



**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **MURPHY ADMINISTRATION AWARDS \$24.1 MILLION IN CLEAN COMMUNITIES GRANTS FOR LOCAL LITTER REMOVAL PROGRAMS**

**(23/PXX) TRENTON** – Municipal and county governments are receiving more than \$24 million in annual Clean Communities grants to fund litter removal programs that beautify communities, improve water quality, reduce localized flooding, and protect natural habitats, Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette announced today.



The grant awards were announced in conjunction with an open house event hosted by [New Jersey Clean Communities Council](#) at Kean University. This year’s funding represents a nearly \$2.7 million increase from last year. In total, the DEP is awarding \$21.4 million to eligible municipalities and \$2.7 million to counties across the state to conduct cleanups, educate the public and enforce litter-related laws and ordinances. Funding for the grant program is generated from taxes paid by businesses that produce litter-generating products as well as penalties collected for litter-related violations.

“The New Jersey Clean Communities program provides local and county governments with the funding they need to remove litter from neighborhoods and improve quality of life for residents,” **said Commissioner LaTourette.** “The grants also invest in the state’s future by supporting outreach campaigns that educate young people on why it’s important to keep the environment we share free of litter.”

The New Jersey Clean Communities Council, a nonprofit organization partnered with the DEP, oversees the reporting requirements for the program. Grant awards are based on population, housing units and miles of municipally owned roadways, as prescribed by state law.

“Local litter abatement programs are more important than ever as we strive to prevent roadway litter from getting into our waterways,” said **JoAnn Gemenden, Executive Director of the New Jersey Clean Communities Council**. “Clean Communities grants provide local governments with critical funds to help create a [Litter Free NJ](#), allowing them to organize volunteer cleanups, purchase cleanup equipment and trash and recycling receptacles for public spaces, promote litter education initiatives, and enhance stormwater management programs.”

The Clean Communities Council operates public awareness campaigns to educate the public, primarily youth, about the adverse environmental impacts of litter, especially on waterways. The organization also helped facilitate the transition away from single-use plastic and paper bags with its Litter Free NJ campaign, utilizing public service announcements to remind residents to bring their own reusable bags when shopping, and to recycle plastic bags. These efforts have helped reduce the amount of plastic pollution in the state.



Litter comes from many sources, such as people who carelessly toss away their trash, overflowing and uncovered garbage cans, and construction sites. Litter is often dispersed by the wind and carried into stormwater collection systems, where it can clog drains causing flooding, harm wildlife and degrade the quality of the state’s surface waters.

The Clean Communities grant program funds a variety of activities including volunteer cleanups of public spaces; cleanups of stormwater systems that can disperse trash into waterways; educational outreach campaigns; enforcement of local anti-littering ordinances; graffiti removal; and purchases of trash receptacles, recycling bins and anti-litter signs.

Municipalities (organized by county) receiving the largest grants this year are:

**Atlantic County:** Egg Harbor Township, \$124,152; Galloway Township, \$103,698.

**Burlington County:** Evesham Township, \$114,321; Mount Laurel, \$102,725.

**Camden County:** Cherry Hill, \$174,480; Gloucester Township, \$144,901; Camden, \$138,504.

**Cape May County:** Ocean City, \$105,576.

**Cumberland County:** Vineland, \$153,247.

**Essex County:** Newark City, \$508,911; East Orange, \$127,857; Irvington, \$104,265.

**Gloucester County:** Washington Township, \$108,349.

**Hudson County:** Jersey City, \$519,182; Bayonne, \$125,516; Hoboken, \$113,948; Union City, \$104,355; North Bergen, \$102,903.

**Mercer County:** Hamilton, \$218,365; Trenton, \$162,797.

**Middlesex County:** Edison, \$207,274; Woodbridge, \$203,121; Old Bridge, \$139,130; Monroe Township, \$118,040; Piscataway, \$115,913; East Brunswick, \$112,951; South Brunswick, \$100,793.

**Monmouth County:** Middletown, \$176,465; Howell, \$138,545; Marlboro Township, \$107,005.

**Morris County:** Parsippany-Troy Hills, \$127,790.

**Ocean County:** Toms River, \$255,147; Brick, \$191,022; Lakewood, \$163,583; Berkeley, \$149,669; Jackson, \$133,793; Manchester, \$125,918.

**Passaic County:** Paterson, \$231,706; Clifton, \$158,736; Wayne, \$120,866.

**Somerset County:** Franklin, \$158,700; Bridgewater, \$112,655; Hillsborough Township, \$111,109.

**Union County:** Elizabeth, \$207,197; Union Township, \$109,576.

Counties receiving the largest grants are:

**Atlantic**, \$147,009; **Bergen**, \$174,462; **Burlington**, \$199,492; **Camden**, \$156,553; **Cumberland**, \$213,001; **Gloucester**, \$163,411; **Middlesex**, \$124,286; **Monmouth**, \$149,715; **Morris**, \$112,781; **Ocean**, \$243,080; **Salem**, \$141,852; **Sussex**, \$123,780; **Warren**, \$103,285.

For a complete list of municipal and county grant awards, visit [www.njclean.org/coordinators/grant-funding](http://www.njclean.org/coordinators/grant-funding).

**Photos:**

New Jersey Clean Communities Council

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