

For Immediate Release
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Galloway Township Achieves Blue Star Scores Big and Sets Record for Water Quality

Galloway Township, NJ - Today, Clean Ocean Action has awarded Galloway Township, NJ with their Municipal Blue Star Certificate at a ceremony at Town Hall to recognize their efforts to improve water quality. Galloway Township sets a record for achieving highest score and joins fellow Blue Star Municipalities, Wall Township and Long Beach Township. Since the program was launched in September of 2014, three towns have been awarded the certificate and COA has engaged with over 20 towns to obtain Blue Star Certification.

“Galloway Township is proud of its award of the Municipal Blue Star Certification by Clean Ocean Action. The Township is committed to environmental consciousness, protection of all of our local and regional waterways, and water conservation. We have taken and will continue to take a pro-active stance in environmental concerns. I am pleased that Galloway accumulated the most points in the State for our various educational programs, environmental protection actions, and our Council’s commitment through legislation to support the establishment of Storm Water Utilities in New Jersey,” **said Susan Jacobucci, Township Manager for Galloway Township.**

“We are impressed and inspired by Galloway’s leadership. New Jersey communities are taking the lead and tackling an important issue through our Blue Star Program. The Program was established by Clean Ocean Action to encourage towns along the coastal regions and beyond to prioritize water quality protection measures while achieving the Sustainable Jersey Certification, which harnesses the best of both programs,” **said Cindy Zipf, Clean Ocean Action, Executive Director.** “The Award is in recognition of a town taking significant and meaningful actions to improve and protect water quality, combined with achieving Sustainable Jersey Certification.”

The Municipal Blue Star program combines the visionary Sustainable Jersey Program with Clean Ocean Action’s focus on water quality protection. The Program encourages communities to promote healthy waters, resilient communities, and environmentally sound practices. To achieve Blue Star Award status, a municipality must target “Blue Star” actions for 50% of their total Sustainable Jersey points.

Galloway Township exceeded the necessary 75 points needed to attain certification by completing 234 points. Examples of the actions that they completed include water conservation education program, i-Tree assessment of municipal trees, and reusable bag education program. In addition to Sustainable Jersey projects, towns are required to choose one of Clean Ocean Action additional actions which are, climate adaption for flooding risk, innovative water quality project, model storm water control ordinance for municipalities, plastic bag fee or ban, or storm water utility support resolution. Galloway Township passed a Stormwater Utility Support Resolution on October 13, 2015.

Galloway Quote specific to Blue Star action.

Galloway Township has been a pioneer in their region for sustainability work and planning for resilience and it is influencing success in their neighboring towns which ultimately is in the best interest of the watershed and estuary.

“The Municipal Blue Star Program showcases innovative solutions to water pollution issues by promoting healthy waters and environmentally sound practices,” said **Catie Tobin, Clean Ocean Action, Marine Science Education Coordinator**. “It will help communities become leaders in environmental stewardship and ensure the vitality of a clean coastal ecosystem and economy. The program will also increase community pride and participation. Galloway Township exceeded our expectations with the completion of 234 points and we look forward to working with them in the future.”

The development of the Program was made possible by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

Clean Ocean Action will be awarding Galloway Township in a ceremony on Tuesday, January, 19th at 4:30pm at the Municipal Building.

Any municipality registered or certified in the Sustainable Jersey program is eligible to work toward the Blue Star certification. For more information about COA's Blue Star Program, please contact Catie Tobin at education@cleanoceanaction.org.