

# Ridgewood Environmental Advisory Committee (REAC): Overview

## 2016 Report

Angela Leemans, REAC



# Overview: What is REAC?

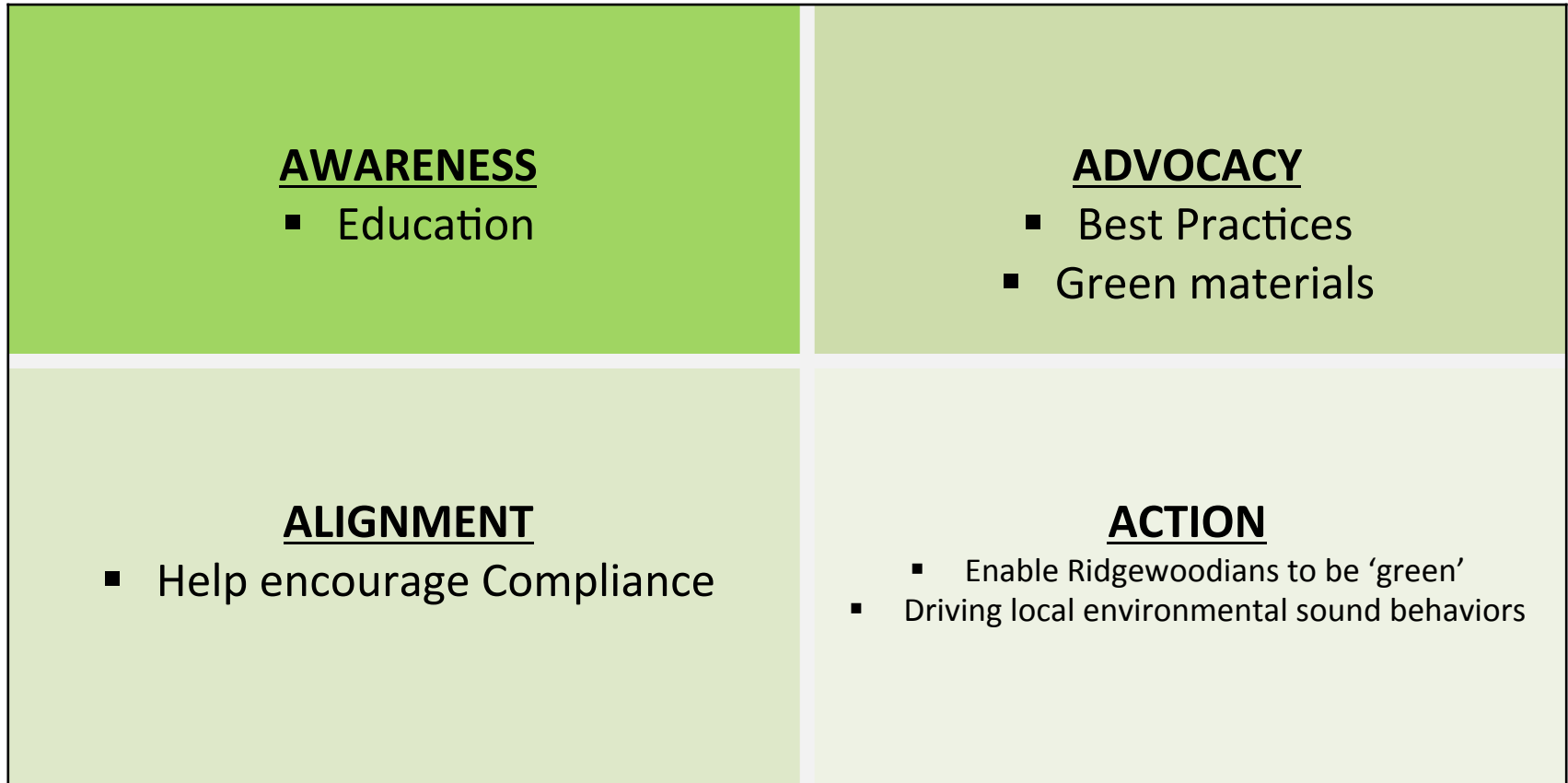
## Our Mission Statement

### *Working for a More Sustainable Ridgewood*

- ❖ The Ridgewood Environmental Advisory Committee (REAC) shall assist the Village of Ridgewood and its residents in addressing environmental concerns by advocating 'best use' practices which:
  - Protect the environment
  - Respect the ecosystem
  - Promote sustainability
  - Reduce climate change

