

CORPORATE



**BEACH  
SWEEPS**

**2023**

**Annual Report**



# About Clean Ocean Action's 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 a plethora 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.

The Beach Sweeps started at one location in 1985 and has grown in the past 38 years to include nearly 80 locations along the Jersey shore, bays, rivers, and inland waterways. Annually, thousands of citizens flock to the shore to remove and tally marine debris that is found at each location. 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 debris that is found, Beach Sweeps volunteers become part of a legacy of information 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, in 2005 COA launched a unique opportunity for corporations to team build, volunteer, and improve their surrounding environment: the Corporate Beach Sweeps. From June through mid-September, partners from the tristate area cleanup beaches on Sandy Hook at Gateway National Recreation Area in Highlands, NJ. Sandy Hook is an ideal location for this volunteer event because it perfectly demonstrates non-point source pollution from the populated Greater New York City region that washes up with every tide and weather event.

Employees will see the impact they are making to improve the marine environment which ultimately enhances public health, quality of life, and the economy. During the cleanup, employees become citizen scientists for the day splitting into groups to collect and remove debris. The findings recorded during the cleanup are later provided to the corporation and employees that will support pollution prevention initiatives as well as legislation. Employees will also enjoy an educational presentation by COA professional staff on current ocean issues, the harmful threats of marine debris, the importance of healthy water quality, and learn how they can make a positive impact on the marine environment every day, regardless of where they live.

*Imagine your company's team building experience as they enjoy a refreshing day together at the beach while making a positive difference!*

Corporate partners are encouraged to become a part of the solution by helping to reduce their single use waste consumption at the office and participating in programs to protect and improve the marine environment of NJ & NY.

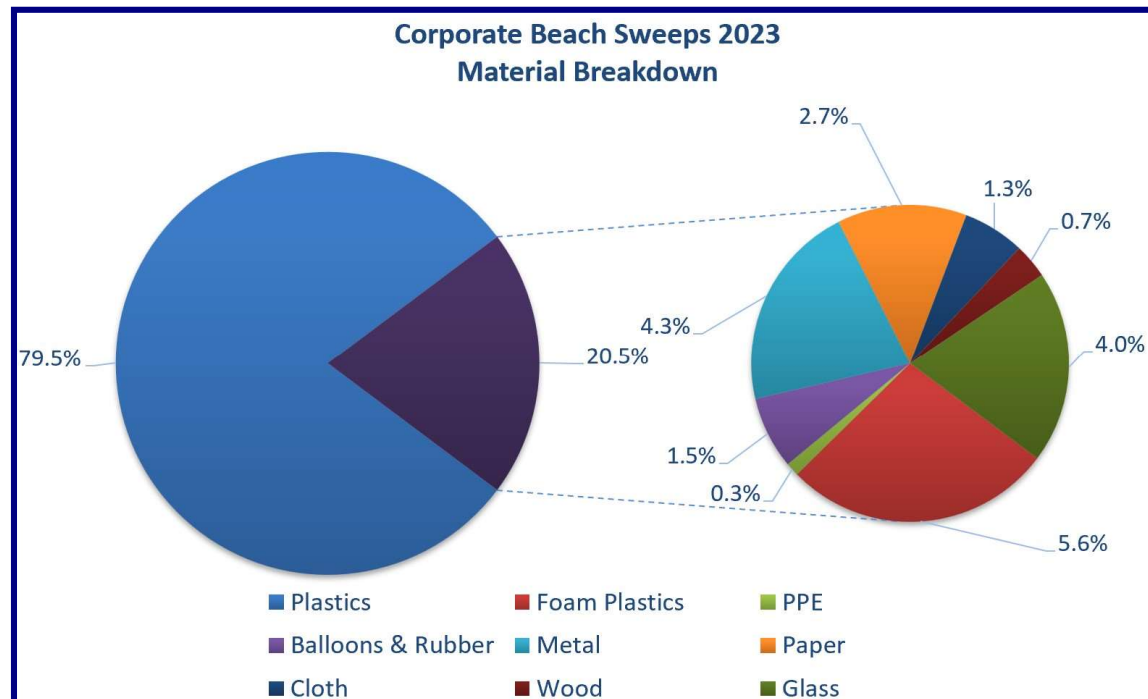


# The Top Ten & 2023 Data Breakdown

*The 10 most commonly collected pieces of debris during the 2023 Corporate Beach Sweeps*

