

# City of Rahway

## Situation



Rahway is a diverse, middle-class community located in Union County. Bordering Clark, Linden, and Woodbridge Township, Rahway is home to about ten parks. This densely populated city has mostly single family detached homes with small yards. The majority of the homes are older with the potential to update outdated fixtures. The City of Rahway relies on the Rahway River for its municipal water supply. The Rahway River is 24 miles long and drains 41 square miles of Essex, Middlesex, and Union Counties.

There are 24 municipalities in the Rahway River watershed. Currently, the Rahway River provides drinking water to 26,500 people in Rahway. United Water of Rahway reports that the average resident uses 40 to 130 gallons of water at home.

Similar to many cities in the Northeast after World War II, Rahway lost many of its industrial base as factory jobs shifted south or overseas. The city has seen the rise of service-dependent jobs within its borders and growth in finance, pharmaceuticals and telecommunications. The city celebrated 150 years of its incorporation in 2008. The city is committed to redevelopment, which makes it stand out among the surrounding communities.



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## Action

New Jersey Water Savers implemented the following efforts in the City of Rahway over the last three years:

### Demonstration projects

- Rahway Public Housing Authority Meter Project
- Name Your Own Rebate for Savings Program
- Rahway High School Retrofit

### Outreach efforts

- Rahway Water Champions Project
- Fix a Leak Week
- Smart Irrigation Month
- Build Your Own Rain Barrel Program
- Turf Management for a Healthier Lawn
- Project WET

## Impact

Over the last three years, New Jersey Water Savers successfully developed and implemented programs that have been designed to encourage local stakeholders to change their behavior, ultimately saving water. Over the next two years, the project partners will expand this effort and use the information and knowledge that was gained from the first project and develop tools that can be used by municipalities throughout the state to conserve drinking water.

## New Jersey Water Savers Partnership

New Jersey Water Savers is a partnership between the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. This partnership was created to provide leadership to promote water conservation throughout New Jersey. For more information on our partnership efforts, visit us at [www.water.rutgers.edu](http://www.water.rutgers.edu).

