



BEACH SWEEPS

2021 REPORT

*Beachy Clean Fun Since 1985!
A day of service, a lifetime of evidence
to make the ocean cleaner!*

7,938,058
*Pieces of Debris
Collected Over 36 Years!*



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“Feet on the Beach, Hands in the Sand” Since 1985: An Overview

Waste, trash and litter find their way into our waterways from many sources and are harmful to animals that mistake it for food and/or become entangled. It often starts on land as litter and is either windblown or carried by stormwater into waterways, where it ultimately flows into the sea and washes up on beaches. In addition to endangering wildlife, litter-covered beaches also negatively affect tourism and the coastal economy. In response, thousands of dedicated volunteers—the tall and the small—have mobilized for Clean Ocean Action’s (COA) Beach Sweeps every Spring and Fall for 36 years. Since launching the region’s first beach cleanup program in 1985, over 157,863 volunteers have participated and removed and tallied 7,938,058 pieces of debris from New Jersey’s beaches and waterways. By removing and learning more about litter, volunteers make beaches and waterways cleaner and safer for wildlife and people alike.



Year after year, plastic consistently accounts for the highest proportion of collected debris. Plastic in the marine environment breaks apart into smaller and

smaller pieces, making it more “bite size” for many more species and ages of marine life. This is a human-caused, and thus, human-solvable problem. The goal of the Beach Sweeps is to reduce and eliminate sources of litter by engaging people to remove and document harmful debris, creating evidence that can be used to enact policies and identify solutions. Participants also become aware of the problems of a wasteful society and are empowered to make personal behavior changes.



COA compiles the data into an annual report that is used to advocate for legislation and ordinances to reduce sources of pollution. The annual report presents results, notes interesting finds, acknowledges volunteers and sponsors, and becomes a reference and resource about marine litter along the Jersey coast. The report also identifies trends, tracking new items and those that are becoming rare. In addition, COA gives the data a global boost by sharing Fall Beach Sweeps data with Ocean Conservancy’s International Coastal Cleanup (ICC).



“ This is a human-caused, and thus, human-solvable problem. ”

2021 Beach Sweeps Highlights:

- After the Spring 2020 Beach Sweeps were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the usual biannual event returned - and broke records - in 2021 (pg. 4)
- 10,003 volunteers removed 513,605 items in just 6 hours (pg. 4)
- Plastic and foam items continued to dominate, accounting for 82.3% of total items collected (pg. 7)
- Plastic pieces fell from #1 on the Dirty Dozen (most common items) for the first time since 2013 (pg. 7)
- Personal protective equipment and other “ocean offenders” (new litter items) were recorded for the first time (pg. 4)
- Silly, bizarre, and just plain gross - “Roster of the Ridiculous” (pg. 5)

Beach Sweeps Data in Action

Reducing Sources of Marine Debris

Thanks to all of you volunteering for Beach Sweeps – collecting, tallying, and removing trash from beaches – meaningful and powerful laws are in place to reduce sources of marine debris!

NJ Law Provides Missing Link for Successful Recycling.... and Bans Foam Peanuts!

NJ's recently enacted Recycled Content legislation will gradually increase recycled content requirements of up to 50% for plastic containers, plastic beverage containers, plastic & paper bags, plastic trash bags & glass containers. COA led a coalition of environmental advocates to support the bill. Beach Sweeps data was used to highlight the problems of litter and lack of recycling incentives. This law creates incentives for recycling by providing a market demand for recycled material. Without the law, producers manufacturing these products use virgin or new materials which waste valuable resources and leave piles of recycled materials unused. This is particularly onerous for plastic materials as they are made from fossil fuels; thus, using virgin or new material also increases climate change as well as other pollution. The law also bans the bane of many foam packing peanuts—effective as of January 18, 2024.

NJ's Long-Awaited Premiere Single-Use Waste Reduction Act Kicks-In May 4, 2022!

A great day for the ocean is May 4, 2022, when the law banning certain plastic items goes into effect. The bans send a strong and clear message that Single Use Waste is unnecessary and unacceptable. The law:

- BANS plastic bags from all stores and bans paper bags from stores larger than 2500 sq.ft. (large grocery stores). All other stores can use paper.
- Allows only reusable bags for sale or distribution. "Reusable carryout bag" must be made of polypropylene fabric, PET nonwoven fabric, nylon, cloth, hemp product, or other washable fabric, and have stitched handles, and be designed and manufactured for multiple reuses.
- BANS all persons and food service businesses from selling/offering for sale any polystyrene foam food service product and prohibits all food service businesses from selling/providing any food served in a polystyrene foam food service product - that means no foam takeout containers/foodware. There is an extension until May 4, 2024, for pre-packed products, meat trays, long straws and small cups.



A "polystyrene foam food service product" is defined as a product made, in whole or in part, of polystyrene foam that is used for selling or providing a food or beverage, and includes but is not limited to a food container, plate, hot or cold beverage cup, meat or vegetable tray, cutlery, or egg carton.

Finally, as of November 4, 2021, plastic straws were banned and only available upon customer request.

