

Morris County Clean Communities

2025 – 2026 School Cleanup Grant

Grant Overview

The Morris County Clean Communities Program is offering Morris County schools rewards to support their litter cleanup and education efforts through their Clean Communities Program. Clean Communities is a statewide program that aims to change attitudes about litter through cleanup, educational, and enforcement efforts. We strive to create a unique learning experience for school students in grades K-12 to carry these lessons throughout their life.

For the 2025-2026 school year, schools who successfully complete a single-day litter cleanup event will be gifted an award of \$500 to contribute to one of the following:

- A litter themed education program & assembly
- A school field trip related to litter, storm water & watershed management, and/or recycling. This can include transportation to and from the trip.
- A reimbursement of approved items that promote environmental stewardship

Morris County suggests pairing the cleanup with a litter themed educational assembly or a field trip to show students how their actions benefit their communities and environment. Morris County will provide a list of approved educational programs that the schools can utilize to organize an assembly. It is up to the schools to decide on whether or not they wish the assembly to be school wide, or be for specific classes, grades, or clubs.

The donations will be given on a first come, first serve basis and are limited depending on available funding. For increased chances to receive the donation, Morris County suggests submitting this application as early as possible.

Following the school cleanup event, schools are required to fill out a simple post-cleanup form that includes statistical information for Morris County's records. You are expected to include information about the number of volunteers, total hours, bags of trash picked up, bags of recyclable litter picked up, and total acres cleaned.

Safety Guidelines

To hold a cleanup, the school must ensure proper weather conditions and safety precautions are met. These include: taking place during daylight hours, no precipitation, ground must not be covered in snow, proper safety gear, participants are briefed on safety guidelines, and an emergency response plan is created. **Morris County will not be liable should any injuries occur during your cleanup event.** Safety guidelines must also be followed and can be found on the NJ Clean website here: [Safety Tips | New Jersey Clean Communities](#).

Expected Timeline

- January 30th, 2026: Application is Due (suggest submitting earlier)
- May 29th, 2026: Plan to complete cleanups & educational programs by
- June 5th, 2026: Submit Post-Cleanup Form & Statistical Information (form emailed to you once application has been approved)

You will be reimbursed after the Post-Cleanup Form & Statistical Information has been submitted. If you intend to host an educational program using this funding, it is suggested that you reach out to the program vendors early on to schedule a set date and time.

If you are not able to complete a cleanup or follow this timeline, please reach out as soon as possible.

For any questions or concerns about this application, please reach out to the Morris County Clean Communities Coordinator Michelle Chavanne at mchavanne@co.morris.nj.us.