- |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Plastic Pieces <b>5,132</b>      | 6. Other Plastics <b>965</b>        |
| 2. Bottle Caps/Lids <b>4,527</b>    | 7. Cigarette Filters <b>916</b>     |
| 3. Food/Candy Wrappers <b>4,037</b> | 8. Glass Pieces <b>822</b>          |
| 4. Straws/Stirrers <b>1,883</b>     | 9. Beverage/Soda Bottles <b>774</b> |
| 5. Foam Pieces <b>1,057</b>         | 10. Shopping Bags <b>564</b>        |

In 2023, 556 corporate leaders from 18 corporations removed a remarkable 29,023 pieces of debris. Some of the most unusual items found included a foam mattress pad, grilling tongs, a boogie board, a dreidel, and a bubble blower.





2023

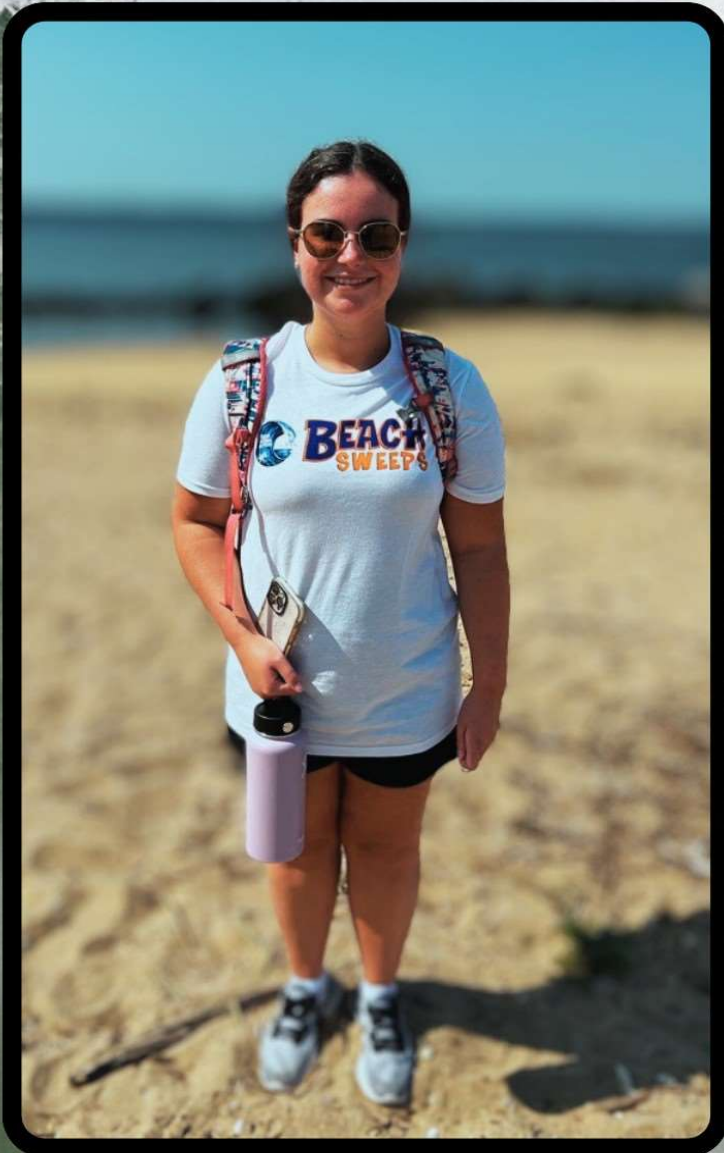
# Materials Breakdown

|                           |                                 |                       |                        |                                   |                  |     |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----|
| PLASTIC                   | Food, Candy Wrappers/Bags       | 4037                  | RUBBER                 | Balloons - Mylar                  | 104              |     |
|                           | Store/Shopping Bags             | 564                   |                        | Mylar - With String/Ribbon        | 28               |     |
|                           | Dog Waste Bags                  | 72                    |                        | Balloons - Rubber                 | 109              |     |
|                           | Other Bags                      | 342                   |                        | Rubber - With String/Ribbon       | 42               |     |
|                           | Beverage/Soda Bottles           | 774                   |                        | Condoms                           | 20               |     |
|                           | Other Bottles/Jugs              | 290                   |                        | Rubber Bands                      | 44               |     |
|                           | Bottle Caps/Lids                | 4527                  |                        | Reusable Gloves                   | 11               |     |
|                           | Cap Rings                       | 372                   |                        | Tires: Pieces                     | 16               |     |
|                           | Filters                         | 916                   |                        | Tires: Whole                      | 1                |     |
|                           | Lighters                        | 68                    |                        | Other Rubber                      | 63               |     |
|                           | Packaging                       | 93                    |                        | <b>RUBBER TOTAL</b>               | <b>438</b>       |     |
|                           | Cigar Tips                      | 320                   |                        | METAL                             | Batteries: Car   | 2   |
|                           | E-Cigarette Cartidges/Caps/Pens | 100                   |                        |                                   | Batteries: Other | 11  |
|                           | Bait Bags/Containers            | 52                    |                        |                                   | Bottles Caps     | 363 |
|                           | Line (tangle)                   | 158                   |                        |                                   | Beverages Cans   | 382 |
|                           | Line (piece)                    | 71                    |                        |                                   | Other Cans       | 32  |
|                           | Lures/Floats                    | 74                    |                        |                                   | Fishing Hooks    | 23  |
|                           | Nets                            | 29                    |                        |                                   | Fishing Sinkers  | 12  |
|                           | Beverage Cups                   | 488                   |                        |                                   | Foil             | 165 |
|                           | Forks, Knives, Spoons           | 351                   |                        |                                   | Nails            | 11  |
|                           | Food Lids                       | 186                   |                        |                                   | Wire             | 43  |
|                           | Straws/Stirrers                 | 1883                  |                        |                                   | Pieces           | 123 |
|                           | Takeout Containers              | 160                   |                        |                                   | Pop Tabs         | 11  |
| Cotton Swab Sticks        | 14                              | Other Metal           | 81                     |                                   |                  |     |
