

Coastal Leadership Institute

COALITION TO RESTORE
COASTAL LOUISIANA



Connect. Learn. Inspire.

Introducing the CRCL Coastal Leadership Institute.

CLI is a new program that educates and trains Louisiana residents to become more effective advocates for coastal restoration. The institute, which is intended for midcareer professionals and others, was developed in response to demand from CRCL supporters who wanted to get more involved after taking part in volunteer events and other activities. Do you want to help effect positive change for the future of our coast? Apply to CLI today.



About the program

The CRCL [Coastal Leadership Institute \(CLI\)](#) is a professional training and education program that is comprised of monthly meetings in locations across the state. They will focus on subjects ranging from the ecology of Louisiana's coast to the cultures and industries that are imperiled by land loss. Participants will also learn about the legislative process, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and the state's Coastal Master Plan.

The skills and knowledge you'll gain and the relationships you'll build will empower you to become a leader in the movement to protect and restore Louisiana's coast, where about 2,000 square miles of wetlands have vanished in less than a century.

CLI strives to educate and train residents from diverse backgrounds who are committed to restoring and protecting Louisiana's coast. While the program targets midcareer professionals, anyone can apply. Applications are open now. The 2024-25 schedule kicks off Sept. 13 with an orientation and opening social in New Orleans.

The cost to participate in the program is \$1,000. Scholarships are available.

How it works

Enroll in a cohort

You'll join up with 20 to 25 fellow coastal leaders from across Louisiana. Unsure whether you should apply? We welcome your unique background, perspective and experience. Your peers will be from a diverse range of industries and career levels.

Attend monthly sessions

Once a month, you'll spend a day learning from ecological, cultural, economic and political experts. Each day includes a visit to sites and communities impacted by land loss or involved in coastal restoration.

Flex your skills

Leverage the tools and knowledge you've acquired to write op-eds, deliver public comments and build connections that effect positive change for Louisiana's coast.

2024-25 Schedule

- Orientation & Opening Social – September 13, New Orleans
 - Session 1 – October 11, Baton Rouge. *Ecology of the Coast, Part I: Louisiana's Relationship to the Coast*
 - Session 2 – November 8, Plaquemines Parish. *Ecology of the Coast, Part II: Addressing the Problems of Louisiana's Coast*
 - Session 3 – December 13, Terrebonne Parish. *Coastal Cultures, Part I: Celebrating and Examining the Distinct Cultures at Risk*
 - Session 4 – January 10, St. Bernard Parish. *Coastal Cultures, Part II: Celebrating and Examining the Distinct Cultures at Risk*
 - Session 5 – February 14, Lake Charles. *Economy of the Coast, Part I: Exploring the Industries of Louisiana's Working Coast*
 - Session 6 – March 14, Port Fourchon. *Economy of the Coast, Part II: Exploring the Industries of Louisiana's Working Coast*
 - Session 7 – April 11, St. Mary Parish. *Policy of the Coast, Part I: Understanding the CPRA and Master Plan's Role in Restoring and Protecting Louisiana's Coast*
 - Session 8 – May TBD, Baton Rouge. *Policy of the Coast, Part II: Understanding the Legislative Process in Restoring and Protecting Louisiana's Coast*
 - Graduation – June 13, location TBD
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FAQs

Who should apply? *People from across Louisiana are encouraged to apply to the Coastal Leadership Institute. Nominees represent a range of ages, from the undergraduate level to mid-career or retired, and work in a variety of industries, such as energy, tech, healthcare, renewable energy, nonprofit, media, politics, education, faith-based, legal and others.*

What does it cost? *The Coastal Leadership Institute costs \$1,000 per term. This does not include travel or other expenses. A limited number of scholarships will be available.*

What if I can't attend a meeting? *Participants can miss up to two classes and still complete the program.*

Learn more [on our website](#).

Our team

Ethan Melancon, CRCL advocacy director

Will Thinnes, CRCL advocacy senior coordinator

Brett Pickett, CRCL outreach coordinator

Sofia Giordano, CRCL coastal adventures senior coordinator

James Karst, CRCL communications director

[The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana](#)'s mission is to unite people in action to achieve a thriving, sustainable Louisiana coast for all. Incorporated in 1988, CRCL represents a unique mix of businesses, local governments, industries, scientific communities, national and local conservation groups, hunters, anglers and a broad spectrum of concerned residents who share a common vision and commitment to the sustainability of coastal Louisiana. The common vision of these varied and diverse interests is the driving strength of CRCL, the most effective and recognized coastal advocacy organization in the state.

For questions about the Coastal Leadership Institute, email Ethan Melancon at ethan.melancon@crcl.org.

For media inquiries, email James Karst at james.karst@crcl.org.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CRCL introduces new coastal leadership program for Louisiana residents

Application period for CLI's first cohort has opened; meetings will be held monthly

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana has introduced a coastal leadership and education program intended to empower residents to become more effective advocates for coastal restoration. The Coastal Leadership Institute was developed in response to demand from CRCL supporters who wanted to get more involved after taking part in volunteer events and other activities. The application period for the first cohort has opened, and the first class will be in September.

CLI, which will feature monthly meetings held in locations across the state, will focus on subjects ranging from the ecology of our coast to the cultures and industries that are imperiled by land loss. Participants will also learn about the legislative process, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and the state's Coastal Master Plan. More information about the program is available [on the CRCL website](#).

"Addressing Louisiana's coastal crisis will take efforts from industry, communities, government and concerned residents from across the state," said Ethan Melancon, advocacy director at the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana. "That is why CRCL is excited to announce the launch of the Coastal Leadership Institute, a professional development program to equip Louisiana residents with the expertise and skills to advocate for and understand the coast's ecological relationship with culture, the economy and our politics."

Since its founding in 1988, CRCL has been a prominent advocate for science-based policy to restore and protect the state's coast, where about 2,000 square miles of wetlands have vanished in less than a century. Through its Oyster Shell Recycling Program, CRCL has recycled more than 14 million pounds of shell, keeping the resource out of landfills and using it instead to build reefs that create habitat for new oysters and that slow the rate of land loss; in September, the organization is building its sixth oyster reef, this one at Grand Bayou Indian Village in Plaquemines Parish.

The organization has planted more than 1 million trees and plants across Louisiana's coast through its Native Plants Program. CRCL also hosts the biennial State of the Coast conference, the premiere gathering on coastal restoration in the state, holds talks as part of its CRCLectures series and honors coastal leaders through its annual Coastal Stewardship Awards.

To learn more about the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, visit the organization's [website](#).

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[The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana](#) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to unite people in action to achieve a thriving, sustainable Louisiana coast for all.