

Welcome to the 5th Annual Sustainable Raritan River Conference! Today, we celebrate the life-giving waterways of the Raritan Basin with a look back and a look ahead. We have an abundance of safe drinking water. But when will we declare the Raritan safe, healthy and clean enough for fishing and recreational swimming? How soon can we host the first Raritan River Annual Triathlon?!

The truth is, it's up to **us** to make this happen. We need to **pledge** to change our own habits, how our communities manage the environment, and change the way our businesses operate to improve water quality across the region. But we can do it!



Thanks to all the speakers and moderators today who are giving their time to this cause.

Thanks to each of you for being here. It says, "I'm part of a better future" and it means you will be working with each other to improve the condition and future protection of our natural resources.

As you go forward, there are two key guides for you to follow and use. The first is the **Raritan Basin Watershed Management Plan**, crafted in 2002 to guide the protection of our source waters and to link management practices in the lower and upper sections of the Raritan for the overall benefit of our environment and by extension, our economy. The second guide is the **Sustainable Raritan River Action Plan**, crafted in 2009 by the initial members of the Sustainable Raritan River Collaborative. We have links to both of these on our website, www.raritan.rutgers.edu so we hope you will find them easily and use them well.

We hope you will join us as we present the new **Raritan River Awards** to many amazing people who have gone the extra mile to show others what is possible.

We also know it will be a thrill for you to be on the **A.J. Meerwald, New Jersey's Tall Ship** as it sails from Perth Amboy this afternoon at 3:30. If you can't join us today, check in at the Crossroads of the American Revolution table to book passage on another day this week.

We hope you take your pledges home and bring them back to our Day Two at **Duke Farms** on Wednesday, October 16, 2013. We'll be looking for you!

Meanwhile, tune your television to **NJTV** Thursday, August 1, to see our film **Reimagining Our Watershed: A Renaissance on the Raritan**.

Watch the Sustainable Raritan River website for news of the upcoming book, **The Raritan River: Our Landscape Our Legacy**, due out from Rutgers University Press in April.

Thank our **sponsors** and everyone for continuing the dialog – the **Raritan River Collaborative** boasts over **135 partners** – (listed on the back!) and **we are making a difference!** Check out our website for the accomplishments in reaching the goals as set out in our *Raritan River Action Plan* and send us your news about events in your community or by your business so we can celebrate your success, too.

Judy

Judy Shaw, PhD, Director
The Sustainable Raritan River Initiative

Sustainable Raritan River Collaborative

Academic Partners

Rutgers Preparatory School
Rutgers E. J. Bloustein School of
Planning & Public Policy
National Center for Neighborhood and
Brownfields Redevelopment
Rutgers Center for Green Building
Rutgers School of Environmental and
Biological Sciences
Center for Urban Environmental
Sustainability
NJ Water Resources Research Institute
Rutgers Cooperative Extension
Rutgers Ecological Preserve
Rutgers Institute of Marine and Coastal
Sciences
Rutgers School of Engineering

Business Partners

American Water
Bayshore Recycling
Colgate-Palmolive
Gannett Fleming, Inc.
Great Ecology & Environments (GEE)
GreenVest, LLC
GEI Consultants
J.G. Petrucci Company, Inc.
Johnson & Johnson
Langan Engineering
Maraziti, Falcone & Healey
Middlesex Water Company
MWH Global
Pfizer
Princeton Hydro
PSE&G
Reel Therapy
Sadat & Associates
Sanofi-Aventis
Somerset County Business Partnership
Louis Berger Group, Inc.
Vertices, LLCRTICES LLC

County Partners

Hunterdon County
Mercer County
Middlesex County
Middlesex County Economic
Development
Middlesex County Improvement
Authority
Middlesex County Parks
Middlesex County Utilities Authority
Monmouth County
Morris County
Somerset County
Somerset County Parks Commission
Union County
Union County Parks

Environmental Organizations

American Littoral Society
Association of New Jersey
Environmental Commissions
Central Jersey Trout Unlimited
Conservation Foundation
Conservation Resources, Inc.
Conserve Wildlife Foundation
Duke Farms
East Coast Greenway Alliance
Edison Wetlands Association
Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance
Kingston Greenways Association
Land Conservancy of New Jersey
Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership
New Jersey Audubon Society
New York/New Jersey Baykeeper
No Water No Life
Raritan Basin Alliance
Raritan Headwaters Association
Raritan Riverkeeper
Schiff Natural Lands Trust
Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed
Association
Trust for Public Land (TPL)

Foundation Partners

Mushett Family Foundation
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
PNC Foundation
Cape Branch Foundation
J. Seward Johnson Charitable Trust
PSEG Foundation

Municipal Partners

Hunterdon County

Califon
East Amwell Twp.
Lebanon Twp.
Raritan Twp.

Mercer County

East Windsor Twp.
Hightstown Boro
Princeton

Middlesex County

Cranbury
East Brunswick
Edison
Helmetta
Highland Park
Middlesex Boro
Milltown
New Brunswick
North Brunswick Twp.
Perth Amboy
Piscataway
South Amboy
South Plainfield
Spotswood

Woodbridge

Monmouth County

Englishtown Boro.
Freehold Twp.

Morris County

Chester Boro

Somerset County

Bedminster Twp.
Bernards Twp.
Bernardsville Boro.
Bound Brook
Branchburg Twp.
Bridgewater Twp.
Franklin Twp.
Green Brook Twp.
Hillsborough Twp.
Montgomery
North Plainfield Boro.
Raritan Boro.
Somerville

Union County

Springfield Twp.

Regional Organizations

Commerce and Industry Association of
New Jersey
Crossroads of the American Revolution
Association
New Jersey Future
New Jersey League of Municipalities
Plan Smart New Jersey
Regional Plan Association
RideWise
Sourland Planning Council
Sustainable Jersey

State and Federal Partners

Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission
Federal Environmental Management
Agency
Green Brook Flood Control Commission
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
National Park Service
Natural Resources Conservation
Service(NRCS)
NJ Department of Environmental
Protection
NJ Water Supply Authority Watershed
Protection Programs Division
Stony Brook Regional Sewerage
Authority
US Army Corps of Engineers
US Environmental Protection Agency
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Geological Survey
Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage
Authority