To learn more, visit NJDEP website: nj.gov/dep/get-past-plastic

2021 Flotsam and Jetsam: The Story in The Numbers

Cumulative Numbers Since 1985:

- **7,938,058** pieces of trash removed
- **157,863** volunteers donated **947,178** hours

2021 Beach Sweeps Data Highlights:

- A record **513,605** items were collected by **10,003** volunteers
- **82.32%** of debris collected was plastic, including foam
- Plastic bottle caps/lids reached a record number of **69,454**
- Food and candy wrappers/bags also reached a record number of **58,589**, a **16.55%** increase from 2019

2021 Dirty Dozen Highlights:

- Plastic bottle caps/lids are the **#1** item for the first time since 2010, exceeding plastic pieces
- Plastic pieces fell to **#2** for the first time since 2013
- Plastic beverage bottles, cigar tips, glass pieces, and plastic store/shopping bags all fell in the ranking
- "Other plastics" jumped from **#12** to **#7**, increasing **57.87%** from 2019
- Paper pieces (**#8**) returned to the Dirty Dozen for the first time since 2017, after increasing **52.41%** from 2019

Seasonal Changes from Spring to Fall 2021:

- 67 out of 95 items (**70%**) were significantly higher in Fall than in Spring, including: dog waste bags, plastic beverage/soda bottles, smoking-related litter (cigarette filters, cigar tips, e-cigarette waste), plastic food takeout litter, and ice cream spoons/sticks
- Fewer face masks were found in Fall as compared to Spring
 - Disposable masks decreased by **23.09%**
 - Reusable masks decreased by **42.69%**

New to Data Card

In 2021, COA released an updated data card that includes the newest "ocean offenders" - types of litter that have become increasingly common over the last several Beach Sweeps. Below are some of the items which were recorded for the first time:

Dog waste bags: 1,667

E-Cigarette Cartridges/Caps/Pens: 3,686

Plastic food takeout containers: 2,020

Cotton swab sticks: 274

Dental floss picks: 2,172

Disposable wipes: 1,523

PPE - Disposable face masks: 3,080

PPE - Reusable face masks: 538

PPE - Disposable gloves: 1,310



Comparative Numbers: 2021 Data Results to 2019^

Substantial increases:

Item:	Increased by:	2021		2019
Other foam plastic	+125.95%	5,486	up from	2,428
Foam packaging materials	+82.94%	4,290	up from	2,345
Plastic toys	+58.86%	4,364	up from	2,747
Balloons (mylar & rubber)	+35.67%	5,234	up from	3,858
Plastic bottle cap rings	+32.26%	9,072	up from	6,859

Substantial decreases:

Item:	Decreased by:	2021		2019
Diapers	-40.73%	147	down from	248
Total glass	-38.95%	14,697	down from	24,074
Plastic pieces*	-29.53%	67,628	down from	95,963
6-pack holders	-27.06%	275	down from	377
Condoms	-26.84%	368	down from	503
Tampon applicators	-17.58%	3,211	down from	3,896
Volunteers	-6.72%	10,003	down from	10,724

**In the Dirty Dozen (see page 7)*

These numbers likely reflect high seasonal use, rather than a difference in volunteer effort, as the number of volunteers was very similar in Spring and Fall.

^Due to the pandemic, 2020 data is irregular and not used for comparisons.

Roster of the Ridiculous: Everything Under the Sea!

Weirdest of the Weird

Invisalign, full set of dentures, hunk of hair, yearbook, pieces of a globe, Turkish Airlines hygiene kit, Amazon packages, shower head, weather vane, wicker light fixture, water testing equipment, art easel, pickup truck running board

Rated R

thong, used narcan kit, Rhino 88 Male Enhancement, condoms, glow in the dark condom, empty weed bags, bullet casing, gun cartridge, gun case, Juul pods, unopened small vodka bottle, vape pen, mason jar of hooch, Fireball bottles

Planes, Trains, & Automobiles (& Boats)

boat parts, car headlight cover, cloth from boat covering, engine, floating dock, gas can, part of car windshield, traffic cone, car bumper, car hose, car part, half of a tire, plastic orange car indicator light, set of rusted car keys, car air freshener, sink from a boat

Fake Out

plastic baby, gel toy alligator, fake fern frond, tiny plastic monkey, plastic flower, painted rock, greens from cell tower, check for \$1, fake ivy leaf, fake flowers, plastic plant, plastic spider ring, silk flower petal, fake eye, message in a bottle

Shell-f Care

razor, nail file, medical marijuana case, medical vial, hairpick, deodorant, disposable eye dropper, tooth brush, pacifier, lip balm, lipstick, tooth paste, unused face-masks sealed in wrapper, hospital bracelet, contact lens case, albuterol sulfate, rosary beads

The Great Outdoors

basketball, tent stakes, golf ball, golf club, golf tee, tennis ball, shot-put disc, sleeping bag, tiki torch, half of a bike pedal, bike reflectors, bike handle grip, beach chair, bird seed bags, bouquet of flowers, buoy, lawnchairs, shovel

Fun & Games

Lego, Lego wheel, metal toy car, boomerang, crawl-through toy, cloth frisbee, porcelain doll, Buzz Lightyear, board games, ping pong balls, Barbie Doll clothing, GI Joe, Nerf bullet, rope dog toy, arrow, part of a bowling ball

Rest in Peace

dead baby shark, dead deer, dead seahorse, dead stingray, laminated funeral card

If the Shoe Fits...

bathing suit, heel of a shoe, child's shoe, baby's shoe, shoe sole, boot, hat, clothes hanger, pair of socks, sandals, umbrella, metal necklace, beach bag, sunglasses, purse, hair tie, wig, prescription glasses



Volunteers found a swimsuit in 2021.

