of Rock Paper Garden and his landscaping crew planted the tree.

We also hope to plant a number of very small silky dogwoods earned by EGT members at The Watershed Stream Clean-up earlier in the month. As they are very small, they are being nurtured at home in planting containers by Joanne Mullaney until they can reach a sufficient size to plant. This planting marks the second planting at Watson Park and with the addition of a few No Net Loss trees to the Benjamin Temple House property, the allée of trees along the drive is now completed.



Shred Days 2024

May / Oct



The EGT continued its perennial participation in the Ewing Township Shred Days over the past year and its partnership with the Ewing Department of Public Works.

These days are always a great opportunity to interact with the public and promote various initiatives. This year we focused our outreach on the following topics: grasscycling and the new leaf and brush pickup guidelines.

The shred days were held in the spring and fall on two Saturdays, May 4th and Oct 12. Days were split into two shifts with each shift needing 2 people. Our thanks to those EGT members who continually volunteer.

Education and Outreach - Holistic Habitat

May

On May 27th guest speaker, Carter Allen, provided a brief overview of Holistic Habitat as it relates to the work that we do. Their mission is to provide educational home improvement to improve living conditions. They engage with the public and provide both services and education. The curriculum provides the skills for home maintenance including skills such as composting, painting and much more. Their shop is on 1515 Parkway Ave., and they are looking to expand. They offer virtual training and interact to provide basic education.

Holistic Habitat is looking at a possible collaboration with the Mercer County Home Buyers program. They don't touch anything without a licensed contractor. Carter is a contractor. They also collaborate in the community including charitable work in neighboring Trenton which helps people with lower incomes to support the community. They are looking at expanding to hopefully receive more grants. They participated in Pennington Day and all other community events, providing education outreach on fire safety and carbon monoxide poisoning.



June

Watershed Institute Green Roof Tour



The plans for the new community center at 999 Lower Ferry Road currently include a green roof. We're pleased that this 'green' option is being included but believe that a tour and presentation of the green roof at The Watershed Institute will help to educate all interested parties about pros and cons of having a green roof, particularly in regard to the maintenance requirements. Officials and staff from the Township joined the Green Team to see the rooftop garden, and rain garden on site as well, on Wednesday, June 5th.

The tour was led by Watershed Institute staff members, Olivia Spildooren and Allison Jackson who led the team to the roof in shifts and discussed the installation, getting plants established, and the maintenance. The Watershed hires a management team that specializes in green roofs to maintain it. The company comes out 3 times a year for periodic maintenance. It costs about \$1,000 for each visit. They also provide reports on the cleanups, what is doing well, what is doing too well, what could be doing better...

We learned that people think that there is no work involved in a green roof, that is not true. While a green roof saves on heating and air conditioning, and provides stormwater mitigation, professional maintenance is a necessary component of the green roof plan in order for it to succeed.

Annual Fall Spin Bike Ride *September*



This year marked the 10th annual Ewing Fall Spin; our annual community bike ride held entirely within the boundaries of Ewing Township. Once again, this was the kickoff event for Community Fest



and about 35 riders set off on a beautiful Saturday morning, September 21st for a spin around town. New this year, the event was opened to ages 16 and up.



The event was hosted by the Green Team's Bike Advocacy Group, a contingent of citizen volunteers interested in promoting a more bikeable Ewing, and the Ewing Recreation Department. It was a great Saturday morning for a bike ride. Feedback was quite favorable, and riders commented positively about the police escort, the opportunity to enjoy Ewing by bike with others, as well as the camaraderie and community spirit. This year's ride was run to support TASK, the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen. Costs were covered by the Township and all proceeds were donated.



The event concluded at the December 10, 2024 Ewing Township Council Meeting with the presentation of the event proceeds, a check in the amount of \$ \$700 to TASK representative Mitchell Mullen. Special thanks to Bike Committee Chair Garry Keel, and committee members Mark Wetherbee, Joe Mirabella, Steve Czelusniak, Bob Kirby, Pat Coleman-Boatwright, Joanne Mallowney, and Ted Forst, Ewing Recreation Director, for another fantastic event.



October

Rain Barrel Workshop



October 12th marked the date of the 2024 Rain Barrel Workshop in partnership with the Watershed Institute and AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador for our region, Mike Sherr. Registration was full up to the maximum of 20 barrels and approximately 23 people attended. We were able to offer the workshop at the bargain price of only \$25 per barrel which covered the cost of the hardware with a limit of 2 per household.

The event was a part of Ewing Township's stormwater education outreach program. The Green Team advertised and hosted it, The Watershed procured the barrels and purchased the hardware and supplies, the Ewing Department of Public

Works provided transportation for the barrels and Olivia Spildooren of The Watershed Institute and Mike Sherr, AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador, provided the technical training and instruction. Joanne Mallowney of the Green Team served as facilitator.

The event was an important learning experience for attendees which will enable them to make better stormwater management decisions on their properties. Mike talked about the importance of water conservation, reducing rainwater runoff, and the need to control water pollution, as well as giving a basic overview of our local watershed. Olivia provided the instruction and demonstration as to how to build a rain barrel. Green Team members pitched in to help attendees with the mechanics of installing the hardware and other accessories. At the end of the event, our 23 attendees were delighted to return to their homes with rain barrels in tow, prepped to better manage the stormwater roof runoff in the coming season.



Continuing Education cont'd

Oct / Dec



OEAA and FOHVOS

Also, in October we were treated to an especially informative and inspiring presentation by Jennifer Rogers, Executive Director of Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space, William Wilson, Executive Director of Outdoor Equity Alliance, and our own Aaron T. Watson, Business Administrator of Ewing Township. Aaron has an extensive relationship with both organizations from his former position as the Executive Director of the Mercer County Park Commission. He was instrumental in the founding of the Outdoor Equity Alliance and has also worked very closely with Jenn Rogers as she was the Director of Stewardship at the Mercer County Parks during his tenure. There seemed to be numerous opportunities for the Green Team to work with the folks at FOHVOS in the coming year(s).

NJ Salt Watch Overview

On December 4th, Chair Joanne Mullaney provided a brief presentation about the New Jersey Salt Watch program. She had attended the ANJEC webinar on the topic and shared information from the same in preparation for our annual participation in the program during the winter of 2024/2025.

The NJ Salt Watch program is a road salt testing program that measures salt levels in our waterways before and after weather events, helping to track the amount of salt being washed into our local waters. (See results from 2020 - 2023 above.) Our goal is to provide firsthand Ewing data from monitoring the effects of winter road salting on our freshwater streams and lakes. We are proud to be a part of the contingent of about 550 volunteers who have collected more than 3,000 chloride measurements across the state, helping to fill in gaps in our understanding of the extent of this issue.

Conclusion

We conclude with commitment to complete the actions that will contribute towards Sustainable Jersey recertification for the 2025 cycle and submit write-ups of the same by the required deadlines. It is our long-term goal to revisit our Strategic Plan with another Community Visioning once the current round of recertification has been completed.

We also look forward to continuing to grow our relationships with local and regional partners and to involve more individuals, businesses and community organizations in our sincere efforts to shape a more sustainable future for Ewing, New Jersey.



ewinggreenteam.org

Promoting People, the Planet,
and Prosperity in Ewing.