The **ECO-Leader Designation** provides recognition for environmentally-conscientious businesses that use best management practices to lessen their footprint on the Maurice River Watershed. Designated Eco-Leaders are committed to preserving community health and promoting economic growth by making a concerted effort to conserve energy, reduce water consumption, manage storm water ecologically, improve water and soil quality, and create habitat.

Maybe your business is already employing eco-friendly management practices and is looking to expand upon them, or maybe you are just getting started and need some ideas. Regardless of your business's current stewardship level, we hope you will continue reading and ultimately become a designated Eco-Leader of the Maurice River Watershed.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Read the checklist. Respond "yes" or "no" regarding whether you have incorporated these eco-friendly actions into your land management routine or included green infrastructure on your property.
- Each yes answer is the equivalent of one stewardship point, while no responses represent opportunities to expand on your best management practices.
- Prospective candidates for designation are those who answer **yes** to multiple actions in one or more categories and are working on expanding their stewardship in others.
- 2. Return the application to CU Maurice River for review via mail (PO Box 474, Millville, NJ 08332) or e-mail (CitizensUnited@CUMauriceRiver.org).
- 3. Meet with a CU Maurice River representative.

4. Approved applicants are awarded a plaque for display.

NOTE: See The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary's Blue Guide for Water Conservation: Reduce your water use at home, work and play, which can be downloaded for free at www.CUMauriceRiver.org.

Before starting a green infrastructure project:

- Research the ecological characteristics of your site.
- Check local codes, design standards, and/or planning for official parameters.

Depending on several factors, funding through federal and state agencies may be available. Contact your local USDA-NRCS and USFWS office or CU Maurice River for more information.

The Maurice River Watershed



Eligibility

Is your company's facility or large tract eligible for designation?

Yes No

- Based on this map, is your place of business located within the Maurice River Watershed?
- Are you interested in protecting the community's environmental health and economic vitality?

If you answered yes to both of these questions, your business or large tract could earn an ECO-Leader designation.

CU Maurice River is dedicated to protecting the watershed of the Maurice River and the region known as Down Jersey, enabling current and future generations to enjoy the environmental, recreational, cultural and scenic resources of this Wild and Scenic global treasure.

CU Maurice River empowers individuals, organizations, businesses and neighboring communities to promote the region's enduring well-being and quality of life. We support education, awareness, and informed decisionmaking utilizing field work, research, and advocacy.

You can start making a difference today!

Become a member, make a donation and/or learn more about us by visiting www.cumauriceriver.org.

Seining with local youths and family members





Collection of dragonfly larvae for national air quality study

Banding Purple Martins



South Jersey's Leading Watershed Organization

P.O. Box 474 • 17 E. Main Street • Millville, NJ 08332 Phone: 856-300-5331 • E-mail: CitizensUnited@cumauriceriver.org

www.cumauriceriver.org



The Eco-Leader program was made possible by CU Maurice River with assistance from the National Park Service Partnership Wild and Scenic River Program, The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, and The Watershed Institute

Maurice River Watershed Stewards

ECO-Leader Designation

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP ASSESSMENT FORM FOR BUSINESSES



South Jersey's Leading Watershed Organization

1. Energy Conservation

We are lowering our footprint on air and water quality by	Yes	No
conducting yearly maintenance of heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems		
changing or cleaning HVAC filters every 30 days during peak use months		
blocking western and eastern windows from direct sun during summer by using awnings, shade trees, exterior solar screens, and/or solar films		
lowering or turning off the heating or air-conditioning when no one is in the facility		
turning off lights when not in use or installing motion-sensor lights and/or energy-efficient exit signs		
reminding employees to turn off computers and other electronics at night		
using natural daylight when possible		
replacing incandescent light bulbs with LEDs		
upgrading from T12 fluorescent light bulbs to T8s or T5s		
reducing light pollution (i.e. shielded lighting) and energy waste from over-lighting of parking area	e	
installing solar panels on a roof(s) or over parking lot(s)		
updating kitchen appliances with energy-efficient models when replacement is needed		
installing a Cool Roof that reflects solar energy better than standard black roofs and reduces energy used for cooling		
increasing daylighting (natural light) by adding windows, skylights, solar tubes, and/or reconfiguring offices		
choosing light-colored paints and materials for walls, floors, and ceilings to increase daylighting efficiency		
controlling daylight glare through the use of blinds, sun shades light shelves, etc.	, 🗆	
purchasing Green Power from your local utility		

2. Water Conservation

We preserve local drinking water supplies by	Yes	No
OUTDOORS		
reducing grass cover and choosing native plants that require little watering		
watering remaining grass on an as-needed basis versus a set schedule		
watering before 9 am or after sunset		
avoiding watering on very hot, windy or rainy days		
periodically checking that in-ground sprinklers are watering intended areas		
installing an irrigation system that is controlled by a moisture-sensing device		
collecting rainwater to be used in watering planting beds		
installing riparian buffers along water bodies with native vegetation		

We preserve local drinking water supplies by ...

bringing company vehicle(s) on an as-needed basis to a car wash that recycles water	
ensuring that grounds keepers leave grass and leaf clippings in place, raise lawn mowers to 3-4 inches high, and sweep instead of using water to clean pathways and driveways	