Junk Drawer

cork, cup of buttons, scissors, USB cord, seven foot wire, chapstick, keys on keychain, lottery ticket, phone chargers, flash drives, glue stick, parking ticket, \$20 bill, battery pack, bubble wrap, pad lock, airpods

It's a Sign

"please keep off the dunes" sign, pesticide signs and sticks, stop sign post, large warning sign, caution tape

Home Sweet Home

countertop, piece of sheet metal, sheet rock, fence, part of a wooden gate with hinges, metal pipe, cinder block, heavy entangled rope, mini fridge, propane tank, Trex decking, metal door, American flag attached to pole, styrofoam block, shingle pieces, linoleum floor tile, aluminum siding, roofing paper, cat litter container, chair cushion, couch cushion, dishwasher parts, fencing, mattress stuffing, lamp, toilet brush, TV remote, recycling bin top, rubber mat, door mat

If it Ain't Broke, Don't Fix it!

spray foam, o-rings, pliers, wrench, screwdriver, broom handle, bucket with giant steel screws, dust pan, fire extinguisher, grill brush, insulator, metal worm clamp, mop handle, mouse trap, old propane can

Party Time

CD holder with CDs from Limp Bizkit, plastic accordion, harmonica, cassette tapes, Easter eggs, fireworks, party poppers, Christmas tree ornament, shamrock coin, bottle opener, candles

	Items	Spring Total	Fall Total	Total	% of Total
PLASTIC	Food, Candy Wrappers/Bags	28,585	30,004	58,589	11.41%
	Store/Shopping Bags	4,774	4,531	9,305	1.81%
	Dog Waste Bags	778	889	1,667	0.32%
	Other Bags	2,774	2,554	5,328	1.04%
	Beverages/Soda Bottles	5,059	6,335	11,394	2.22%
	Other Bottles/Jugs	1,456	2,156	3,612	0.70%
	Bottle Caps/Lids	29,425	40,029	69,454	13.52%
	Cap Rings	4,048	5,024	9,072	1.77%
	Cigarette Filters	13,818	18,642	32,460	6.32%
	Lighters	537	708	1,245	0.24%
	Cigarette Packaging	1,293	1,093	2,386	0.46%
	Cigar Tips	4,856	6,472	11,328	2.21%
	E-Cigarette Cartridges/Caps/Pens	1,453	2,233	3,686	0.72%
	Bait Bags/Containers	272	296	568	0.11%
	Line (tangle)	442	439	881	0.17%
	Line (piece)	311	303	614	0.12%
	Lures, Floats	251	429	680	0.13%
	Fishing Nets	169	185	354	0.07%
	Beverage Cups	3,150	4,448	7,598	1.48%
	Forks, Knives, Spoons	2,191	2,977	5,168	1.01%
	Food Lids	2,148	2,462	4,610	0.90%
	Straws/Stirrers	14,599	20,202	34,801	6.78%
	Takeout Containers	911	1,109	2,020	0.39%
	Cotton Swab Sticks	91	183	274	0.05%
	Dental Floss Picks	850	1,322	2,172	0.42%
	Diapers	53	94	147	0.03%
	Disposable Wipes	806	717	1,523	0.30%
	Syringes	251	294	545	0.11%
	Tampon Applicators	1,755	1,456	3,211	0.63%
	Light Sticks	245	238	483	0.09%
	Pens	658	756	1,414	0.28%
	Plastic Pieces	32,909	34,719	67,628	13.17%
	Ribbon/Tape (no balloon)	1,547	1,601	3,148	0.61%
	Rope	739	950	1,689	0.33%
	6-Pack Holders	111	164	275	0.05%
	Sheeting	268	160	428	0.08%
	Shotgun Shells	263	333	596	0.12%
	Strapping Bands	482	642	1,124	0.22%
	Toys	1,590	2,774	4,364	0.85%
	Other Plastics	5,984	7,596	13,580	2.64%
FOAM PLASTIC	Building/Dock Material	1,080	852	1,932	0.38%
	Cups	1,503	1,482	2,985	0.58%
	Packaging Materials	2,512	1,778	4,290	0.84%
	Foam Pieces	15,216	11,654	26,870	5.23%
	Plates	257	272	529	0.10%
	Trays	110	127	237	0.05%
	Takeout Containers	677	380	1,057	0.21%
	Other Foam Plastic	3,180	2306	5,486	1.07%
PPE	Disposable Face Masks	1,741	1,339	3,080	0.60%
	Reusable Face Masks	342	196	538	0.10%
	Disposable Gloves	634	676	1,310	0.26%

