



# Clean Ocean Action

## 2019 Corporate Beach Sweeps Annual Report

### About Clean Ocean Action's Statewide Beach Sweeps

**Clean Ocean Action** (COA) is a coalition of 115 participating organizations working to improve and protect the waters off the New York and New Jersey coasts. Since its inception, COA has been at the forefront of the fight to protect the NY/NJ waters by gathering thousands of concerned citizens and empowering them to make a difference. Clean Ocean Action has had many successes over the years, but perhaps most visible is the establishment of the largest statewide environmental event in New Jersey, the bi-annual Beach Sweeps.



Twice each year, Beach Sweeps volunteers gather to remove debris from beaches and waterways while recording valuable data about the debris. This program is vital as litter is harmful to animals who mistake it for food or become entangled in it. Litter also has adverse effects on the state's tourism economy. By removing this debris, volunteers are making NJ's beaches and waterways safer for marine life and more enjoyable for beachgoers. What began as a group of 75 volunteers at one location in 1985 has grown to involve thousands of volunteers at over 70 locations along the Jersey shore, bays, rivers, and inland waterways. The continued growth of the program is a tangible illustration of the public's support for a clean ocean. By collecting data to document the type and amount of debris that is found, Beach Sweeps volunteers' hard work and dedication becomes a legacy of information and evidence that is used to raise public awareness, improve anti-littering programs, and drive public policy to ultimately reduce litter.



## CORPORATE BEACH SWEEPS



Modeled after COA's successful Beach Sweeps Program, COA launched the Corporate Beach Sweeps in 2005 to offer a unique opportunity for corporations to volunteer and give back to their communities. From May through September, partners from the tristate area flock to beaches on Sandy Hook at Gateway National Recreation Area in Middletown, NJ to participate in beach cleanups.



Not only do Corporate Beach Sweeps offer an opportunity for team-building and service, but they provide unique perspective that ultimately helps raise awareness. Volunteers become citizen scientists for the day collecting important data about the type and quantity of debris removed. This information serves as evidence which supports COA's work to help implement policy, track consumer behaviors, improve waste management, and find solutions to reduce marine debris at the source.

In **2019, 869** volunteers from **29** corporations removed a remarkable **60,871** pieces of debris. These volunteers came from corporations of all sizes and locations around NJ and NY. From corporate executives to incoming interns, all levels of staff got their hands in the sand and feet on the beach. COA is grateful for all of the participating corporations and their efforts to clean up beaches and waterways.

# The Top Ten

## *The most commonly collected pieces of debris at the 2019 Corporate Beach Sweeps*



### 1. Plastic Pieces

12,008



### 6. Plastic Bags

2,331



### 2. Plastic Caps/Lids

11,702



### 7. Cigarette Filters

2,031



### 3. Plastic Wrappers

7,653



### 8. Glass Pieces

1,949



### 4. Straws/Stirrers

6,427



### 9. Other Plastics

1,406



### 5. Foam Pieces

3,136

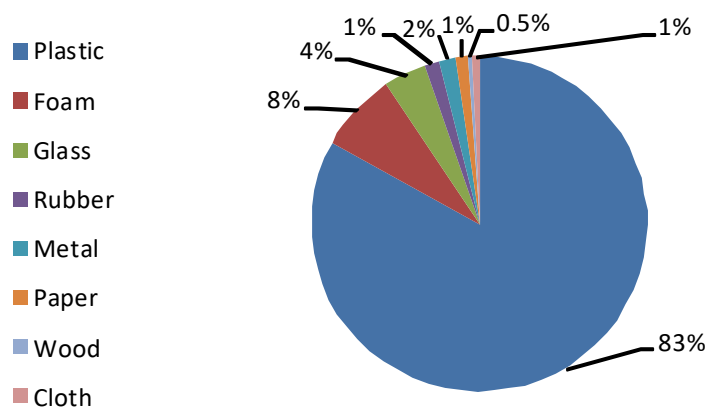


### 10. Plastic Bottles

1,366

Some of the most unusual items found during the 2019 Corporate Beach Sweeps included phone parts, Easter eggs, Barbie doll, snorkel mask, hockey puck, Juul pods, car air fresheners, Delta luggage tag, flower barrette, and half of a bowling ball.

