



Bridging the Gap between Non-Profits & SDGs:

A Mahwah Organizational Landscape

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OVERVIEW

This exploratory research project aims to provide an overview of how, and the extent to which, the population of nonprofit organizations in Mahwah NJ are addressing the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are a set of 17 goals adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, which aim to protect people, prosperity and the planet. The study utilizes quantitative data analysis and data visualization to provide a snapshot of the nonprofit landscape in Mahwah with respect to the SDGs with the aims to identify:

- 1) The indicators of current comparative progress towards the SDGs in Mahwah.
- 2) The types and number of Mahwah nonprofit organizations working towards the SDGs by mapping according to the nonprofit NTEE (National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities).
- 3) The gaps (if any) between the SDG needs of Mahwah and the mix and missions of the local nonprofit sectors.
- 4) The mission-derived service areas/incomes of the local nonprofits.

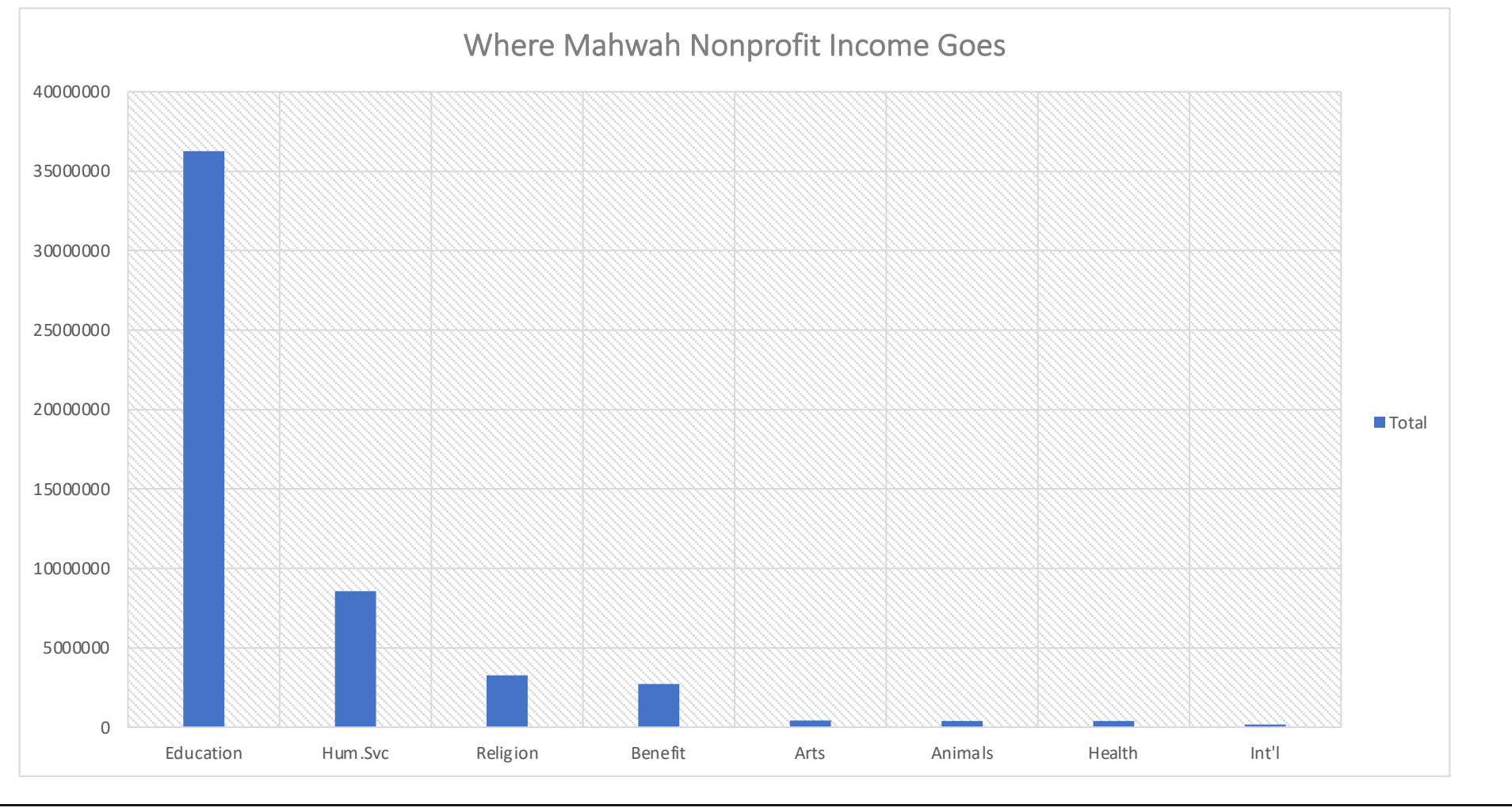
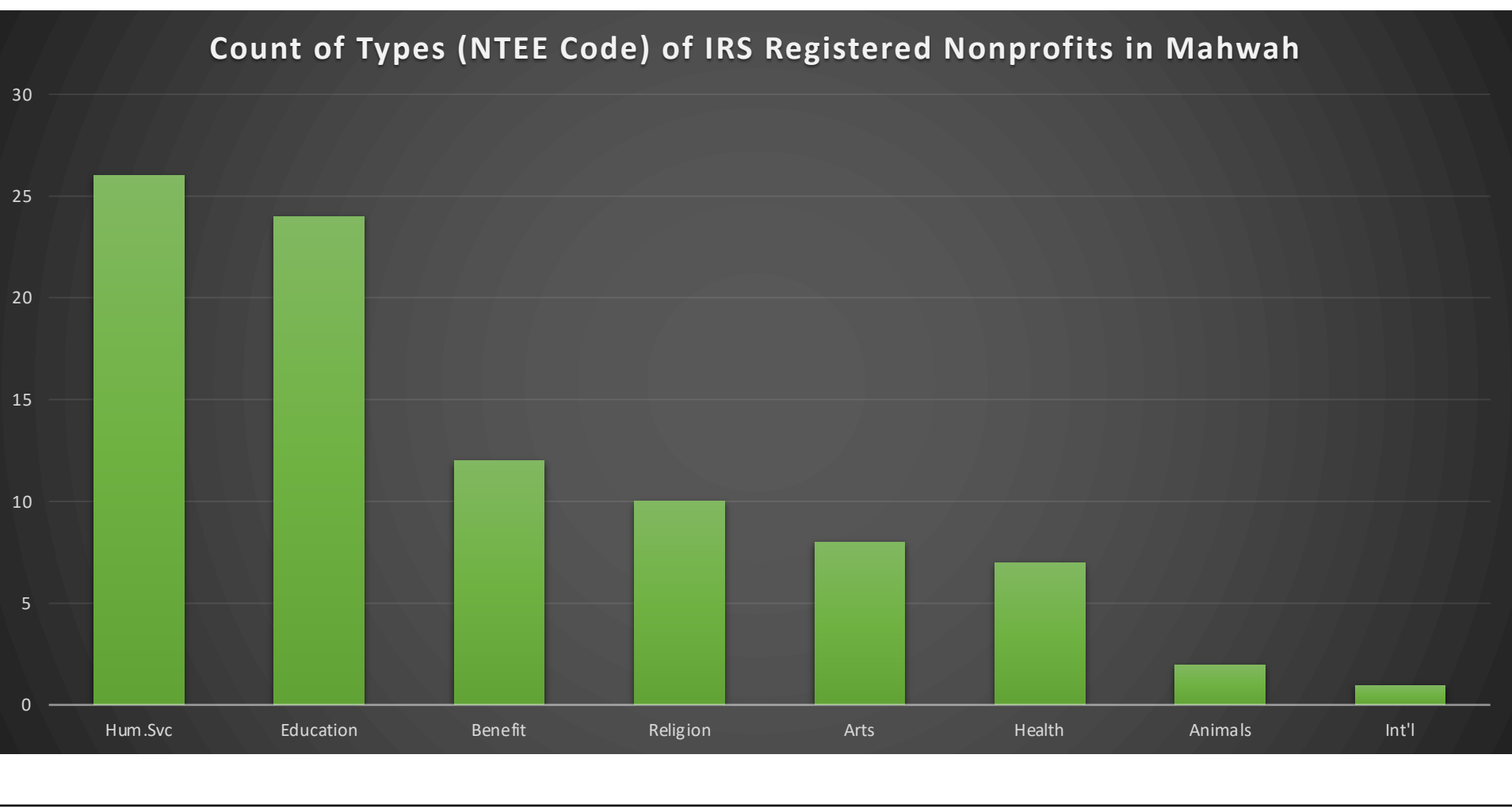
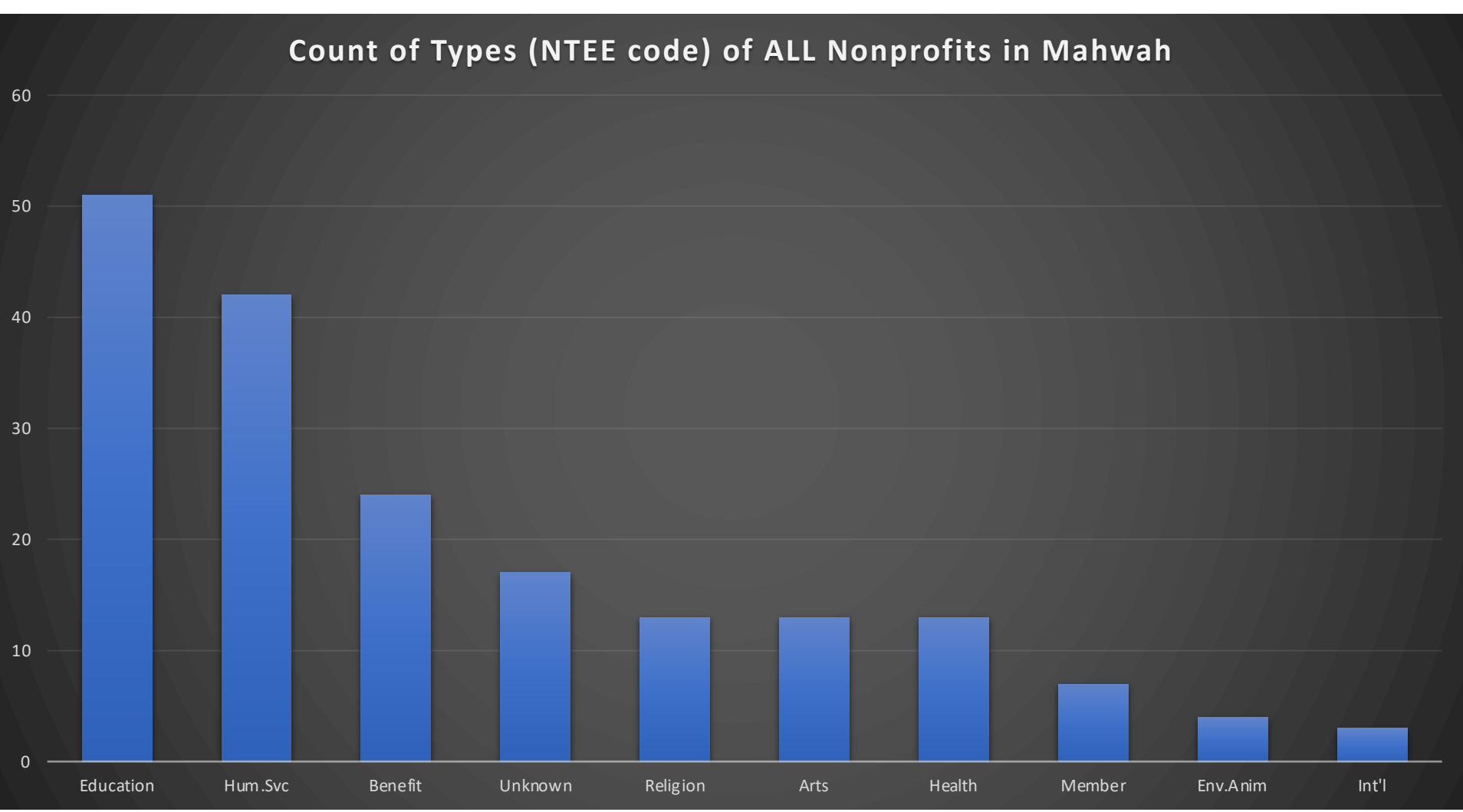
The eventual study may have several implications for policymakers, nonprofit leaders, and community members in Mahwah. First, it may provide a resource for policymakers to better understand the nonprofit landscape in Mahwah and to develop policies and programs that support the work of nonprofits towards the SDGs. Second, it may provide a baseline for nonprofit leaders to begin conversations about sharing resources towards strengthening their impact with respect to the SDGs. Finally, it might provide community members with information on the nonprofits working towards the SDGs in Mahwah, enabling them to become more engaged and informed about the issues that affect their community.