	Items	Spring Total	Fall Total	Total	% of Total
BALLOONS & RUBBER	Balloons - Mylar/Plastic	749	967	1,716	0.33%
	Mylar With String/Ribbon	425	671	1,096	0.21%
	Balloons - Rubber/Latex	683	963	1,646	0.32%
	Rubber With String/Ribbon	370	406	776	0.15%
	Condoms	142	226	368	0.07%
	Rubber Bands	348	587	935	0.18%
	Reusable Gloves	76	149	225	0.04%
	Tires: Piece	170	232	402	0.08%
	Tires: Whole	16	17	33	0.01%
	Other Rubber	575	791	1,366	0.27%
METAL	Batteries: Car	13	19	32	0.01%
	Batteries: Other	66	97	163	0.03%
	Bottle Caps	3,518	2,932	6,450	1.26%
	Beverage Cans	3,031	3,519	6,550	1.28%
	Other Cans	196	237	433	0.08%
	Fishing: Hooks	58	98	156	0.03%
	Fishing: Sinkers	27	39	66	0.01%
	Foil	775	1,233	2,008	0.39%
	Nails	691	343	1,034	0.20%
	Wire	538	433	971	0.19%
PAPER	Metal Pieces	621	592	1,213	0.24%
	Pop Tabs	180	230	410	0.08%
	Other Metal	514	659	1,173	0.23%
	Beverage Cartons/Boxes	567	474	1,041	0.20%
	Cardboard	1,326	1,461	2,787	0.54%
	Cups	793	851	1,644	0.32%
	Newspaper/Magazines	506	304	810	0.16%
	Paper Bags	488	641	1,129	0.22%
	Paper Pieces	4,373	7,413	11,786	2.29%
	Plates	132	290	422	0.08%
CLOTH	Other Paper	1,405	1,648	3,053	0.59%
	Blankets/Sheets/Towels	210	295	505	0.10%
	Clothing: Specify	494	655	1,149	0.22%
	Shoes/Sandals	225	371	596	0.12%
	String (No Balloon)	590	848	1,438	0.28%
	Other Cloth	790	919	1,709	0.33%
WOOD	Ice Cream Spoon/Sticks	362	578	940	0.18%
	Lumber Pieces	4,680	4,208	8,888	1.73%
	Pallets	376	264	640	0.12%
	Other Wood	1,757	1,657	3,414	0.66%
GLASS	Beverage Bottles	1,782	1,723	3,505	0.68%
	Other Bottles/Jars	235	282	517	0.10%
	Glass Pieces	6,567	3,206	9,773	1.90%
	Other Glass	325	577	902	0.18%

2021 Beach Sweeps	Spring	Fall	Totals
Total Items Collected	240,919	272,686	513,605*
Number of Volunteers	5,014	4,989	10,003

*Denotes record numbers

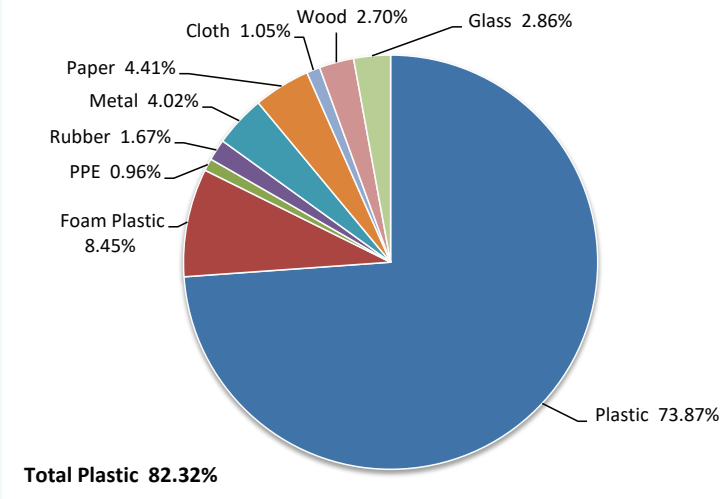
NOTES FOR BEACH SWEEPS DATA:

The Annual Beach Sweeps Report can be used to study and understand marine debris. When analyzing annually or over time for trends, it is important to note that the amount of debris collected depends on a variety of factors, such as weather, tides, participants, and accuracy.



Long-time Beach Captains Ted and Elaine Jermansen, proud parents of long-time COA employee Kari Jermansen Martin.

Percent Breakdown by Category/Debris Type



Breakdown by Category/Debris Type

2021 Totals	Spring	Fall	Total	% of Total
Plastic	171,902	207,519	379,421	73.87%
Foam Plastic	24,535	18,851	43,386	8.45%
PPE	2,717	2,211	4,928	0.96%
Rubber	3,554	5,009	8,563	1.67%
Metal	10,228	10,431	20,659	4.02%
Paper	9,590	13,082	22,672	4.41%
Cloth	2,309	3,088	5,397	1.05%
Wood	7,175	6,707	13,882	2.70%
Glass	8,909	5,788	14,697	2.86%
Pieces of Debris	240,919	272,686	513,605	
Volunteers	5,014	4,989	10,003	

