



# BEACH SWEEPS

Unveiling the  
2023

# Beach Sweeps Report

April 4, 2024



# Welcome!

- I. Introductions**
- II. Reveal of 2023 Data**
- III. Data in Action Overview**
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# BEACH SWEEPS

## 2023 Annual Report

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



Famous Hamlette in Ortley Beach



Reduce plastics: Bring Your Own Bucket



Fun for all ages!

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## 2023 Data Caveat

The data presentation is modified due to inclement weather impacts. The number of volunteers and data collected was significantly lower than in previous years. Thus, data is shown as an estimate of items removed per volunteer. This allows for consistency of data sets over the seasons, across categories, and as well as the previous year (2022).



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# 2023 Data Highlights

## Cumulative Numbers Since 1985:

- **8,491,233** pieces of debris
- **169,675** volunteers
- **982,614** hours

- **176,206** items collected
- **3,664** volunteers

**#1 Item: 23,788 Plastic Bottle Caps/Lids**

**#2 Item: 17,883 Food, Candy Wrappers/Bags**

**#3 Item: 16,771 Plastic Pieces**



# Items Removed by Volunteer: A Comparison

Changes from 2022-2023

<u>Item:</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Food, Candy Wrappers/Bags	4.88	4.60
Plastic Caps/Lids	6.49	6.44
Cigarette Filters	3.15	2.77
Total Plastics	34	34
Total Balloons	0.40	0.37
Plastic Pieces	4.58	6.61
Total Foam Plastics	4	4



