



New Jersey Clean Communities Council - February 2025 Newsletter

Message from the Executive Director

It's finally time for the 2025 "Sustainability in Motion" conference and we could not be more excited to present a full schedule of engaging speakers and events throughout our third-annual event in Atlantic City!

Our conference team has been hard at work for months on developing a conference that builds off last year's enormously successful event. For '25, we are offering some new twists and turns, ensuring another memorable and unique event.

It all begins March 5 with our welcome reception in the evening.

During our Sustainable Business Forum, we are looking forward to a presentation by Brianna Keys, the Sustainability Director for the FIFA World Cup '26 New York New Jersey. Score!

The Meadowlands will play host to the soccer finals on July 19, 2026 – putting an amazing, worldwide spotlight on our region. Brianna, who was a senior policy advisor for Gov. Phil Murphy from 2019-2023, will share the plans to ensure one of the biggest games of the decade is as litter-free as possible.

We will also be hosting sessions on such topics as clean energy, sustainable business operations, litter abatement through stormwater management and sustainable food management. Our Keynote Speaker will be Adam Zellner, who previously served as policy advisor for the governor, discussing the latest information related to energy and sustainability in New Jersey. He is now President of Greener By Design.

An always-popular session will feature representatives of the state Department of Environmental Protection, with an introduction from Janine McGregor, who is the DEP's Director of the Division of Sustainable Waste Management.

You also won't want to miss "Pizza Palooza," our new Thursday evening event building in more time for networking – and a little fun! Friday's sessions are not-to-miss – a legislative overview followed by an interactive session on using AI for outreach. The conference culminates with our popular door prize ceremony.

This conference could not happen without our generous sponsors and exhibitors. Make sure you visit our exhibitor hall and meet with many of the vendors who support Clean Communities activities across the state every year. And a special thank you to our conference partner, the Association of New Jersey Recyclers. We make a tremendous team!



To learn the absolute latest about the conference, [click here](#). To learn about CEU credits, [click here](#).

JoAnn Gemenden

Facebook: [New Jersey Clean Communities](#)

Instagram: [nj_cleancommunities](#)

LinkedIn: [NJ Clean Communities Council](#)

X: [njcleancomm](#)



2025 New Jersey
SUSTAINABILITY
In Motion
Conference

Visit us at:
njsustainabilityconference.com

**CAESARS
ATLANTIC
CITY**
March 5-7,
2025

The "2025 NJ Sustainability in Motion Conference" will offer the premier opportunity to network, earn needed CEU's and meet with vendors.

Hosted by The NJ Clean Communities Council and Association of NJ Recyclers

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Teen Award Winners to be Spotlighted at Garden State Film Festival

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 30, as winners of our annual PSA video contest will have their work showcased at the Garden State Film Festival in Asbury Park. This contest is jointly run between the NJCCC and the state Department of Environmental Protection.

What an incredible honor for these [winners](#)! They will be showcased on the final day of the festival at Asbury Lanes, 209 4th Ave., Asbury Park.

To buy tickets: [Click here](#). Please note the students' work will be highlighted in "AL8." Tickets are \$20. Please arrive no later than 9 a.m. so you don't miss the show.

Come on out and celebrate these talented teens and their anti-litter messaging.

Save the Date: Clean Communities Grant Awards on May 14

Local leaders will gather for the annual DEP grant announcement of Clean Communities funding for municipalities and counties. This year's celebration will be Wednesday, May 14 at Hamilton Stage, 360 Hamilton St., Rahway.

And You Don't Want to Miss:

Ready to rock? All the NJCCC rock stars of 2025 will be honored Wednesday, Oct. 8, as NJCCC hosts its annual awards celebration at the Palace at Somerset, 333 Davidson Ave., Somerset. As with any NJCCC event, expect some twists and turns as we honor Jersey's biggest and best litter-fighters.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 5, 2025
10 AM - 2 PM

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK
163 CHERRY LANE, NEW
CASTLE DE 19720



A FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

FESTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Food Trucks
- Exhibitors
- Interactive Activities
- Giveaways
- Environmental & Safety Education
- Clean/Eco-Friendly Products
- Community Partners
- & Much More!

