

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ROLE IN THE 2009 ADOPTED MASTER PLAN

UTILITIES PLAN

Potable Water & Wastewater

There are no apparent water distribution or capacity issues at this time; nor are there any apparent wastewater collection or treatment issues at this time. It is the City's intention, however, to ensure that all development and redevelopment projects contribute their pro-rata share of the cost of providing reasonable and necessary off-tract water, sewerage and drainage facilities. To that end, the utilities plan recommends that all development and redevelopment projects that exceed a certain residential or non-residential threshold (to be determined by further study) be required to prepare an impact statement for review by the appropriate land use board as part of the site plan review process. The statement will describe in detail what measures will be employed during the planning, construction and operation phases to minimize or eliminate negative impacts on- and off-site that could result from the proposed project.

Of specific interest are: drainage plans, sewage disposal techniques, water supply and water conservation proposals, flooding and floodplain disruption, degradation of surface water quality, groundwater pollution, and solid waste disposal.

The utility plan also recommends that the Energy Review Committee and **Environmental Commission** continue to support and implement sound environmental planning for green initiatives and sustainability. For example, City ordinances can be reviewed and revised as necessary to incorporate sustainability practices that will lessen any negative impact on infrastructure such as a *water conservation ordinance*. More such initiatives will be identified during the preparation of the City's Sustainable Energy Master Plan.

Sustainable Jersey Action Step

A Water Conservation Ordinance can help municipalities curtail unnecessary water waste. Seasonal outdoor water usage in particular can lead to an unnecessary reduction in reservoir storage, ground water levels, and stream flows. The Water Conservation Ordinance seeks to help extend available supplies through short-term drought periods, and to avoid recurrent drought warnings/water emergencies caused by late summer "drought."

A model NJDEP ordinance can be viewed at: www.njssi.org/uploaded_documents/waterordinance.pdf