



# Clean Ocean Action

## 2022 Corporate Beach Sweeps 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 37 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.

*Imagine the refreshing renewal for your business team enjoying a day together at the beach...while making a difference!*

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.

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 Dirty Dozen

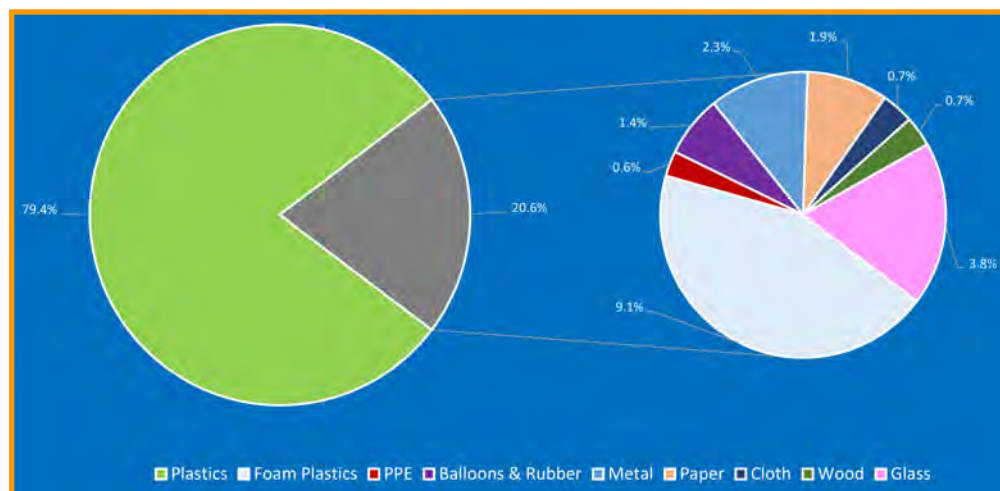
The most commonly collected pieces of debris at the 2022 Corporate Beach Sweeps

1. Plastic Pieces 6,207
2. Plastic Caps/Lids 5,329
3. Plastic Wrappers 3,129
4. Plastic Straws/Stirrers 2,348
5. Foam Pieces 1,646
6. Other Plastics 1,179
7. Glass Pieces 952
8. Plastic Bottles 659
9. Cigarette Filters 624
10. Other Foam Plastics 549
11. Plastic Bags 514
12. Plastic Cups 445



## 2022 Debris Materials Breakdown

In 2022, 576 corporate leaders from 21 corporations removed a remarkable 30,300 pieces of debris. Some of the most unusual items found included a foam mattress pad, cash, several doll heads, a 13-inch fishing lure, and a wooden chest. A materials breakdown is included below.



# 2022 Corporate Beach Sweeps Results

PLASTIC	Food, Candy Wrappers/Bags	3129	RUBBER	Balloons - Mylar	65
	Store/Shopping Bags	514		Balloons - Mylar - With String/Ribbon	25
	Dog Waste Bags	37		Balloons - Rubber	129
	Other Bags	312		Balloons - Rubber - With String/Ribbon	30
	Beverage/Soda Bottles	659		Condoms	16
	Other Bottles/Jugs	227		Rubber Bands	37
	Bottle Caps/Lids	5329		Reusable Gloves	3
	Cap Rings	328		Tires: Pieces	36
	Filters	624		Tires: Whole	2
	Lighters	69		Other Rubber	93
	Packaging	131		<b>RUBBER TOTAL</b>	<b>436</b>
	Cigar Tips	400		Batteries: Car	0
	E-Cigarette Cartridges/Caps/Pens	157		Batteries: Other	10
	Bait Bags/Containers	37		Bottles Caps	211
	Line (tangle)	84		Beverages Cans	163
	Line (piece)	32		Other Cans	19
	Lures/Floats	50		Fishing Hooks	12
	Nets	29		Fishing Sinkers	8
	Beverage Cups	445		Foil	98
	Forks, Knives, Spoons	275		Nails	8
	Food Lids	242		Wire	38
	Straws/Stirrers	2348		Pieces	61
	Takeout Containers	103		Pop Tabs	17
Cotton Swab Sticks	48	Other Metal	59		
Dental Floss Picks	187	<b>METAL TOTAL</b>	<b>704</b>		
Diapers	17	Beverage Cartons/Boxes	24		
Disposable Wipes	22	Cardboard	39		
Syringes	46	Cups	81		
Tampon Applicators	232	Newspaper/Magazines	8		
Light Sticks	5	Paper Bags	33		
Pens	61	Pieces	263		
Pieces	6207	Plates	15		
Ribbon/Tape	92	Other Paper	113		
Rope	168	<b>PAPER TOTAL</b>	<b>576</b>		
6-Pack Holders	21	Blankets/Sheets/Towels	16		
Sheeting	8	Clothing	55		
Shotgun Shells	67	Shoes/Sandals	41		
Strapping Bands	18	String	41		
Toys	117	Other Cloth	74		
Other Plastic	1179	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>227</b>		
<b>PLASTIC TOTAL</b>	<b>24056</b>	Ice Cream Spoon/Sticks	7		
FOAM PLASTIC	Building/Dock Material	65	WOOD	Lumber Pieces	126
	Cups	96		Pallets	5
	Packaging Materials	311		Other Wood	77
	Pieces	1646		<b>WOOD TOTAL</b>	<b>215</b>
	Plates	49		Beverage Bottles	127
	Trays	5		Other Bottles/Jars	44
Takeout Containers	32	Pieces	952		
Other Foam Plastic	549	Other Glass	32		
<b>FOAM PLASTIC TOTAL</b>	<b>2753</b>	<b>GLASS TOTAL</b>	<b>1155</b>		
TYPE	Disposable Face Masks	103	GRAND TOTALS	<b>DEBRIS GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>30300</b>
	Reusable Face Masks	16		<b>TOTAL CORPORATIONS</b>	<b>21</b>
	Disposable Gloves	59		<b>TOTAL VOLUNTEERS</b>	<b>576</b>
	<b>PPE TOTAL</b>	<b>178</b>		<b>TOTAL DEBRIS PER VOLUNTEER</b>	<b>52.6</b>

# Thank You, Corporate Leaders!





2022

# 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 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. Reuse:** Purchase food packaged in glass to reuse as future food storage. Shop at thrift stores 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.

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

## 2022 Corporate Beach Sweeps Partners



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



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