DRBA DELAWARE RIVER
& BAY AUTHORITY



Want to See What You Missed?

ACUA Showcases Recycled Art in Atlantic City



Recycled waste was presented in a very different way at the Noyes Arts Garage of Stockton University in Atlantic City.

They were the winning entries in the Atlantic County Utilities Authority's Recycled Art Contest, where local artists transformed discarded materials into stunning works of art.

Each piece highlighted the hidden potential of what we often throw away, inspiring us all to rethink, reuse, and recycle. The ACUA has extended its appreciation to the Noyes Arts Garage for hosting this special display and helping to share the message of sustainability through art.

NJCCC Highlighted at Union County's National Leadership Day on Feb. 20



NJCCC Executive Director JoAnn Gemenden served as moderator of Union County's National Leadership Day Celebration event on Feb. 20 in Rahway.

The program was designed to inspire, influence and drive positive change in local organizations and in the community. Public and private sector representatives strengthened their skills, earned CEUs, and networked with others from around the state.

Thank you to Union County for its shared services initiative. Pictured above with Executive Director JoAnn Gemenden is Laura Scutari, Director of Administrative Services and Al Mirabella, Union County Commissioner.

NJ Clean Communities County Coordinators Meet the Visionaries at TerraCycle



Turning trash into treasure has more meaning after NJ Clean Communities County Coordinators gathered for an insightful meeting, hosted by JoAnn Gemenden, at the innovative TerraCycle headquarters in Trenton, NJ. This event provided a remarkable opportunity to explore TerraCycle, a company renowned for demonstrating that even the most challenging materials can be repurposed. Their groundbreaking work in circularity and waste reduction showcases how creativity and artistry can transform waste into valuable resources.

A highlight of the day was the presence of Tom Szaky, CEO, founder, and visionary waste pioneer, who shared his inspiring journey and insights into sustainable practices. His leadership continues to inspire change in how we think about waste and recycling.

This meeting was not only educational but also a reminder of the power of innovation and collaboration in protecting our environment. County coordinators were encouraged to participate in TerraCycle's free cigarette butt collection program and purchase balloon bins for their schools using their CC grant funds.

[Learn more about how TerraCycle is working to eliminate the idea of waste.](#)

Thank You to the NJCCC Board of Directors: 2025

The NJCCC held its annual elections during the January quarterly meeting. Congratulations to the slate of officers for 2025, all of whom are hard-working and dedicated volunteers!

Linda Doherty, Chair
John Wohlrab, Vice Chair
Ed Nieliwocki, Treasurer
Diana Vigilante, Secretary
Jack Bernardino
Lauren Craig
Rocco D'Antonio
Michael DeLoreto
Rachel Gransden
Erin Jensen
David Patella
Molly Slingerland
Rebecca Turygan

Upcoming Events

March 5-7 – New Jersey Sustainability in Motion Conference, Atlantic City
April 1 – Union County Environmental Forum, Hamilton Stage, Rahway
May 6-8 – The Mid-Atlantic Ocean Forum, Baltimore
May 14 – DEP Annual Grant Announcement, Rahway
June 5 – Delaware River and Bay Authority World Environment Day
October 8 – NJCCC Awards Ceremony, Somerset

New Jersey Clean Communities is the state's only comprehensive litter abatement program, serving New Jersey residents and visitors for over 25 years. New Jersey Clean Communities is home to New Jersey's Adopt-a-Beach and Adopt-a-Highway programs. The Clean Communities Council is calling on volunteers to help clean New Jersey's streets and beaches. You can make a huge difference in your community. Learn how at www.njclean.org.

JoAnn Gemenden, Executive Director

NJ Clean Communities Council

609-989-5900 • jgemenden@njclean.org • www.njclean.org

