

Experiential Environmental Education Project



Grant Donor: Island Foundation

Grantee: Clean Ocean Access

Year: 2018-2019

Grant Value: \$10,000

Grant Overview:

This grant provides support for the Experiential Environmental Education project that brings Clean Ocean Access's environmental science programs together with community education, outreach, and empowerment, integrated with our marina trash skimmer initiative across southeast New England. The marina trash skimmer is a highly effective technology that works to remove oil sheen, pollutants and floating debris from waterways, improving water quality and addressing the problem of marine debris. The technology and innovation connected to a stationary dock provides an excellent opportunity to educate, inspire, and empower the community to make better choices on land to prevent litter from becoming marine debris. The goal of the initiative is to improve ocean health by educating and fostering ocean stewardship amongst the children in the communities around the marina trash skimmers. Clean Ocean Access expects to engage hundreds of students in the Experiential Environmental Education project, including marina trash skimmer education along with public outreach to connect with the larger community.

Expected Impact:

The Experiential Environmental Education initiative plays a role in a larger project of expanding upon the success of our marina trash skimmers on Aquidneck Island, to install marina trash skimmers at new locations throughout southern New England, including Providence, Rhode Island and New Bedford, Massachusetts. With this expansion, we aim to develop partnerships with schools and community groups where the skimmers will be installed. These partnerships will serve as the foundation of educating the community about environmental problems and solutions. Clean Ocean Access hopes this can become a model for other organizations to combine marina trash skimmers with the Experiential Environmental Education project's hands-on learning activities.