

## 2025 NJCC Awards Guidelines



The New Jersey Clean Communities Council will honor government agencies, businesses, community organizations, schools and individuals who have helped make New Jersey litter free at the *20th annual New Jersey Clean Communities Awards* reception, **October 8, 2025**, at The Palace in Somerset, NJ.

Do you have an award-winning litter cleanup, education or enforcement program? Complete and submit the application online at [www.njclean.org](http://www.njclean.org) by August 28, 2025. You can nominate your own or another outstanding program. Remember to check BOTH the Category and Award Type for which you are submitting.

Nominations must clearly denote both the Category and Award Type to be considered.

Nominees may be government agencies, businesses, community organizations, schools or individuals, as denoted in the award categories.

Nominations must include a one-page summary of the program, project or person nominated (please include detailed description of cleanup, education and/or enforcement efforts and all pertinent data). You may document your nomination with description, photos, flyers or news clips in no more than five pages. You may be asked to submit additional documentation.

**Applications must be submitted online via [www.njclean.org](http://www.njclean.org) by August 28, 2025. Award winners will be notified no later than September 19, 2025. It is expected for Award winners to attend the October 8 event.**

Special consideration will be given to programs or projects that are ongoing, innovative, results-oriented and serve as a model for the entire state.

## Awards

### Category I: Clean Communities Program Awards

These awards are presented to municipalities, counties or public sector employees/organizations for implementing outstanding Clean Communities programs. Programs should be comprehensive, involving the elements of cleanup, enforcement and education. More than one award may be presented in each category. Municipal awards may be presented according to the amount of grant money received.

There are seven (7) categories:

1. Municipal Program Award
2. Municipal Coordinator Award
3. County Program Award
4. County Coordinator Award
5. Single Use Plastics Outreach Award
6. Stormwater Management Award
7. Clean Communities Champion Award

## **Municipal Program Award**

This award is presented to a municipality who has demonstrated an outstanding litter abatement program as part of their Clean Communities program. Nominated programs can be comprehensive in nature (involving multiple elements of cleanup, education and enforcement) or highlight one exemplary program showcasing a single program element. More than one award may be presented in this category.

## **Municipal Coordinator Award**

A network of municipal Coordinators supports New Jersey Clean Communities. This award is presented to an individual who developed and implemented a comprehensive, town-wide litter abatement program and who demonstrated ongoing support of New Jersey Clean Communities.

## **County Program Award**

This award is presented to a county who has demonstrated a comprehensive, outstanding county-wide clean communities program involving the elements of cleanup, enforcement and education. Nominated programs can be comprehensive in nature (involving multiple elements of cleanup, education and enforcement) or highlight one exemplary program showcasing a single program element.

## **County Coordinator Award**

A network of county coordinators supports New Jersey Clean Communities. This award is presented to an individual who has developed and implemented a comprehensive, county-wide litter abatement program and who demonstrates ongoing support of New Jersey Clean Communities.

## **Single Use Plastics Outreach Award**

Current NJCC Grant guidelines allow for grant funds to be expended on outreach and education initiatives related to NJ's single use plastics law. This award is for a town/county individual or agency that has gone above and beyond in helping to prepare residents and businesses for the new law.

## **Stormwater Management Award**

NJCCC Grant guidelines allow for 25% of annual grant funds to be expended on stormwater related activities. This award is for a town/county or agency that has implemented an effective litter abatement program that is replicable by other agencies.

## **Clean Communities Champion Award**

This is a new award category reserved for members of the NJ Urban Mayors Association. Awards will be presented to municipalities that show a true commitment to fighting all facets of litter. Examples include city-wide cleanup initiatives, crackdown on illegal dumping, enhanced social media campaigns and increased enforcement efforts.

## Category II: Clean Communities Program Awards

These awards are presented to businesses, community organizations, schools and individuals who best demonstrate spirit and community pride through contributions to New Jersey Clean Communities.

There are seven (6) categories:

1. Stewardship of Public Lands - Public Lands Cleanup Award
2. Stewardship of Public Waterways - Clean Waterway/Stormwater Award
3. Custodianship of Public Lands - Adopt-a-Road Award (park, lot etc.)
4. Volunteer Award
5. Excellence in Education Award
6. Innovative Program Award

### Stewardship of Public Lands Awards

These awards are presented to businesses, community organizations, schools and individuals who have cleaned and maintained public lands.

- **Public Lands Cleanup Award** – This award is presented to a business, community organization, school or individual who has cleaned a roadway, park, playground, ball field, or other parcel of land; or who has cleaned graffiti from public property.
- **Clean Waterway/Stormwater Award** – This award is presented to a business, community organization, school or individual who has cleaned a waterway.
- **Adopt-a (road, park, waterway, neighborhood, school, or other public place award)** – This award is presented to a business, community organization, school or individual who has cleaned and maintained public property for at least two years.

### Volunteer Award

Volunteers are the cornerstone of the New Jersey Clean Communities Program. This award is presented to an individual who has donated time or resources to promote clean communities.

### Excellence in Education Award

New Jersey Clean Communities promotes education in order to change the attitudes that cause littering. This award is presented to a business, community organization, school or individual who has achieved measurable results in reducing litter through education

### Innovative Program Award

NJ Clean Communities strives to encourage innovative and creative programs that lead to a litter free NJ. This award is for a new initiative that has led to changing attitudes and behaviors or a reduction in litter.