# What is REAC?: Our Activity Framework

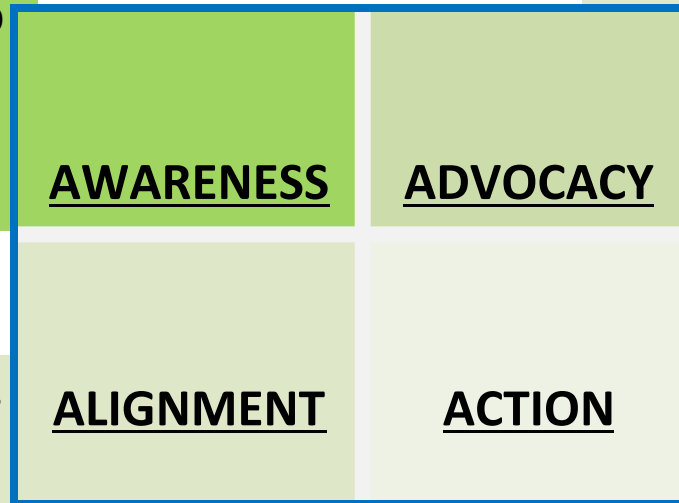
- Utilizing the 4 “A”s to develop game plan



# What is REAC?: Our Impact to Date

- ❖ **Annual EARTH DAY Event in Van Neste Park**
- ✓ Teams with 20+ local businesses & student group
- ✓ Raises over \$3,000 a year to plant trees

- ❖ **Launched inaugural series of educational lectures & movies in 2015**
- ✓ “BLUE GOLD” – Importance of Water Conservation (Hosted in partnership with the League of Women Voters)
- ✓ Lecture on how to have more sustainable lawns (Hosted in partnership with the NJ Native Plant Society)



- ❖ **Water Bottle Re-Use Ordinance**
- ✓ Meetings with Fields Committee and worked with Parks & Recreation to remind teams of ordinance

- ❖ **Developed Shade Tree Ordinance**
- ✓ Laid foundation for Ridgewood Shade Tree Policy
- ✓ Successful launch of Shade Tree Commission

# Who is REAC?

- **Diverse team of dedicated and committed Ridgewood citizens**
  - Led by Village Council Member, and supported by /in partnership with number of other groups

Village Council: Michael Sedon

**BoE**

**Jennie Wilson**

**Parks & Rec**

**Dave Sayles**

**Shade Tree**

**Monica Buesser**

**Green  
Team**

**Jiffy Vermynen**

**Villagers**

**Joan Avagliano**

**George Wolfson**

**Michael Greenhouse**

***SEA: RHS Environmental  
Action Club  
– Alison Reeg***

***Village of Ridgewood – Engineering –  
Chris Rutishauser***

**Ellie Gruber**

**Angela Leemans**

# Major 2016 Accomplishments & Programs

## ❖ **Earth Day – April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

- Partnering with Parks & Recreation and the Conservancy for Ridgewood Public Lands
- “Yellow & Green” – Earth Day combined with Daffodil Festival

## ❖ **“Back to Basics” – Healthy Lifestyle Educational Workshops – co-sponsored with Parks & Recreation**

- Understanding Lead Poisoning 1/25
- Backyard Beekeeping 2/13
- Re-Forestation 3/21
- Backyard Composting 4/23
- From Garden to Table 5/14
- Recycling 6/13

## ❖ **REAC Library Film /Lecture Series**

- March 3, 2016: Film at Library – “BAG IT”
- May 5th: Ridgewood Shade Tree Informational Session

# Going Forward: And We Want to Do Much More....

| Advocacy: Best Practices   | Awareness: Education  | Alignment: Compliance  | Action: Drive / enable green behavior by Ridgewoodians   |
|--|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ REAC green 'best practices' column and / or blog</li> <li>▪ Composting program</li> <li>▪ Green building materials for housing / parking lots</li> <li>▪ SEA Recycling project</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Classes on 'green lawns' / non toxic gardening</li> <li>▪ Classes on pollinator conservation or butterfly gardens</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Soil health / river health testing</li> <li>▪ Certify lawn care providers as "green"</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bike Path / Bike shelter at train stations / bus station</li> <li>▪ Environmental grants</li> <li>▪ Energy Audits</li> <li>▪ CBD Recycling program – "Go Green" Award</li> <li>▪ Stream / park clean ups</li> <li>▪ Provide safe pesticide / battery / paint disposal days</li> <li>▪ Water bottle refill stations</li> <li>▪ "Go Green" awards to residents – similar to Project Pride homeowner awards?</li> <li>▪ Develop rain / butterfly gardens in CBD – obtain sponsors</li> </ul> |

# Closing Comments

➤ If you are interested in environmental issues , please get involved

❖ Fill out the survey

❖ Check out our website

[www.ridgewoodreac.com](http://www.ridgewoodreac.com)

❖ Connect us to other local groups

❖ Apply to be on the commission

**To make a real impact, we need your help!**



Thank you for your time!!!

