**DIVERSITY & EQUITY**

**Environmental Justice in Planning and Zoning**

**Program Summary:**

On February 10, 2015, with the unanimous approval of the City of Camden City Council, a *Sustainability Ordinance* was adopted as a key revision to Sections of their existing *Land Development Ordinance*.

The Sustainability Ordinance promotes:

1. environmentally-related sustainable practices;
2. economic growth within the City in a manner that is protective of the public health, safety and welfare of the residents; and
3. development of vibrant neighborhoods that balance the needs of the built environment with that of natural environmental habitats and ecosystems.

Importantly, this ordinance demonstrates a model for restoration as a key element for the regeneration of a *Post-Industrial city* while promoting development that improves the City of Camden’s overall quality of life and triple bottom line: Economy, Community and the Environment.

Companion documents to the model *Sustainability Ordinance* include:

1. an “Environmental Impact and Benefits Assessment checklist”;
2. an “Environmental Impact and Benefits Assessment Best Management Practices Summary Index”; and
3. Best Management Practice Resources in the following categories:
* Air
* Energy Conservation and Consumption
* Green Infrastructure
* Non-point Source Pollution
* Recycling
* Site Work and Low Impact Design
* Stormwater
* Sustainable Building Resource Guide
* Transportation and Complete Streets
* Urban Forestry
* Urban Parks
* Waste Reduction
* Water Quality

The companion documents and resources will assist the City’s Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment in their review of applications for new development or for modifications to existing development. The checklist provides a method to (1) ensure long term protection of public health, (2) ensure consistency in decision-making, and (3) assist the Land Use Boards in evaluating the existing or potential environmental impacts and benefits associated with an application for development.

The “Environmental Impact and Benefits Assessment Best Management Practices Summary Index” and the Best Management Practice Resources will assist applicants for land development approvals, where the greatest opportunity exists, to go beyond the minimum regulatory requirements and additionally to incorporate Best Management Practices into their prospective development project/site plan.

This is the first ordinance of its’ kind within an Environmental Justice community in New Jersey.

[City of Camden Sustainability Ordinance](file:///%5C%5Cdep-tcshared%5Cshared%5COPPS%5CEJ%5CProjects%5CCAMDEN%5CCCI%5CCCI%20Sustainability%20Ordinance%5CSustainability%20Ordinance%20-%20Signed%20by%20City%20Attorney.pdf)

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