| Dental Floss Picks        | 163                             | <b>METAL TOTAL</b>    | <b>1259</b>            |                                   |                  |     |
| PAPER                     | Diapers                         | 23                    | Beverage Cartons/Boxes |                                   | 43               |     |
|                           | Disposable Wipes                | 41                    | Cardboard              |                                   | 73               |     |
|                           | Syringes                        | 48                    | Cups                   | 49                                |                  |     |
|                           | Tampon Applicators              | 199                   | Newspaper/Magazines    | 15                                |                  |     |
|                           | Light Sticks                    | 6                     | Paper Bags             | 41                                |                  |     |
|                           | Pens                            | 57                    | Pieces                 | 398                               |                  |     |
|                           | Pieces                          | 5132                  | Plates                 | 57                                |                  |     |
|                           | Ribbon/Tape                     | 116                   | Other Paper            | 108                               |                  |     |
|                           | Rope                            | 99                    | <b>PAPER TOTAL</b>     | <b>784</b>                        |                  |     |
|                           | 6-Pack Holders                  | 23                    | CLOTH                  | Blankets/Sheets/Towels            | 20               |     |
| Sheeting                  | 4                               | Clothing              |                        | 104                               |                  |     |
| Shotgun Shells            | 68                              | Shoes/Sandals         |                        | 47                                |                  |     |
| Strapping Bands           | 38                              | String                |                        | 92                                |                  |     |
| Toys                      | 159                             | Other Cloth           |                        | 110                               |                  |     |
| Other Plastic             | 965                             | <b>TOTAL</b>          |                        | <b>373</b>                        |                  |     |
| <b>PLASTIC TOTAL</b>      | <b>23082</b>                    | WOOD                  |                        | Ice Cream Spoon/Sticks            | 22               |     |
| FOAM PLASTIC              | Building/Dock Material          |                       | 59                     | Lumber Pieces                     | 150              |     |
|                           | Cups                            |                       | 129                    | Pallets                           | 5                |     |
|                           | Packaging Materials             |                       | 94                     | Other Wood                        | 33               |     |
|                           | Pieces                          |                       | 1057                   | <b>WOOD TOTAL</b>                 | <b>210</b>       |     |
|                           | Plates                          | 46                    | GLASS                  | Beverage Bottles                  | 353              |     |
| Trays                     | 28                              | Other Bottles/Jars    |                        | 36                                |                  |     |
| Takeout Containers        | 50                              | Pieces                |                        | 822                               |                  |     |
| Other Foam Plastic        | 165                             | Other Glass           |                        | 57                                |                  |     |
| <b>FOAM PLASTIC TOTAL</b> | <b>1628</b>                     | <b>GLASS TOTAL</b>    |                        | <b>1168</b>                       |                  |     |
| PPE                       | GRAND TOTALS                    | Disposable Face Masks | 42                     | <b>DEBRIS GRAND TOTAL</b>         | <b>29023</b>     |     |
|                           |                                 | Reusable Face Masks   | 2                      | <b>TOTAL CORPORATIONS</b>         | <b>19</b>        |     |
|                           |                                 | Disposable Gloves     | 37                     | <b>TOTAL VOLUNTEERS</b>           | <b>556</b>       |     |
|                           |                                 | <b>PPE TOTAL</b>      | <b>81</b>              | <b>TOTAL DEBRIS PER VOLUNTEER</b> | <b>52.2</b>      |     |



