

## About Soil Conservation Districts

New Jersey has 15 Soil Conservation Districts that implement the New Jersey Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act, which governs certain aspects of new development. Soil Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of the State of New Jersey, are locally governed, and play a major role in the protection of New Jersey's natural resources. Many Districts offer free environmental education programs for the public.

### OUR MISSION:

**The mission of New Jersey's Soil Conservation Districts is to conserve natural resources for the citizens of New Jersey, and be recognized leaders in resource conservation by providing technical assistance, conservation education, watershed planning and effective regulatory enforcement.**



### For more information please contact:

New Jersey Conservation Partnership  
NJ Department of Agriculture —  
NJ Association of Conservation Districts  
Phone: 609-292-5540  
Fax: 609-633-7229

## New Jersey Soil Conservation Districts

### BERGEN

700 Kinderkamack Road, Suite 106  
Oradell, NJ 07649  
201-261-4407  
www.bergenscd.org

### BURLINGTON

1971 Jacksonville-Jobstown Rd  
Columbus, NJ 08022  
609-267-7410  
www.bsacd.org

### CAMDEN

423 Commerce Lane, Suite 1  
W. Berlin, NJ 08091  
856-767-6299  
www.camdenscd.org

### CAPE-ATLANTIC

Atlantic County Office Building  
6260 Old Harding Highway  
Mays Landing, NJ 08330  
609-625-3144  
www.capeatlantic.org

### CUMBERLAND-SALEM

PO Box 68, 1516 Route 77  
Deerfield, NJ 08313  
856-451-2422  
<http://cumberland-soil.deeweb.com/>

### FREEHOLD

(Monmouth & Middlesex)  
4000 Kozloski Road  
PO Box 5033  
Freehold, NJ 07728  
732-683-8500  
www.freeholdscd.org

### GLOUCESTER

14 Parke Place Blvd Ste. C  
Sewell, NJ 08080  
856-589-5250  
www.gloucesterscd.org

### HUDSON, ESSEX & PASSAIC

15 Bloomfield Avenue  
North Caldwell, NJ 07006  
973-364-0786  
hepscd@bellatlantic.net

### HUNTERDON

687 Pittstown Road, Suite 1  
Frenchtown, NJ 08825  
908-788-9466  
hcsd@att.net

### MERCER

508 Hughes Drive  
Hamilton Square, NJ 08690  
609-586-9603  
www.mercerscd.org

### MORRIS

Morris County Court House,  
PO Box 900  
Morristown, NJ 07960-0900  
973-285-2953  
www.mcsd.org

### OCEAN

714 Lacey Road  
Forked River, NJ 08731  
609-971-7002  
www.ocsd.org

### SOMERSET-UNION

Somerset County 4-H Center  
308 Milltown Road  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807  
908-526-2701  
soilconsrv@co.somerset.nj.us

### SUSSEX

186 Halsey Rd, Suite 2  
Newton 07860  
973-579-5074  
<http://home.earthlink.net/~sussexscd2/>

### WARREN

224 W. Stiger Street  
Hackettstown, NJ 07840  
908-852-2579  
www.warrencountyscd.org

### State Soil Conservation Committee

New Jersey Department of Ag.  
PO Box 330  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
609-292-5540  
www.state.nj.us/agriculture/rural/natrsrc.htm

## WHAT IS A NEW JERSEY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

AND

## WHY DO DISTRICTS REGULATE CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY?



*Wherever you live in New Jersey, your local Soil Conservation District is there for you. As part of our responsibility, in every community, Districts are working hard to keep water clean and to protect New Jersey's natural resources.*

**Working to Conserve New Jersey's  
Natural Resources**

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## The Establishment of Soil Conservation Districts in New Jersey

Soil Conservation Districts were formed in 1938 when national attention was focused on the devastating effects of the Dust Bowl. Poor land management practices resulted in mounting soil erosion, floods, and sky-blackening dust storms that swept across the nation.

In 1935, Congress passed Public Law 46 that



declared soil and water conservation and wise land use a national policy. In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt wrote to all governors, recommending state

legislation to allow landowners to form soil and water conservation districts.

As a result of President Roosevelt's recommendation, Soil Conservation Districts were created in New Jersey under the provisions of the Soil Conservation Act of 1937. In 1938, the Freehold Soil Conservation District was the first district incorporated in the state.



Sediment and water runoff from a construction site onto a roadway can cause hazardous conditions for motorists.



## Why Soil Conservation Districts in New Jersey Regulate Construction Activity

Prior to 1950, Soil Conservation Districts in New Jersey primarily offered technical conservation assistance to the agricultural community. During the 50's, 60's and 70's the rapid shift of land use to the construction of houses, industrial and commercial developments resulted in major changes throughout the Garden State. This growth accelerated the process of soil erosion and sediment loss, causing sediment pollution to New Jersey's waterways.

### **FACT: Sediment is New Jersey's largest water pollutant by volume.**

- When sediment leaves its place of origin by erosion, pollutants such as fertilizers, pesticides, heavy metals and petroleum products can adhere to soil particles and enter our local waterways — affecting fish, wildlife, aquatic habitats and our water quality.

## The Law

In response to the increasing threat to environmental quality, New Jersey passed the “*Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act*,” Chapter 251, Public Law 1975. In general, this act regulates construction related land disturbing activities.

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## Hazards Associated with Soil Erosion

- Clogged storm sewers can cause road flooding.
- Slippery sediment and mud on roadways creates possible dangerous driving conditions.
- Blowing dust or soil caused by wind erosion presents health and safety hazards.
- Sedimentation into waterways can result in flooding and property damage.

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Since 1938, Soil Conservation Districts throughout New Jersey have continued their dedication to the conservation of natural resources. With ongoing cooperation between contractors, builders, land owners, farmers, municipalities, engineers and the general public, Districts will help to ensure environmental resource quality for the citizens of New Jersey for years to come.



The use of erosion matting for slope protection provides successful erosion control and prevention of sedimentation to the adjoining woodland.