### Percentage of Debris by Material





# 2019 Corporate Beach Sweeps Results

PLASTIC	Food, Candy Wrappers/Bags	7,653	RUBBER	Balloons - Mylar	95
	Store/Shopping Bags	1,112		With String/Ribbon	41
	Trash Bags	281		Balloons - Rubber	129
	Other Bags	938		With String/Ribbon	32
	Beverage Bottles	1,050		Condoms	88
	Bleach/Cleaner Bottles	33		Gloves	45
	Other Bottles	283		Rubber Bands	77
	Buckets/Crates/Bins	63		Tires: Part	35
	Cap/Lids	11,702		Tires: Whole	2
	Cap Rings	808		Other Rubber	315
	Cigarette Filters	2,031	METAL	Appliances	3
	Cigarette Lighters	145		Batteries: Car	1
	Packaging	194		Batteries: Other	3
	Cigar Tips	958		Bottle Caps	341
	Bait Bags/Containers	68		Aerosol Cans	10
	Line	248		Beverage Cans	227
	Lures/Floats	83		Other Cans	9
	Nets - Large	4		Car Parts	21
	Nets - Small	46		Crab/Fish Traps	4
	Cups	330		55 Gallon Drums: Old	0
	Diapers	28		55 Gallon Drums: New	0
	Fork, Knives, Spoons	450		Fishing Hooks	28
	Light Sticks	145		Fishing Sinkers	12
	Plastic Pieces	12,008		Foil	112
	Pens	300		Nails	9
	Ribbon/Tape	186		Pieces	103
	Rope	333		Pull/Pop Tabs	18
	6-Pack Holders	38		Wire	50
	Sheeting/Tarps	29		Other Metal	116
	Shotgun Shells	106	PAPER	Paper Bags	29
	Strapping Bands	110		Cardboard	42
	Straws/Stirrers	6,427		Cartons/Boxes	22
	Syringes	136		Cups	51
	Tampon Applicators	575		Newspapers	10
	Toys	259		Pieces	355
	Vegetable Sacks	12		Plates	9
	Other Plastics	1,406		Other Paper	105
FOAM PLASTIC	Building/Dock Materials	94		Crab/Lobster Traps	4
	Buoys/Floats	64		Crates/Baskets	3
	Fast Food Containers	122	WOOD	Ice Cream Spoon/Sticks	7
	Foam Cups	235		Lumber Pieces	233
	Packaging Materials	220		Pallets	4
	Foam Pieces	3,136		Other Wood	73
GLASS	Foam Plates	147	CLOTH	Blankets/Towels	28
	Other Foam Plastic	611		Clothing	50
	Beverage Bottles	267		Shoes/Sandals	54
	Other Bottles/Jars	45		String	133
	Light Bulbs	9		Other Cloth	127
	Fluorescent Tubes	0	TOTALS	Total Debris	60,871
	Pieces	1,949		Total Corporations	29
	Other Glass	129		Total Participants	869





## 2019 Corporate Beach Sweeps Partners





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**Thank You 2019  
Volunteers!**

## Corporate Social & Environmental Responsibility

Through participating in COA's Corporate Beach Sweeps program, your corporation is already taking steps to be a leader for the environment! This hands-on educational experience not only helps to make an impact on the beaches, but will contribute to stopping the debris at its source. Here are three easy steps to make a difference at your workplace that benefit the environment:

- 1. Reduce Single-Use Items:** Swap out plastic stirrers for bamboo or wood substitutes, use metal cutlery instead of single-use plastic ware in your cafeteria, and provide employees with branded reusable tote bags, mugs, or cups.
- 2. Recycle & Don't Litter:** Make sure that every desk, common area, and outdoor area has a recycling bin for paper and plastic items.
- 3. Spread Awareness:** You can "be the solution to ocean pollution" through educating others on the importance of reducing debris, litter, and consumption. Go the extra step and volunteer with COA during other beach cleanups or programs.

These are just three ways that you can make waves. Learn more at [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org)!

### 2019 Corporate Beach Sweeps Partners



A special thanks to our partners at the Gateway National Recreation Area, Sandy Hook Unit!



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