

Environmental Commission/Green Team Monthly Meeting December 2024

Dear Neighbors:

Happy December! Let's get to the update.

Upcoming Meetings

You are invited! This month, we will hold a joint Environmental Commission/Green Team Meeting in-person at The Porch Club (213 Howard Street) on Thursday, December 19, at 7:30PM. Thank you to the Porch Club for sharing their space! Everyone is welcome. ***You do not need to be on the Environmental Commission or Green Team to join us.*** Bring a neighbor or family member!

Some agenda items will include:

-Discussion of planning 2025 events such as a Fix It Fair, speakers, and film screenings.

-Working on getting certified with [Sustainable Jersey](#). We will be dedicating about 15 minutes of each meeting to getting our application in order. If we succeed in getting certified, we can qualify to earn some grants for Riverton through this program. We could use everyone's help putting the application together. Again, no experience necessary!

-Sign-ups for committees such as events, communications and grants, speaker series, plantings and rain garden maintenance, and Sustainable New Jersey certification.

-Hearing reports from the Borough Council and Planning Board.

-And more! As always, **there will be opportunities for everyone to share what issues they care about most.**

If you know a neighbor who may want to sign-up for the Environmental Commission and Green Team monthly email, they can do so by texting the word NEWSLETTER to 888777. They will be prompted to share their email address.

Year in Review

- We completed about eight garden maintenance events at the Riverton School rain garden
- We hosted guest speaker Dr. Kimberly Norris Russell who shared her knowledge of native bees. We learned a lot about how important native bees are to our lives and how we can all help them thrive.
- We collected over 500lbs of flexible plastic as part of our Trex challenge. We have a bit more to go to get our recycled bench!
- We adopted a logo! You can check it out below. Keep an eye out for it around town!



Thanks to everyone who has been involved. We are looking forward to continuing to serve the community in the New Year!

Don't Forget!

Environmental best practices suggest leaving some or all of the leaves on your property in the fall and through the spring. Leaves are great, free mulch and fertilizer, and they provide habitat for beneficial insects and other wildlife. [They even help trap carbon](#) and prevent it from turning into carbon dioxide (which contributes to global warming). If this practice is new to you (and that's OK – it is new to many of us!), consider leaving the leaves in one or two garden beds. Of course, if you have excess leaves, the Borough will pick them up as usual. [You can read more about the benefits of leaving the leaves here](#). Also be sure to [leave your stems in the winter](#) instead of pruning them or cutting them down. They provide

important habitat for overwintering insects and other beneficial critters. Feel free to let us know if you have questions.

Here Comes Road Salt Season!

Road salt is not good for the environment, so experts encourage us to use less. Did you know that you only need about a coffee mug's worth of salt for the average twenty sidewalk squares? [You can learn more about how to "salt smarter" through this Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions webinar.](#)

Tips for a More Sustainable December!

Did you know? According to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, "American households generate about 1 million additional tons of trash between Thanksgiving and the New Year." You can [read some tips from the DEP about how to reduce trash output here!](#)

Reading List

The Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) released its Winter 2025 report. [You can read it here.](#)

Stuff to Do

Want to learn more about trees and how to identify them once they've lost their leaves for the winter? Register for Winter Tree ID, a free program offered by the Burlington County Park system. The event will take place on Monday, February 24, 2025. Mark your calendar now and [register here](#) in February.

Nature Neighbors—Q&A

We'll get back to this feature next month! If you want to be featured or would like to suggest someone to feature, please email Nicole Belolan at nbelolan@gmail.com.

Social Media

You can follow us on social media for more regular updates.

Green Team Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/riverton_green_team/

Green Team Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Riverton-NJ-Green-Team/100082748494990/>

Environmental Commission Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RivertonEnvironmentalCommission/>

Borough Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RivertonNJ>

Borough Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/boroughofrivertonnj/>

We hope to see you Thursday, December 19!

Sincerely,

Nicole Belolan

On behalf of Kathy Simon and Katie Lucas

Borough of Riverton Environmental Commission and Green Team