



NEW JERSEY

USGBC NJ, sponsors & attendees made it possible for 200 kids from NJ children's clubs to attend this fun & educational day FREE OF CHARGE.



The 6th Annual US Green Building Council-New Jersey Chapter's (USGBC NJ) Summer Social took place on Thursday, August 15th at Jenkinson's Pavilion in Point Pleasant, NJ. Presented by USGBC NJ's Central Branch- a dedicated volunteer group of sustainability professionals- this annual gathering has expanded to become more than just a terrific networking event, but also a charitable day focusing on New Jersey kids.

The USGBC NJ summer social brings education for children as well as a networking opportunity for professionals in the green building and related industries. Though this event is presented by the Central Branch, it is truly a state-wide event, drawing attendees from far and wide.

This is the third consecutive year that the Summer Social dedicated the day-time activities to "green" education on the sand, and amusement activities for kids from around the state. In 2012, USGBC NJ sponsored the day for 159 disadvantaged kids.

This year, USGBC NJ hosted 200 kids from organizations such as Big Brothers - Big Sisters and the Boys & Girls Clubs, from counties including Morris, Bergen, Passaic, Sussex, Mercer, Ocean and Monmouth.

Activities for these kids (and their handful of chaperons) ran from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and included Speed LEED* by Educators (interactive GREEN activities and learning experiences on the beach, solar powered race cars, eco displays), face painting, and all day beach passes. USGBC NJ also provided a pizza lunch and free tickets for Jenkinson's amusement rides, mini-golf, fun house &/or aquarium. (The daytime activities were open to children 14 and under, in general, not just Children's Club attendees.)



The educational activities were presented by environmental experts and environmental educators who volunteer their time, making sure these activities are fun and stimulating as well.

This year, the NJ School Boards Association (NJSBA) coordinated the educators at the Summer Social. Who were the professional educators? NJSBA's Sustainable Schools Specialist and USGBC NJ chapter K-12 education chair, the USGBC's Center for Green Schools – Green Fellow, Department of Environmental Protection educational specialists, a Burlington County College renewable energy educator, Sustainable Learning Systems volunteers and past

presidents of the Alliance for NJ Environmental Education (ANJEE), Eco-Schools USA – New Jersey Coordinator, New Jersey Audubon and NJ Farm to School director. Additionally, volunteer boys from Delomay (Leaders of NJ) local chapter were on the beach to help the educators. Activities ranged from, Speed LEED, a quick overview, kids versions of green buildings, waste management, solar energy demonstrations, pollution prevention and more.

The evening segment of the Summer Social focused on beach-side networking for the adults, with a BBQ from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m., followed by Jenkinson’s fireworks on the beach. This annual event is a great opportunity for sustainability and green building professionals to meet and network in a fun casual environment.

Summer Social attendance fees and sponsorships subsidize the cost for the 200 kids from the Children’s Clubs to attend the whole day free. USGBC NJ’s Central Branch would like to thank all of this year’s event sponsors, especially the Children’s Club Sponsors for enabling us to host these kids. Additionally, thank you again to Jenkinson’s for their ongoing support of this event by donating a portion of the amusement tickets.



Rey Montalvo, Central Branch Chair, thanking our terrific volunteer instructors.



Rey presenting thank you plaques to our generous event sponsors.

Thanks again to all of our sponsors & volunteers, including: CDS; HT Lyons ; Monmouth Wire and Computer Recycling Inc.; PPL Electric Utilities; Advanced Solar Products, Inc.; Bayshore Recycling; Binsky Snyder; General Cable; Herman Miller; Langan; Sander Mechanical Service; and Wyndham Worldwide.

For more photos from the event, [click here](#).

If you would like to volunteer to join the Central Branch Committee, please contact [Rey Montalvo](#).