Data Collection and Methodology

Using relevant zip codes, we identified a list of Mahwah nonprofits from the IRS Exempt Organizations Business Master File (<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/exempt-organizations-business-master-file-extract-eo-bmf>) and cross-referenced that list with one from the TaxExempt World Website (<https://www.taxexemptworld.com/search.asp?type=os&state=NJ&city=Mahwah>). We began the process of “cleaning the data” by checking each organization for active operations through website searches. We used excel charting analysis on the cleaned data to produce the histograms reproduced here. We then used the websites listed below to complete the SDG chart on the right side of the poster and derive our findings.

Sample Data Sources

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9612594/>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/27/realestate/mahwah-nj.html>
<https://nff.org/learn/community-health>
<https://www.mahwah.k12.nj.us/domain/138>
https://greatnonprofits.org/city/mahwah/NJ/category:education/sort:review_count/direction:desc
<https://www.nj.gov/education/finance/fp/acfr/search/20/2900.pdf>
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesnonprofitcouncil/2019/02/14/the-nonprofit-gender-gap-how-to-get-the-female-leadership-you-need/?sh=782c3d1c6a96>
<https://www.eesi.org/articles/view/why-energy-efficiency-is-important-for-nonprofits>
<https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/about-americas-nonprofits/economic-impact-nonprofits>
<https://gruenderatelier.de/how-to-improve-industry-innovation-and-infrastructure-sdg9/>
<https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/running-nonprofit/diversity-equity-and-inclusion/why-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-matter>
<https://www.sustainablesids.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/NGOs-leading-SDGs-Sustainable-Brands.pdf>
<https://www.interaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Climate-Compact.pdf>
<https://oceanconservancy.org/>
<https://www.curbed.com/2021/10/split-rock-ramapough-lenape-development.html>
<https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/documents/home/genpub/bergenplan.pdf>
<https://www.co.bergen.nj.us/parks-recreation-areas/ramapo-valley-county-reservation>
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5125656/>



