

SENATE, No. 2879

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 4, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Creates Office of Sustainability.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning environmental sustainability and
2 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. a. There is established in the Department of the Treasury the
8 Office of Sustainability. The office shall be under the immediate
9 supervision of a director, who shall be appointed by the Governor,
10 with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall report to the
11 State Treasurer. The director of the office and all employees
12 necessary to implement the provisions of this act, as determined by
13 the State Treasurer, may be members of the unclassified service of
14 the State.

15 b. The office, in coordination with the Division of Purchase
16 and Property in the Department of the Treasury, shall be responsible
17 for developing and implementing environmental sustainability
18 measures for all State buildings, and shall coordinate with all
19 owners of real property in which State agencies are located in an
20 effort to implement environmental sustainability practices in those
21 buildings. These environmental sustainability measures and
22 practices shall include, but need not be limited to, using resources
23 efficiently and minimizing raw material resource consumption,
24 maximizing resource reuse, creating healthy working environments,
25 and protecting and restoring the natural environment.

26 c. (1) The office shall develop and implement initiatives to:

27 (a) improve energy efficiency, reduce energy usage, and
28 improve the procurement of energy in State buildings;

29 (b) increase water conservation in State buildings;

30 (c) reduce the carbon footprint of State buildings; and

31 (d) implement any applicable principles set forth in the
32 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building
33 Rating System established by the United States Green Building
34 Council, the Green Globes Program as adopted by the Green
35 Building Initiative, or any other comparable system that sets forth
36 environmentally sustainable principles, in State buildings.

37 (2) The office shall oversee standardized energy audits to be
38 conducted, at least every three years, at all State buildings and the
39 subsequent implementation of recommendations contained in the
40 audits in the most cost-effective manner practicable.

41 (3) The office shall coordinate with the Division of Purchase
42 and Property in the Department of the Treasury for the
43 procurement, by every State agency, of energy, energy efficient
44 products and equipment, renewable energy products, recycled
45 products, low toxicity products and alternatives to products that
46 contain mercury, lead, or other persistent bioaccumulative toxics,
47 and other products manufactured through environmentally
48 sustainable methods. The office, in conjunction with the Division

1 of Purchase and Property, shall assist State agencies to transition to
2 these products as soon as possible, but in a manner that avoids
3 wasting of existing inventories and allows the phase-out of products
4 that do not promote environmental sustainability.

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6 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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11 This bill would create the Office of Sustainability in the
12 Department of the Treasury.

13 The office would be responsible for developing and
14 implementing environmental sustainability measures in all State
15 buildings and coordinating with all owners of real property in which
16 State agencies are located in an effort to implement environmental
17 sustainability practices in those buildings. These measures and
18 practices would include using resources efficiently and minimizing
19 raw material resource consumption, maximizing resource reuse,
20 creating healthy working environments, and protecting and
21 restoring the natural environment.

22 Specifically, the office would: (1) develop and implement
23 initiatives to improve energy efficiency, increase water
24 conservation, reduce carbon footprints, and implement applicable
25 principles set forth in various green building rating systems, in State
26 buildings; (2) oversee standardized energy audits at least once every
27 three years at all State buildings, and oversee the implementation of
28 the recommendations contained in those audits; and (3) coordinate
29 with the Division of Purchase and Property for the procurement by
30 every State agency of various energy efficient and environmentally
31 sustainable products.