# Summer Intern Spotlight

## VICTORIA CALIENDO



Victoria joined the COA crew this past summer as the Marine Debris intern. Victoria is in her sophomore year at The Ohio State University where she is studying Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife.

During her internship she assisted Debris Free Sea Coordinator, Kira Cruz, with the Corporate Beach Sweeps program. She was an instrumental part of each clean-up and learned much about source litter pollution to share with each group!

Victoria's transformative experience was her fascination for nurdles—small pellets of plastic that serve as raw material in the manufacturing of plastic products. Once Victoria was able to properly identify these pellets, she quickly began finding hundreds of them on our sandy shores to show and share her knowledge.

Thank you, Victoria, for a SEA-rific summer!  
Good luck with your endeavors ahead!



# Thank You, Corporate Leaders!







*"Beachy-Clean Fun"*

2023





# 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 a few easy steps to make waves at your workplace that benefit the environment:

- 1. Reduce Single-Use Items:** Swap out plastic stirrers for metal spoons or bamboo, use all metal cutlery instead of single-use plastic ware in your cafeteria, and provide employees with branded reusable tote bags or cups.
- 2. Reuse:** Shop for used furniture instead of buying new.
- 3. Recycle:** Make sure that every desk, common area, and outdoor area has a recycling bin for paper, plastic, metal, and glass items. Research what is and is not recyclable in your company's town.
- 4. Spread Awareness:** You can "be the solution to ocean pollution" through educating others on the importance of reducing debris and consumption. Go the extra step! Volunteer with COA during other beach cleanups or programs throughout the year.

Learn more at [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org)!

## 2023 Corporate Beach Sweeps Partners

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



49 Avenel Blvd  
Long Branch, NJ 07740  
Phone: 732-872-0111  
Fax: 732-872-8041  
[CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org)



Keep in Touch & Current On Ocean Issues!

