



SEAL Program Description:

Clean Ocean Action's **Student Environmental Advocates and Leaders (SEAL) Program** is a free leadership program for high school students who want to make an impact, build leadership skills, and grow their network. The program focuses on current, local environmental issues and gives students the opportunity and tools to make change in their communities.

Throughout the program, SEAL students will:

- Learn how environmental and community changes happen at the local and state level
- Identify an environmental issue in their own community, research the issue and possible solutions, and develop and carry out a project to address it
- Engage their school community, local groups, and potentially their municipality, Environmental Commission or Committee, or Town Council in their project
- Hear from a variety of guest speakers and experts in their fields
- Attend field trips to places like the New Jersey State Capitol, recycling facilities, and landfills
- Build leadership, communication, research, outreach, and project-planning skills
- Earn service hours while gaining hands-on leadership experience
- Connect and collaborate with high school students from different towns and schools
- Plan and conduct outreach and share their project and solutions with younger students and others in their community

Who Can Apply?

The program is open to high school students from Monmouth County and surrounding school districts, with priority given to sophomores and juniors.

If many applications come from the same school, the number accepted may be limited to allow space for students from other communities, as the program is limited to 35 students total.

Participation is free, though students are responsible for their own transportation. Travel stipends may be available based on need. Students can indicate accordingly on their Interest Form.

Program Schedule

The program runs from October 2026 through May 2027, with all meetings held in-person at the Clean Ocean Action office (49 Avenel Blvd, Long Branch, NJ) facilitated by Clean Ocean Action staff. Meetings are held twice a month from 6:30–8 pm -- new SEALs meet on Tuesdays and *returning SEALs meeting on Thursdays.

**Students may continue participating in SEAL after their first year, as long as they are still in high school, allowing them to build on their experience and take on deeper leadership and community involvement.*

Program Participation Requirements

If accepted, students must:

- Submit completed paperwork signed by themselves, a parent/guardian, and a school advisor, including a student participation agreement outlining program expectations
- Attend in-person SEAL meetings twice per month from October through May
- Participate in program field trips; parent/guardian approval will be required
- Track their project actions, progress, impacts, and successes and share updates during SEAL meetings and in brief reports to Clean Ocean Action

Interested in Joining?

1. Complete the **[Student Interest Form](#) by October 10**
2. Respond to the follow-up email to confirm your ability to participate.

Acceptance decisions will be sent by October 16 and include all need-to-know details for Orientation.

Questions? Email education@cleanoceanaction.org or call **732-872-0111** and ask for Kristen.