

Township of Union Application for Certification

Diversity & Equity

Action: Diversity on Boards & Commissions – 10 points

The Green Team formed a sub-committee to assess and report (a first on record) the diversity within the appointed boards and or commissions of the Township of Union. The intent is to render a value on the actual appointment, rather of assumptions, and propose changes, suggestions and recommendations to form a more transparent, diverse and inclusive municipal government, supporting social equality and diversity. The revised Green team, which is reflected on the 2017 ordinance, reflects the many faces of our Township, ensuring the masses are represented in a fair and deserving manner.

Health & Wellness

Action: Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement Program

The Township of Union is a NJDEP Certified Facility – In past years the Township was certified by Foley, Inc with the compliance of emission conversion kits for the diesel emission. Two (2) Re-Gen unites were installed and are active with minimizing diesel emission with the trucks.

Expanded Stop the Soot Areas – Expansion of the Township diesel emission prevention zone was enacted. This was a primarily volunteer expansion by our corporate neighbors. Our GT representative and officials presented the corporate sponsors with supportive information and they all volunteer the adoption of Diesel Emission prevention.

Expansion Program – The Department of Public Works took the lead with assuring that the program continues to evolve and includes fumes. All municipal pumps have been checked by a licensed environmental engineering firm to assure compliance as well as preventing fuel fume pollution at refueling stations.

Action: Building Healthier Communities

The Township of Union continually works on building a healthier community by initiating and hosting many events targeting all residents that make up the demographic of the Township. The force behind these events is the Township Committee as well as the Township's Wellness Committee. In addition, the Township JIF also provides a wellness coach who engages all Township Department's personnel periodically. Services provided include blood pressure monitoring and answers to any health or wellness related questions. The Senior Center also provides information and services to the seniors of town at our Senior Center facility.

Action: Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Public Places

The Township of Union passed an ordinance on June 23, 2015 that bans smoking within 25 feet or any entrance to any building owned, leased or used by the Township. It also bans smoking in any Township vehicle – owned or leased. It is enforced by the Health Department, Police Department, and the other various Departments as necessary.

Food

Action: Community or School Gardens

Union's Community Garden is a sustainable organic garden established in November of 2013 by an ordinance of the Township. The Township of Union entered a lease agreement with the Union Community Garden LLC, a 501© organization, to lease a p0roperty on Liberty Ave. The site, an old non-compliant tot lot, became unsafe for public use; however, upon a search for the location for the property, the parcel was deemed a great site for our community garden. In 2016, Public Works expanded the gardens at the request of the Community Garden Club. Old fences were removed, grounds were repaired and new fencing was installed. The Township of Union covered most of the expenses for the fence utilizing budgeted funds for Public Works.

Animals in the Community

Action: Animals in the Community Education

The Township of Union expects all residents and visitors to practice suitable behavior towards animals within the community. In early 2010, under the advice of the Board of Health, the township deemed it appropriate to re-establish an Animal Control Officer and an Animal Shelter under the Health Department's jurisdiction. This action was deemed necessary as the co-operative vendor did not fully service the Township's animal community as expected by the elected officials. As a result, the Township worked with Health officer Marconi Gapas, to develop, establish and create programs including but not limited to educating the community on animal's reactions and behaviors. The Animal Shelter houses and humanely tends to animals daily and holds adoptions regularly.

Arts & Creative Culture

Action: Municipal Commitments to Support Arts & Culture ***New***

The mission of the Township of Union Cultural Arts Board is to enrich the lives of the residents of the Township through expanding access to visual and performing arts, to contribute to the local economy through creating experiences aimed at attracting residents and tourists alike through creative partnerships with businesses, government and local schools; to support the artistic and cultural talents of individuals and organizations in the Township and to promote awareness of the plethora of arts and cultural events, activities, and places in Union that showcase the Township's diversity.

Operations & Maintenance

Action: Vehicle Conversions

The Township of Union's Fleet meets the NJ Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) requirement. All of the vehicles have the add-on exhaust particulate emissions control device that can be used on or in a regulated vehicle or off-road equipment to achieve substantial reductions of fine particulate diesel emissions. The vehicles were certified by Foley, Inc. and two Re-Gen units are installed to meet the regeneration of Diesel Emission. UPDATE 2017: The vehicles that are retrofitted are scheduled regularly to be regenerated using our exclusive "regen" station equipped with two Donaldson units capable of servicing four vehicles at one time.

Action: Driver Training

The Township of Union Department of Public Works is very aggressive when it comes to training and safety. The training classes are taught by both experienced, qualified staff as well as Instructions from our Joint Insurance Fund that is shared by numerous municipalities. One of the classes frequently taught is "Safe Driving Principles". Many situations a driver may encounter are addressed as well as practicing driving efficiently and being environmentally aware.

Action: Fleet Inventory

The Township of Union takes pride in its attention to keeping the fleet safe and compliant. As mentioned, older units have been retro-fitted to meet current emission standards. All units are inspected daily for safety issues and annually for safety and emissions. All work orders are documented and filed daily. Safety is paramount for both our workers and residents we serve; by staying diligent in the upkeep of our fleet we can accomplish this in an efficient manner.

Action: Adopt Behavioral Policies

The Township of Union still adheres to the Behavioral Policies encompassing all departments under their jurisdiction. It is common practice to replace all lighting when in need of repair with LED lighting. Public Works has and will continue to do this in all buildings that they maintain as well as using "green" products when applicable.

Waste Management

Action: Recycling and Waste Reduction Education and Compliance

The Township of Union is very diligent when it comes to upholding the ordinance regarding recycling for residential dwellings. Under the jurisdiction of the Recycling Coordinator, a full time Code Enforcement Officer educates the public of the ordinance. Education and guidance pertaining to recycling are available on the Township Website and Township Calendar as well as handouts given at various meetings throughout the year. In a joint effort with Union County, we have also brought recycling awareness to numerous grammar school classes in hopes of our future generation understanding the importance of recycling and properly disposing of refuse. "Bash the Trash" was also presented our main Library for the younger residents of town with the assistance from Public Works.

Action: Commercial & Institutional Recycling

The Township of Union is proactive in enforcing the ordinance regarding Recycling by Commercial and Institutional establishments. Under the direction of the Recycling Coordinator, the Township's Code Enforcement Officer regularly corresponds with the many Township businesses, both in an educating and if necessary an enforcing manner. Our approach is always to educate first and if necessary impose monetary penalties in an effort to make sure this important ordinance is adhered to. By enforcing this ordinance and raising awareness of recycling we hope our effort could assist in the overall decrease of the use of incinerators and landfills which are harmful to our environment.

Action: Recycling Depot

In May 2014, the Department of Public Works held the Grand Opening of the Township Recycling Center. Public Works continues to provide this service to the residents of the Township with the assistance of a knowledgeable attendant on site daily during normal working hours. Additional documentation was put on the Township's website, TV-34 and the Township Calendar regarding changes to electronics recycling.

Action: Prescription Drug Safety & Disposal

In an effort to decrease the prescription drug abuse epidemic, the Township of Union is in the process of becoming a partner in "Project Medicine Drop" led by the Department of Community Affairs. The Township's many Departments, including but not limited to the Police and Fire have a proactive stance on issues that have a negative impact on our Community and their families. Prescription drug abuse and misuse has been one in the forefront that needs attention. A simple action like proper disposal is an integral part of fighting this battle, ensuring that harmful drugs do not get in the wrong hands. In addition to the stationary box, a request for a mobile unit has also been requested and is in the process of being finalized. The project delivery date from the DCA for the units is June – July 2017.