2021 Dirty Dozen:

The Most Commonly Collected Pieces of Debris

The Dirty Dozen lists the worst offenders of marine litter: the top twelve most commonly collected items at the Beach Sweeps. Plastic, especially single-use items, is always prevalent on the list. Plastic pieces have held the number one spot on the list since 2013, but in 2021, they fell to number two, exceeded by plastic caps/lids. A record **69,454** plastic caps/lids were collected, putting this item at number one for the first time since 2010.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Plastic Caps/Lids | 4. Straws/Stirrers | 7. Other Plastics | 10. Cigar Tips |
| 2. Plastic Pieces | 5. Cigarette Filters | 8. Paper Pieces | 11. Glass Pieces |
| 3. Food, Candy Wrappers/Bags | 6. Foam Pieces | 9. Plastic Beverage Bottles | 12. Plastic Store/Shopping Bags |

2021 Rank	Debris Items	2021	Change in Rank	2019 [^]	2019 Rank	2018	2018 Rank	2017	2017 Rank
1	Plastic Caps/Lids	69,454	↑	67,011	2	61,358	2	50,881	2
2	Plastic Pieces	67,628	↓	95,963	1	75,899	1	56,201	1
3	Food, Candy Wrappers/Bags	58,589	—	50,270	3	40,780	3	40,227	3
4	Straws/Stirrers	34,801	—	35,124	4	36,156	4	31,167	4
5	Cigarette Filters	32,460	—	27,751	5	21,998	6	29,008	5
6	Foam Pieces	26,870	—	25,630	6	24,127	5	21,117	6
7	Other Plastics	13,580	↑	8,602	12	6,489	*	4,340	*
8	Paper Pieces	11,786	★	7,733	*	6,462	*	7,694	9
9	Plastic Beverage Bottles	11,394	↓	13,908	8	16,358	7	12,114	7
10	Cigar Tips	11,328	↓	10,703	9	7,437	11	7,172	10
11	Glass Pieces	9,773	↓	15,399	7	14,078	8	5,774	*
12	Plastic Store/Shopping Bags	9,305	↓	9,724	10	11,180	9	9,052	8
Total Dirty Dozen		356,968		368,783		325,320		276,560	
Percent of Total Debris		70%		74%		72%		74%	
Number of Volunteers		10,003		10,724		10,148		7,416	

↑ moved up in rank ↓ moved down in rank ★ new to the Dirty Dozen — no change in rank * did not make rank for indicated year

[^]Due to the pandemic, 2020 data is irregular and not used for comparisons.

Ocean Wavemakers

Special thanks to our Ocean Wavemakers, who contributed time effort, resources, and donations!



Beach Captains

Mark Allen, Tom Allin, Maria Antonia Andrews, Ryan Baine, Marianne Borke, Keri Branin, Sheri Bruns, Stephen Camp, Ryan Carr, Beth Collis, Ann Commorato, Lisa Cordova, Crystal DeCaro, Meredith DeMarco, Fran Donnelly, Skye Donzelli, Anthony Edge, Margot Fennicola, Matt Fiocco, Julie Finnell, David Finter, Kathleen Gasienica, Leo Gasienica, Joe Gawrysiak, Brent Germano, Marianne Grant, Kyle Gronostajski, Emily Hackett, Eric Hanan, Brianna Hellrigel, Cory and Leo Herrala, Barbara Hood-Benz, Stephen Hudson, Stephanie Huynh, Anna Jeadron, Ted Jermansen, Andrew Kaplan, Liam Keegan, Tony Kono, Liz Lawrence, Mary Lenahan, Greg Love, John Majeski, Andrea Mariani, Jeff Martin, Carol McCallum, Jason, Sanura, and Lincoln McKairnes, Don Melnyk, Monica Michelotti, Jessica Mumford, Saf O'Rourke, Vincent Palmieri, Bijal Pandya, Linda Peng-Groeters, John, Julie, & Josh Peterson, Joseph Pursel, Keith Rella, Kylie Renna, Derek Riddle, Deanna Rodriguez, Michael Rohal, Angela Romanowski, Troy Romanowski, Leah Savia, Dakota Schaefer, Matt Schmidt, Jim Sciuto, Steve Shearer, Sarah Steiner, Graceanne Taylor, Mark Thompson, Tyler Thompson, Tina Maria Walling, JJ Walsh, Yushi Wang, Gretchen Whitman, Anita Zalom

Junior Beach Captains

Katie Barreiro, Sofia Barreiro, Amanda Beneventano, Elizabeth Bertsch, Mason Bindler, Christian Bockelmann, Grace Bray, Grace Calandra, Jake Donzelli, Daniel Espinosa, Victoria Fitlin, Sonia Gazi, Cole Hashemi, Olivia Heng, Katie Lynch, Rocco Mariani, Megan Molloy, Ella Moser, Jack Murphy, Dakota Neuls, Caroline Nolan, Christian Orem, Patricia Rizzo, Emma Rodriguez, Nayeli Rojas, Isabel Romero-Avila, Julia Rubinstein, Inaaya Shakir, Jordyn Talucci, Bella Valenzano, Yasmin Wells

