

Cove Road & Sustainable Jersey

In 2017, Cove Road became a Bronze Certified Sustainable Jersey School. Cove Road was able to achieve this milestone by incorporating sustainability in the classroom through various projects in Science, Math and STEAM. A culminating project was our Science Fair where all our students projects involved some form of sustainability. Projects involved such topics as recycling, filtering water, cleaning our oceans and saving endangered animals. Sustainability is not only being taught at Cove Road, it is being practiced in our cafeteria through recycling, the use of our refillable filtered water stations, which reduce the use of plastic bottles, and in our classrooms where we follow a strict checklist of cleanliness and use products that are safe for our environment.

In 2018, Cove Road Elementary began to live the Sustainable lifestyle and used our Bronze certification as a springboard for applying and receiving a \$10,000 grant from the PSEG Foundation through Sustainable Jersey. With this grant, Cove Road purchased Tower Gardens which utilize aeroponics to grow plants, vegetables and fruit without soil. Aeroponics is the process of growing plants in an air or mist environment rather than soil. Aeroponics systems can reduce water usage by 98 percent, fertilizer usage by 60 percent, and pesticide usage by 100 percent, all while maximizing crop yields.

Aeroponics allows these gardens to be placed both indoors and outdoors. We currently have Tower Gardens in our STEAM Academy and in the spring, we will place more outside. These towers are mobile and can be brought directly into the classroom. Students can participate in all phases of the growing process and observe their success in growing. Once each garden has grown to its potential, the harvests will be donated to a local food bank to help those in need.

Cove Road is excited about this current endeavour and looking forward to keeping sustainability in the conversation as we more forward.



