

# Livingston Township

## Situation



The Township of Livingston is a dynamic suburban community located in the southwestern part of Essex County. With over 27,000 residents in 2000 and a 2007 Census Bureau estimate of 28,413, Livingston has maintained itself as a vibrant, predominantly single family, residential community of approximately 14 square miles with limited businesses, light industry, businesses, and some office properties. Livingston is part of the New York metropolitan area and is considered completely developed. It is

a popular destination for people to satisfy their professional, leisure, and commercial needs. The town has blue ribbon public schools and a new state-of-the-art public library with community facilities. The Township of Livingston is committed to the growth of an economically and socially sustainable community, and to developing strategies that will reduce our impact on the environment both collectively and individually. Livingston is a Sustainable Jersey Bronze Certified municipality, also known for having many volunteers who actively participate in its Green Initiatives including Electronic Recycling & Paper Shredding Days, Health Fairs, and Composting Workshops. The municipality has been participating in water conservation for over twenty years including adopting an ordinance restricting watering of lawns year round.

The Township of Livingston's water supply is derived from a blend of production wells within the township and bulk water supplies purchased from New Jersey American Water (NJAW). Twelve production wells are owned and operated by the township. Water purchased from NJAW is a blend of sources that includes groundwater from the Brunswick Shales, the Buried Valley Aquifer and the Gneiss Rock Formation, and surface water from the Canoe Brook Reservoirs, Passaic River, Raritan River, and Wanaque Reservoir. The township also has metered interconnections with the City of East Orange for emergency use. A few years ago Livingston invested in a radio and computerized Leak Detection System.

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## Action

New Jersey Water Savers implemented the following efforts in Livingston Township over the last three years:

### *Demonstration projects*

- Monmouth Court Alternative High School Retrofit
- Rain Garden at the Livingston Township Library
- Developed a demonstration project plan for Heritage Middle School

### *Outreach efforts*

- Build a Rain Garden Program
- Fix a Leak Week
- Smart Irrigation Month
- Build Your Own Rain Barrel Program
- National Night Out
- Eco Art Festival

## Impact

Over the last three years, New Jersey Water Savers successfully developed and implemented programs that have been designed to encourage local stakeholders to change their behavior, ultimately saving water. Over the next two years, the project partners will expand this effort and use the information and knowledge that was gained from the first project and develop tools that can be used by municipalities throughout the state to conserve drinking water.

## New Jersey Water Savers Partnership

New Jersey Water Savers is a partnership between the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. This partnership was created to provide leadership to promote water conservation throughout New Jersey. For more information on our partnership efforts, visit us at [www.water.rutgers.edu](http://www.water.rutgers.edu).

