

Bergen County Clean Communities

Special Lecture Topics

Our staff will be happy to provide lectures on a variety of Clean Communities-related topics as well as science-related topics. Special lecture topics can be specifically developed to meet the needs and interests of your audience. As with our other educational offerings, special lecture topics will be followed by an interactive Q&A and discussion session to provide a comprehensive educational experience. Requests for specific lecture topics are welcome and must be scheduled a month in advance.

**TO SCHEDULE A PROGRAM OR PRESENTATION
PLEASE CONTACT**

Laura Jean Checki

Environmental Specialist Educational Programs

201-634-2727

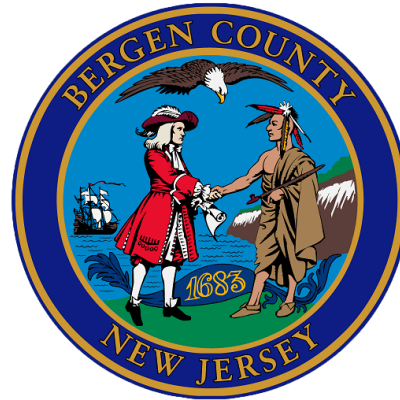
lchecki@bergencountynj.gov



Individuals with Disabilities:

We seek to ensure that all of our programs are accessible to individuals with disabilities and will accommodate special requests.

BERGEN NEW JERSEY
County



James J. Tedesco III
Bergen County Executive

&

Board of County Commissioners

**Bergen County Department of Health Services
Hansel F. Asmar, Director/Health Officer
220 E Ridgewood Avenue, Paramus, NJ 07652
201-634-6804**

**BERGEN COUNTY
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

S.T.E.A.M AHEAD

WITH OUR DYNAMIC INTERACTIVE PROGRAMS



SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING ART MATHEMATICS

ART + science = PROGRESS



Programs, Presentations, & Workshops

Programs can be tailored to your audience, grade level, curriculum, accessibility, and scheduling needs.

ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Explore how everyday choices impact our environment and learn practical ways to reduce waste, conserve energy, and protect natural resources. This interactive program examines recycling, and material classifications, renewable energy, and sustainable alternatives to single use products. Participants will also learn the meaning behind common recycling symbols and discover how individual actions can help create healthier and more sustainable communities.

MICROPLASTICS

Learn how microplastics impact our environment, waterways, wildlife, and human health. This program explores plastic pollution and how plastic breaks down into microscopic particles that enter our ecosystems and the food chain. We will discuss how choosing sustainably sourced products and reusable items can help. Learn how to start reducing your dependence on single-use plastics today.

POLLINATOR POWER

Participants will gain an understanding of the important role pollinators play in our environment and food supply. This program explores bees, butterflies, and other pollinating organisms while examining the challenges these species face in today's changing environment. Participants will also discover how pollinators, decomposers, and detritivores contribute to healthy ecosystems and biodiversity within our communities.

PUBLIC HEALTH & BIOLOGY

BERGEN BITES BACK

Insects outnumber humans by millions to one and are found in nearly every environment on Earth — including our own bodies. Learn about the ticks and mosquitoes that invade our area each year, some of which carry arboviruses. This interactive lecture provides audiences with the tools that they need to help prevent infestations, reduce exposure, and better understand these vectors of disease. Common misconceptions regarding tick removal and disease transmission will also be discussed.

WEST NILE VIRUS

This program explores the spread of West Nile Virus, including the introduction of invasive daytime-biting mosquitoes species. Participants will learn about mosquito life cycles, disease transmission, neuroinvasive illness, symptom recognition, and practical ways to reduce exposure. Prevention strategies including source reduction, eliminating standing water, protective clothing, window screens, and repellents will also be discussed.

MEDICATION DISPOSAL & SUPERBUGS

Learn how improperly discarded medications can impact our waterways, wildlife, and public health. This program explores how pharmaceuticals enter the environment through multiple pathways and examines the limitations of modern wastewater treatment systems. Topics including antibiotic resistance, environmental contamination, biomagnification, and the emergence of “superbugs” will be discussed. Participants will learn safe medication disposal practices and ways to help reduce pharmaceutical waste within their communities.

SCIENCE & DISCOVERY

ASTROBIOLOGY AND THE SEARCH FOR LIFE

Delve into humanity's efforts to search for life beyond Earth and explore the question, “Are we alone?” This program examines current exploration efforts, exoplanets, and extremophile organisms while exploring the biological conditions necessary to support life. Participants will gain an understanding of how scientists search for habitable worlds and what these discoveries may reveal about our place in the cosmos.

RRR: FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON

This program examines Earth's ocean pollution, and sustainable practices while connecting these concepts to current lunar exploration initiatives. Participants will learn why scientists “follow the water” in the search for habitable environments, and how sustainability, recycling, and resource management are essential both on Earth and for future exploration missions.

CLIMATE CHANGE: BEYOND THE HEADLINES

Explore the science behind climate change and how Earth's atmosphere helps regulate temperature and weather patterns. This program examines greenhouse gases, the greenhouse effect, positive feedback loops, air pollution, and the human and natural factors that influence climate systems. Participants will learn how climate change impacts ecosystems, public health, invasive species, extreme weather, and environmental conditions here in the Northeast and around the world.

Additional program topics are available upon request.

All programs align with NJCCCS and the NGSS.