Civic Groups & Parks

Aberdeen Environmental Board, Asbury Area WMS, Asbury Park Rotary, Berkeley Twp Waterways Advisory Committee, Borough of Seaside Park, Brick Environmental Commission, City of Sea Isle City, Department of Community Services, Glen Ridge Environmental Advisory Committee, Keyport Environmental Commission, Kiwanis Club, Kiwanis Club of Asbury, Lavallette Environmental Group, Madelyn Hoffman 2021 Governor's Campaign, Manasquan Environmental Commission, Mantoloking Environmental Commission, Neptune

Township: Dept. of Public Works, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, New Jersey Reserve Officers Training Corps, Ocean City Adopt-a-Beach Program, Ocean County Corrections, Pallone's Youth Advisory Council, Sea Isle City: Dept. of Community Services, Dept. of Public Works, PR/Recreation/Tourism, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, US Navy: Naval Weapons Station Earle

Organizations

Alliance for a Living Ocean, AmeriCorps New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program, Appalachian Mountain Club New York North Jersey Chapter, Art for Sea, Blessing Bag Brigade, Brant Beach Tax Payers Association, Cape May County Science Rocks 4H Club, Delta Phi Epsilon, Delta Xi Delta, Epicurean Club, Essex-Hudson Jack and Jill, Friends of Ortleigh Beach, Garden Club of LBI, Girls Who Code, Ideal Beach Residents Association, Jersey Shore TRI GALS, Junior League of Monmouth County, Key Club Westhampton, Lambda Tau Omega Sorority Geminate Beta Chapter, Lavallette Beautification Group, Lavallette Pickleball Club, LEPS, Long Branch Ocean Rescue, Long Branch Rotary Club, Monmouth MEBP, Monmouth Ocean County Realtors Association, Noah's Ark Pet Pals 4H Club, N'Power Sisters, Ocean County 4H Club, Ocean Grove Lifeguards, Pelican Crew Union 87LRS, Phlock of South Jersey, Red Bank Barnecks, Renen Blu Surf, Rotary Club of Bloomfield, Rotary Club of Glen Ridge, Salt Water Warriors, Sewa International, Sigma Kappa Sorority Kappa Upsilon Chapter, South Jersey Sharks Travel Softball, Stone Harbor Property Owners Association, Surfrider Foundation: Jersey Shore, Toms River Elks, Valenci, Vegan in NJ, Women's Club of Manasquan, Women's Club of Spring Lake

Businesses

Absolute Strength Gym, AC Surf School, Alwin Group, Applegate, Atlantic City Electric, Bloomberg, Bonnie R. Peterson Esq., Cape Resorts, Chartered Bank, Ciena Cares, CITI Rx, Colivers Consultants, Colliers Engineering, Columbia Bank, Defined Logic LLC, Delta Dental of NJ, East Coast Diving Center, First Bank of Sea Isle, Genewiz, Gilbane Building Company,

Hackensack Meridian Jersey Shore University Medical Center, Haverty Simons, International Market Centers, Janney Montgomery Scott, Jersey Central Power and Light, Kilbridge Compass Real Estate, Kohl's Hillsborough, Lofidelic Records, Manasquan Bank, Monmouth County Career Center, MTF Biologics, Network Express, OceanFirst Bank, Offshore Coffee, Orange Theory Shrewsbury, Poland Environmental, Progressive, Ray's Café, Reichert, Ricoh, SAP America, Shore Memorial Radiology, Shore Point Healing, Slalom Consulting, Symrise, T&M Associates, Target, TD Bank, Techxtend, TerraCycle, The Body Shop at Newport Center, The Gallery Residential Brokerage, Timberland, Vanguard Harding Capital LLC, Vantage Apparel, Verizon Wireless, Wakefern ShopRite, Wayside Technology, WBI Investments, West End Beach Yoga, Willie's Superbrew, Wingit Sales LLC, Wyndham

Faith-Based Groups

Atonement Lutheran Church, BAME Church Lay Org, Brick Presbyterian Church, Christ Episcopal Church, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Redeemer Mar Thoma Church, St. Anselm Church, St. Benedict Catholic Church, St. Clement Catholic Church, St. Gabrielle Catholic Church, St. Junipero Serra Church, St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church, St. Rose of Lima, St. Uriel Youth Group

Pre/Elementary/Middle Schools

Avon Elementary, Belhaven Middle, Central Regional Middle, Churchill Junior High, Deane Porter Elementary, East Dover Elementary, Eugene A Tighe Middle: Surfrider Club; Forrestdale Middle: National Junior Honor Society, Frank Antonides Middle, Galloway Township Middle: Environmental Club, Fun Club; George Catrambone Elementary, Holy Cross Elementary, Irving Primary, Keyport Middle, Lake Riviera Middle, Lloyd Road School, Long Branch Middle, Manasquan Elementary, Markham Place, Matawan-Aberdeen Middle, Neptune Middle, New Egypt Middle, New Monmouth Elementary, Ocean Avenue Elementary, Ocean Township Intermediate, Ranney, Rumson Country Day, Sea Girt Elementary, St. James Elementary, Thompson Elementary, Upper Township Elementary, Upper Township Middle, Veterans Memorial Middle