INDOORS

conducting a company water use audit to understand where water demand can be reduced \Box	
prioritizing the repair of leaking faucets, pipes, and toilets \Box	
taking pointed actions to curb overall employee water waste indoors	
updating and maintaining cooling and heating systems to minimize water needs and save energy \Box	
installing aerators and low-flow or motion-sensing faucets in bathroom and kitchen areas	
replacing outdated toilets and urinals with more water-efficient ones \Box	
using tap water and/or a water filter instead of bottled drinking water \Box	
purchasing products/furnishings produced with renewable energy and recycled materials	

3. Reducing Water Pollution

We reduce the amount of contamination flowing off the property by	Yes
ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPING	
reducing lawn cover by planting native species that require fewer pesticides and fertilizers	. 🗆
using native trees for shade tree considerations	. 🗆
maintaining the health of mature trees, thereby extending their longevity	. 🗆

reducing use of chemical fertilizers by testing soil before deciding on a fertilizer, calibrating spreader before each use, following label instructions, switching to organic alternatives, and cleaning spills immediately and/or confirming that the lawn service provider is . 🗆 🗆 following these basic eco-friendly practices....

reducing the use of chemical herbicides by employing organic	
products to spot treat only, and/or weeding by hand, and/or	
requiring the lawn service provider to use these options \Box	

reducing the use of pesticides by adopting integrated pest
management (IPM) practices, or prioritizing the use of IPM
when choosing a pest management company

GREEN PARKING LOT

maximizing green area in parking lots through replacing rarely used parking spots with native flowers, bushes, and trees and/or turf grids	
removing exotic flora species and replacing them with native ones and/or planting bare areas with native flora \Box	
shading paved areas with native large canopy trees \Box	
creating planting islands and perimeter gardens using native plants \Box	

V f	Ve reduce the amount of contamination lowingoff the property by	Yes	No
ir a	nstalling planting boxes with native flowers, trees, and bushes long sidewalks	🗆	
a s	voiding the use of road salts after snowfall and selecting alt-free de-icers	🗆	
k a ir	eeping snow piles at least 100' away from streams and floodplains, Ind piling snow in areas that will allow the melt to soak Into the ground	🗆	

scheduling street sweeping to remove residual salts from parking areas ..

RUN-OFF REDUCTION

Yes No

No

promoting the flow of rainwater off paved areas into bio-retention areas like bio-swales, storm water planter boxes, tree trenches, rain gardens, planting islands, and native flora perimeter gardens	
replacing impermeable surfaces with porous ones like pavers, plastic grids, and porous asphalt/concrete, or using these options in original design	
including curb cuts to allow water to run into green areas \Box	
incorporating depressions along remaining impermeable surfaces and using native plants to enhance them	
using landscape contours to keep storm water perking into the soil \Box	
disconnecting downspouts and extending them into garden beds or installing a downspout planter(s) \Box	
using rain barrels/cisterns to catch water from downspouts and reusing it in green areas \Box	
storing de-icing material on pads and under cover away from rain and storm water flow paths and storm drains	
monitoring septic tanks annually and servicing them every 3-5 years \Box	
INDOORS	
switching to biodegradable and/or organic hygiene products and cleaning agents	

and cleaning agents disposing of medicines, paints, cleaners, oils, and other contaminants properly ...

4. Creating Stop-over Habitat Between Natural Areas

Our facility or property provides shelter, food and water for native wildlife communities by...

SHELTER

re-creating the characteristics of nearby natural habitat	
huilding a brush nile	
installing, maintaining, and monitoring avian nesting boxes \Box	
leaving leaf litter and dried plants on the property over	
winter as mulch	
planting native flora species	
maintaining or planting a layered arboretum \Box	
leaving dead and/or fallen trees to decay when safe \Box	

Our fac water f

FOOD

reducing planting fauna sp

incorpoi bear frui

> planting nuts, an

planting

WATE

installin habitat [.] maintair water ev

ERAD

buying o research new flor removin appropr support keeping gutters clean and free of standing water to avoid

breeding mosquitoes.....

We ma making

Yes No

voluntee environr

Busir

Prope City: Cont

E-ma

Phone:

ility or property provides shelter, food and for native wildlife communities by	Yes	No
g lawn cover and replacing it with native nectar plants	🗆	
native flora species that are hosts for specialized pecies	🗆	
rating a variety of native vines, trees, and bushes that its and berries	🗆	
native flora species that provide a source of seeds and deaving them to stand through the hard winter months	🗆	
native flora species that bear cones and sap	🗆	
R		
g vernal pool(s) (a fishless pond simulating natural aquatic that dries up each season to fill up again in the spring)	🗆	
ning a variety of birdbaths throughout the year, changing very 5 days to avoid mosquito breeding	🗆	
ICATING INVASIVE SPECIES		
only native flora species and no exotic varieties	🗌	
ing the native range, benefits, and disadvantages of each ra species incorporated into the business's landscaping	🗆	
g invasive flora species and disposing of them iately	🗆	
ing local native plant nurseries	🗆	

5. Creating a Culture of Watershed Stewardship

We make a difference for community health by	Yes	No
making an effort to share our green infrastructure initiatives with other business and large tract owners		
being an advocate for water protection with peers, staff, customers, and visitors		
creating an energy-efficient work culture by engaging the employees in an ongoing dialogue about energy conservation		
supporting policies promoting watershed health, preservation of natural areas, and the fight against climate change		
volunteering or donating to local watershed and environmental organizations		

TALLY OF "YES" ANSWERS:

ness Name:	
erty Address:	
act Information:	
ail:	