SDG	Mahwah's Progress
	Mahwah has a viable opportunity to improve the lives of those who suffer from poverty and live in disadvantaged communities. Mahwah can significantly alleviate poverty by collaborating with local governments and communities to streamline their focus on programs aimed at reducing poverty and assisting those who are suffering from it.
	Pony Power looks to end hunger, as their farm in the forest donated over 2,000 lbs. of fresh produce to non-profits that they partner with such as Oasis- A Safe Haven for Women and Children. Despite this, Mahwah has a feasible opportunity to increase the number of nonprofits looking to end hunger, as the area is a rich source of agriculture that houses thousands of acres of open land and space.
	According to the NTEE codes, there are only 13 non-profits out of 190 total that we have identified in the list of nonprofits in Mahwah, NJ that focus their efforts in the health and well-being of others. Improving the health and well-being of people of all ages can be increasingly improved upon in regard to nonprofits operating in Mahwah, as programs and physical organizations can be instilled to ensure accessibility to quality health care and health related information for all.
	According to the NTEE codes, Mahwah has 51 Nonprofits that focus their efforts in education and providing institutions that emit quality and inclusive education for all. The data indicates that Mahwah is successful in looking to and working towards reaching this goal.
	Mahwah has no non-profits that are classified under the "R" category of NTEE codes, which specifically pertains to organizations centered around empowering women, indicating a significant gap in gender equality initiatives within the region. To close this gender equality gap in Mahwah, non-profits can focus on initiatives such as promoting women's passions, increasing female representation in hiring and leadership roles, and providing avenues for women to improve their skills and accelerate their achievements.
	Mahwah severely lacks nonprofits that aim to ensure clean, accessible, and sustainable efforts of sourcing and providing water to all. In order to improve upon such, emerging nonprofits in Mahwah should focus their efforts towards implementing and optimizing programs that look to ethically and sustainably source & provide water to all.
	Mahwah does not house any nonprofits that work toward making certain that all have access to sustainable and affordable energy that people can rely on. To improve, those looking to open a nonprofit in Mahwah should seek to find sustainable sources of strong energy, increase access to such energy sources, and look to make such affordable for all.
	Although some nonprofits in Mahwah may indirectly improve economic growth and be productive in employing and providing decent work for people, there are no nonprofits located in Mahwah that specifically focus on such. To improve, nonprofits should focus on creating programs that assist in providing successful job roles, those that encompass and promote economic growth, as well as developing metrics to consistently evaluate the overall impact to distinguish any improvements that can be made.
	According to the data gathered on NTEE codes, there are no non-profits located in Mahwah that directly promote sustainable industrialization that ensures creative ventures. Emerging nonprofits in the area should focus their efforts in doing so by sustainably building their physical organizations, sharing key improvements and skills on how to do so with other physical organizations in the area, and foster creativity through allowing employees leeway in doing so.
	Mahwah does not contain nonprofits that reduce inequality between countries or inequalities within each country itself. Given this, nonprofits should look to provide outlets of safety, information, resources, shelter, food, and improved well-being for refugees and migrants.
	Many of the nonprofits in Mahwah indirectly promote sustainability and inclusivity within cities and human habitats, but this is not any nonprofits main focus. In order for NGOs to further improve upon and for emerging organizations to hone their mission on such, they should utilize and combine best practices used by the organizations indirectly but successfully doing so.
	There are no nonprofits in Mahwah directly focused on sustainable consumption and production. Emerging nonprofits can look to do so through advocating for such, fundraising, researching quality methods, and educating the public.
	Mahwah lacks nonprofits that promptly address climate change and its effects, as there are only 2 organizations classified as environmental according to the breakdown of NTEE codes. Nonprofits that are just coming to light should seek to address the emerging issues that climate change has brought on, urge the community and local government to improve such, and commit to provide resources and programming that seeks to prosper a healthy climate.
	There are no nonprofits in Mahwah that specifically look to protect and utilize the oceans, seas, and marine resources in a sustainable manner to support sustainable development. Given this, emerging nonprofits should seek to improve such by actively working with the community and local government to protect marine life through monitoring and enforcing protections, educating the community on the detrimental effects of depleted marine life, and work to improve sustainable methods for those that work within oceans and marine life on a daily basis such as the fishing industry.
	There are no NGOs in Mahwah directly focused on the preservation, rehabilitation, and encouragement of sustainable utilization of land-based ecosystems, promotion of sustainable forest management, prevention of desertification, reverse land degradation, or attempting to stop the loss of biodiversity. Being that Mahwah is home to reservations and sacred land of the Lunnapee, nonprofits can look to focus their efforts in protecting these lands and vital agriculture which allows Mahwah to thrive in the agricultural industry.
	Mahwah is quite successful in encouraging the development of harmonious and inclusive societies that can be sustained over time, ensuring equal access to justice, and constructing institutions that are effective, responsible, and open to all, regardless of level. Many of the student sororities and fraternities, professional fraternities, and educational institutions look to ensure successful development of both the members and communities on a local, national, and international scale.
	Mahwah does not house any nonprofits that directly enhance the resources for carrying out sustainable development objectives and renew the global cooperation to achieve them. That said, NGOs should look to be transparent and release reports on both their impact and other organizations' impact in regard to such, as well as partner with other civil organizations and government agencies to improve such.

Broad Findings:

1. Membership and Environmental Organizations in Mahwah are too small (budget-wise) and/or fragile to be recognized by the IRS.
2. At most, 2% of Mahwah nonprofits are primarily operating at the International Level.
3. Most of the nonprofit income coming into Mahwah is going to Education.
4. Mahwah has many opportunities to encourage/cultivate nonprofits to further address the SDGs.