High Schools

Academy of the Holy Angels, Barnegat, Betty McElmon, Biotechnology, Brick Memorial: Key Club; Brick Township, Carteret High Pathways, Central Regional: ROTC; Christian Brothers Academy, Clearview Regional, Colin Powell, Colts Neck: ROTC; Crest Memorial, DePaul Catholic, Donovan Catholic: Environmental Club; Egg Harbor Township, Freehold Regional, Gilmore, Glassboro: Interact; Glen Ridge, Henry P. Becton Regional, High Tech, Holmdel: National Honor Society; Holy Cross, International Virtual Learning Academy, Jackson Liberty: Interact Club; Jackson Memorial: Key Club; Keyport, Lacey Township: Surfriider Club; Larcordair Academy, Liberty, Long Branch, Lower Cape May Regional: Marine Science, Baseball; Lower Township, Manalapan, Manasquan, Marine Academy of Science and Technology, Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science, Marlboro, Matawan Regional: Environmental Club; Mater Dei Prep, Middletown North: Environmental Club; Middletown South, Monmouth Beach, Monmouth County Vocational School District, Monmouth Regional: Environmental Club; Monroe Township: Environmental Action Club; Morristown Beard, Neptune, Newark Academy, Ocean City, Ocean County Regional Technical School, Ocean Township, Pascack Valley: Environmental Club; Pennsbury, Pleasantville, Point Pleasant, Point Pleasant Beach, Rancocas Valley Regional: Environmental Club; Ranney, Red Bank Charter, Red Bank Regional: Environmental Club; Rumson Fair Haven Regional, Shore Regional, South Plainfield, Southern Regional, Spotswood: Environmental Club; St. Dominic, St. John Vianney, St. Joseph, St. Leo the Great, St. Peter's Prep, St. Rose, Susan Wagner, Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School, Toms River East, Toms River North, Toms River South: Key Club; Trinity Hall: Environmental Club; Union County Magnet, Verona: Marine Biology Club; Veteran's Memorial, Wall Township, Wildwood Catholic, Wildwood: Eco Club; Sayreville War Memorial: Environmental Club, Shore Regional, Sommerset Southern Regional, Spotswood: Environmental Club, Toms River North, Toms River South: Key Club & Lacrosse Team, Trenton Central: Volunteer Club, Triton, Union Catholic, Weehawkin High: Climate Club, West Windsor Plainsboro High North, West Windsor Plainsboro High South, Wildwood Catholic, Wildwood Roots Club & Eco Club, Woodridge High



Volunteers from various high schools came out to the Beach Sweeps at Sandy Hook.

Colleges

Atlantic City Institute of Technology: Key Club; Bergen Community College, Brookdale Community College, Johns Hopkins University, Monmouth University: Key Club; Montclair State University, Ocean City College, Ocean County College: NJ STARS; Raritan Valley Community College, Rider University, Rowan College at Burlington County, Rutgers University New Brunswick: Association of Latino Professionals For America, Society of Hispanic

Engineers; Rutgers University Newark: ALPFA; Seton Hall University: Alpha Phi Omega; Somerset County Vocational Tech, Stevens Institute of Technology, Stockton University, The College of New Jersey: Engineering, Environmental Club

Boy Scouts

Boy: 16, 18, 30, 67, 109, 111, 131, 241, 331, 3316

Cub: 11, 34, 38, 53, 70, 92, 122, 801

Girl Scouts

Girl: 80, 81, 82, 111, 123, 287, 318, 329, 363, 540, 680, 1034, 1270, 1390, 1393, 1407, 1735, 1901, 5794, 20745, 50018, 60343, 60720, 60827, 61042, 80243, 81165, 81608, 98784, Girl Scouts of South Jersey

Brownie: 22

Daisy: 80, 1769, 60083



Big thanks to the Girl Scouts for coming out to Spring Lake!

Special Celebrations

Pagliano Family, Team Ecker, The Littles

A Pig with a Sweeping Message



Upon arrival to the Beach Sweeps at Ortley Beach in Ocean County, volunteers squeal in delight to see Hamlette the mini-pig poised and ready to greet sweepers and to hit the beach in search of unsightly debris. Hamlette accompanies his owners Crystal DeCaro and Ryan Carr, who have served as Beach Captains for a decade. Hamlette, a beach lover himself, helps to spread awareness of the importance of keeping the beach clean – for animals and people alike!

Junior Beach Captains Take the Lead



High school students across the state have taken their "sweeping" to the next level by becoming Junior Beach Captains. Trained by COA, these Junior Beach Captains are paired with Beach Captains and help with all aspects of the Beach Sweeps, including event promotion, day-of coordination, and post-Sweeps data compilation. Waves of thanks to the 31 Junior Beach Captains who participated in the 2021 Beach Sweeps!

Pictured: Beach Captain Liz Lawrence with Junior Beach Captains Katie and Sofia Barreiro at Anchorage Beach in Sea Bright

Un-Waste Composts Piles of Peels from Beach Sweeps



In 2021, COA partnered with Un-Waste, a Monmouth County-based organics recycling and micro-hauling business. Thanks to their services, hundreds of banana and orange peels from Beach Sweepers at Sandy Hook were diverted from the landfill to be composted. Visit unwastemovement.world to find out if Un-Waste offers residential curbside pickup in your town.

2021 Statewide Sponsors



2021 County Sponsors



Hackensack
Meridian Health

Additional support provided by Enterprise Holdings Foundation

2021 Site Sponsors

American Council of Engineering Companies of New Jersey, Appalachian Mountain Club New York-North Jersey Chapter, Atlantic City Electric, Baine Contracting, Cohen Water Initiative, Dry Master Restorations, Inc., First Constitution Bank, Jenkinson's Boardwalk & Aquarium, Manasquan Bank, OceanFirst Foundation, Slalom Consulting, Vantage Apparel

Special Thanks

The following have contributed important resources: Bloomberg LP, Gateway National Recreation Area Sandy Hook Unit, Island Beach State Park, Marine Academy of Science & Technology, Middlesex County Parks System, Monmouth County Parks System, NJ Clean Communities Council, Ocean Conservancy, Palisades Interstate Park Commission



County Sponsor Servpro



County Sponsor Wakefern

Corporate Beach Sweeps



COA's team-building Corporate Beach Sweeps program had an excellent year in 2021 with **10** companies and **310** employees removing **20,262 pieces of debris**. To learn more, call 732-872-0111.

A Ballooning Problem

Balloons may be pretty, festive, and fun, but when released outdoors (intentionally or not) they can become hazardous, and even lethal — moreso if they are filled with helium and become airborne. They drift for a short time, but ultimately fall from the sky, littering the land, waterways, and ocean. Marine balloon litter is a well-documented and growing problem worldwide.

Consider that mylar and latex balloons:

- Pose one of the greatest risks to marine life through ingestion, when animals mistake them for food, or from entanglement by balloons' ribbons and strings.
- Get entangled on electric powerlines, causing outages and posing serious risks to workers who must remove them.

Moreover, on Earth, helium is a rare gas element that is critical in fields of science, medicine, high-tech manufacturing, space exploration, and national defense. Wasting it on frivolous uses, such as for balloons, should be avoided.

What can be done? Though awareness is growing, state and national laws are needed due to the vast distances drifting balloons can travel, as evidenced by balloons found on beaches from inland states. COA is urging the New Jersey State Legislature to pass a comprehensive bill that would ban intentional balloon releases and prohibit unattended tethered balloons, as well as serve as a national model. **Take action for a strong NJ law! Sign the petition at www.change.org/NJOutdoorBalloonBan.** To learn about efforts around the country to reduce balloon pollution, visit BalloonsBlow.org.

Balloon Numbers Soar at Sweeps

77,397 balloons collected since 1999

5,234 balloons collected in 2021

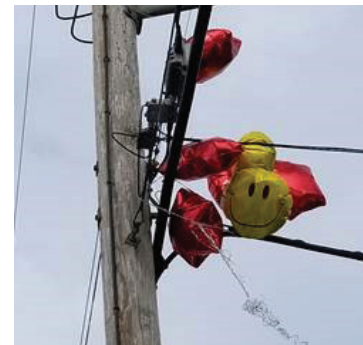
Record of **5,470** balloons collected in 2018



Balloons litter our shorelines.



The Haemmerle Family saved a string of dozens of balloons from drifting out to sea at Island Beach State Park in October 2019.



Balloons get caught in telephone pole wires.

Beach Sweeps Data Card in Spanish Launched in 2022!



FORMA DE DATOS

Llene completamente los DOS lados, por favor.

Clean Ocean Action is thrilled to release its Beach Sweeps data card in Spanish this year! Spanish data cards have been in demand at many Beach Sweeps sites across New Jersey. Clean Ocean Action is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and is excited to expand its outreach in communities across the state. Wave of thanks to Mandy Wheeler for providing translations. ¡Que disfruten los Beach Sweeps!



WAVE OF THANKS TO ALL OF OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!



Aberdeen,
Allenhurst, Asbury
Park, Atlantic City, Atlantic
Highlands, Avalon, Avon-by-the-Sea,
Bay Head, Belmar, Berkeley, Bradley Beach,
Brick, Brigantine, Cape May, Deal,
Gateway National Park at Sandy Hook,
Glen Ridge/Montclair, Highlands,
Island Beach State Park, Keansburg,
Keyport, Lavallette, Little Egg
Harbor, Loch Arbour,
Long Beach Island,
Long Branch, Longport,
Manasquan, Mantoloking,
Margate, Middlesex County Park
System, Middletown,
Monmouth Beach,
Monmouth County
Park System, Neptune,
Normandy Beach, North
Wildwood, Ocean City,
Ocean Gate, Ocean Grove,
Ortley Beach, Palisades Interstate
Park Commission, Point Pleasant, Point
Pleasant Beach, Red Bank, Rumson,
Sea Bright, Sea Girt, Sea Isle City, Seaside
Heights, Seaside Park, Spring Lake,
Stafford Forge Wildlife Management
Area, Stone Harbor, Toms River,
Union Beach, Ventnor,
Villas, Wildwood,
Wildwood Crest

**70 Sites
in 2021**

**2022 CORPORATE BEACH SWEEPS APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!
VISIT CLEANOCEANACTION.ORG OR CALL 732-872-0111 TO LEARN MORE.**

Clean Ocean Action achieves highest ratings from