**BEACH  
SWEEPS**

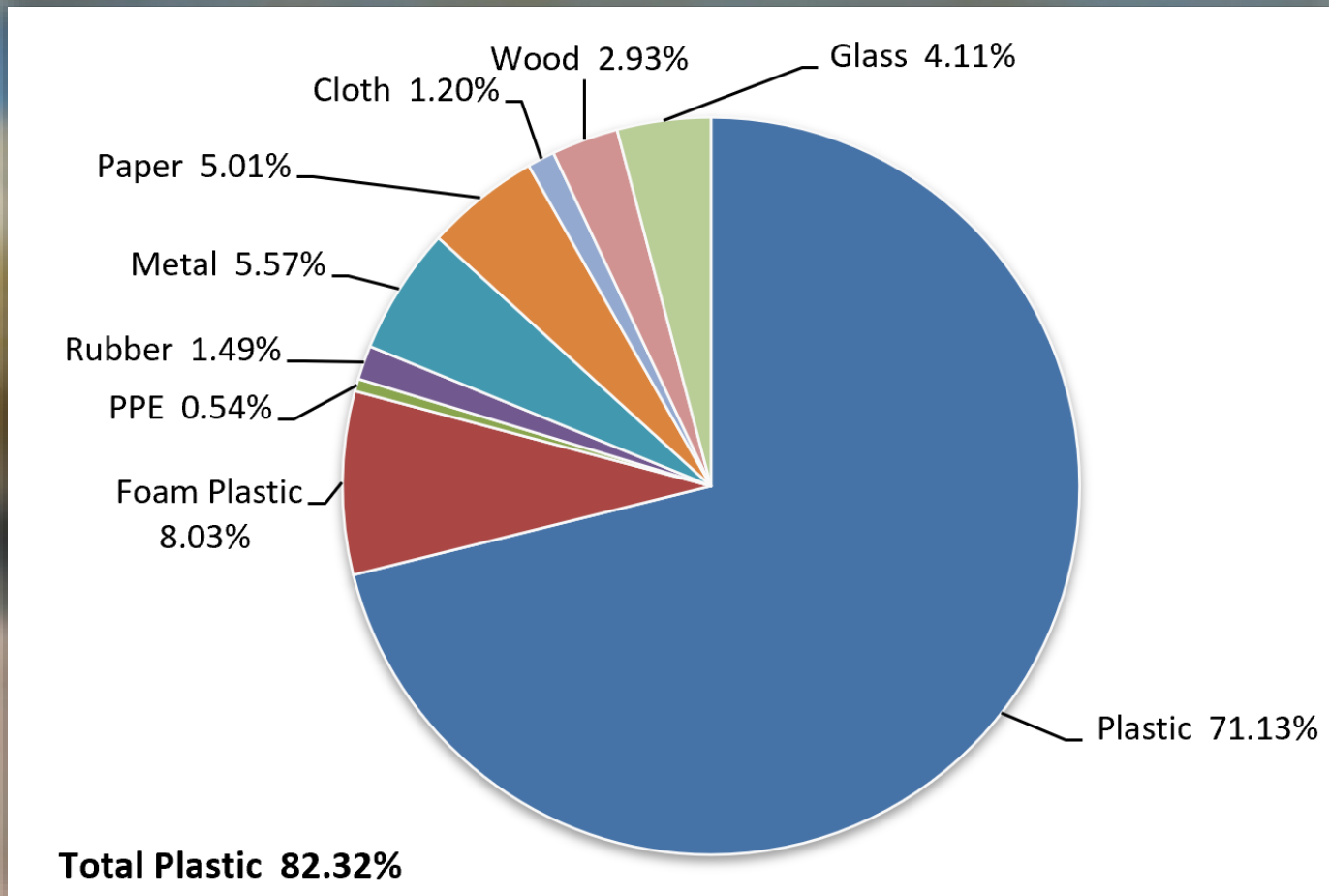
# “Get Past Plastic” Law: Item Updates

## Items Reflected per Volunteer

<u>Item:</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Plastic Store/Shopping Bags	0.63	0.72
Foam Plastic (containers, trays, cups)	0.47	0.36
Plastic Straws/Stirrers	2.66	2.60



# 2023 Data by Category



- Total plastic, including foam: 79.16%
- Plastic trends over the years:
  - 2022 - 82.43%
  - 2021 - 82.32%
  - 2019 - 83.19%
  - 2018 - 81.77%
  - 2017 - 84.46%
  - 2016 - 81.13%
  - 2015 - 78.50%

# The Dirty Dozen

2023 Rank	Debris Items	2023	Change in Rank	2022	2022 Rank	2021	2021 Rank	2019 <sup>^</sup>	2019 Rank
1	Plastic Bottle Caps/Lids	23,788	↑	52,512	2	69,454	1	67,011	2
2	Food, Candy Wrappers/Bags	17,883	↑	37,453	3	58,589	3	50,270	3
3	Plastic Pieces	16,771	↓	53,869	1	67,628	2	95,963	1
4	Cigarette Filters	11,557	█	22,589	4	32,460	5	27,751	5
5	Straws/Stirrers	9,762	↑	21,216	6	34,801	4	35,124	4
6	Foam Pieces	7,901	↓	21,725	5	26,870	6	25,630	6
7	Plastic Beverage Bottles	7,765	↑	10,051	8	11,394	9	13,908	8
8	Cigar Tips	4,438	↑	9,554	9	11,328	10	10,703	9
9	Paper Pieces	4,350	↑	7,274	12	11,786	8	7,733	(13)*
10	Metal Beverage Cans	4,106	★	5,234	(16)*	6,550	(16)*	6,046	(16)*
11	Glass Pieces	4,039	↓	9,380	10	9,773	11	15,399	7
12	Other Plastics	3,841	↓	11,748	7	13,580	7	8,602	12
<b>Total Dirty Dozen</b>		<b>116,201</b>		<b>262,605</b>		<b>354,213</b>		<b>364,140</b>	
<b>Percent of Total Debris</b>		<b>66%</b>		<b>70%</b>		<b>69%</b>		<b>73%</b>	
<b>Number of Volunteers</b>		<b>3,664</b>		<b>8,148</b>		<b>10,003</b>		<b>10,724</b>	

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



# 2023 Roster of the Ridiculous

*The Wackiest Finds Along the Jersey Shore & More!*





# Data in Action: Important & Use

- **Data is used to illustrate extent of plastic problem in the region, shows need for action**
  - **Bottle Bill Consideration**
  - **Extended Producer Responsibility**
  - **Skip the Stuff**
  - **NYC Local Law allowing reusable water bottles in sports arenas**
  - **Balloon bills/ordinances**
  - **Mid-Atlantic Regional Council/Committee on the Ocean Marine Debris Workgroup**
  - **Mid-Atlantic Marine Debris Action Plan (MDAP) 2021-2026**
  - **Shows success of “Get Past Plastic” law, helps defend against flawed studies claiming it backfired**





# CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!



Join the Spring Beach Sweeps on

**Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**

from 9 am - 12:30 pm at one of

over 80 locations throughout the

state!





# BRING YOUR OWN OWN BUCKET!



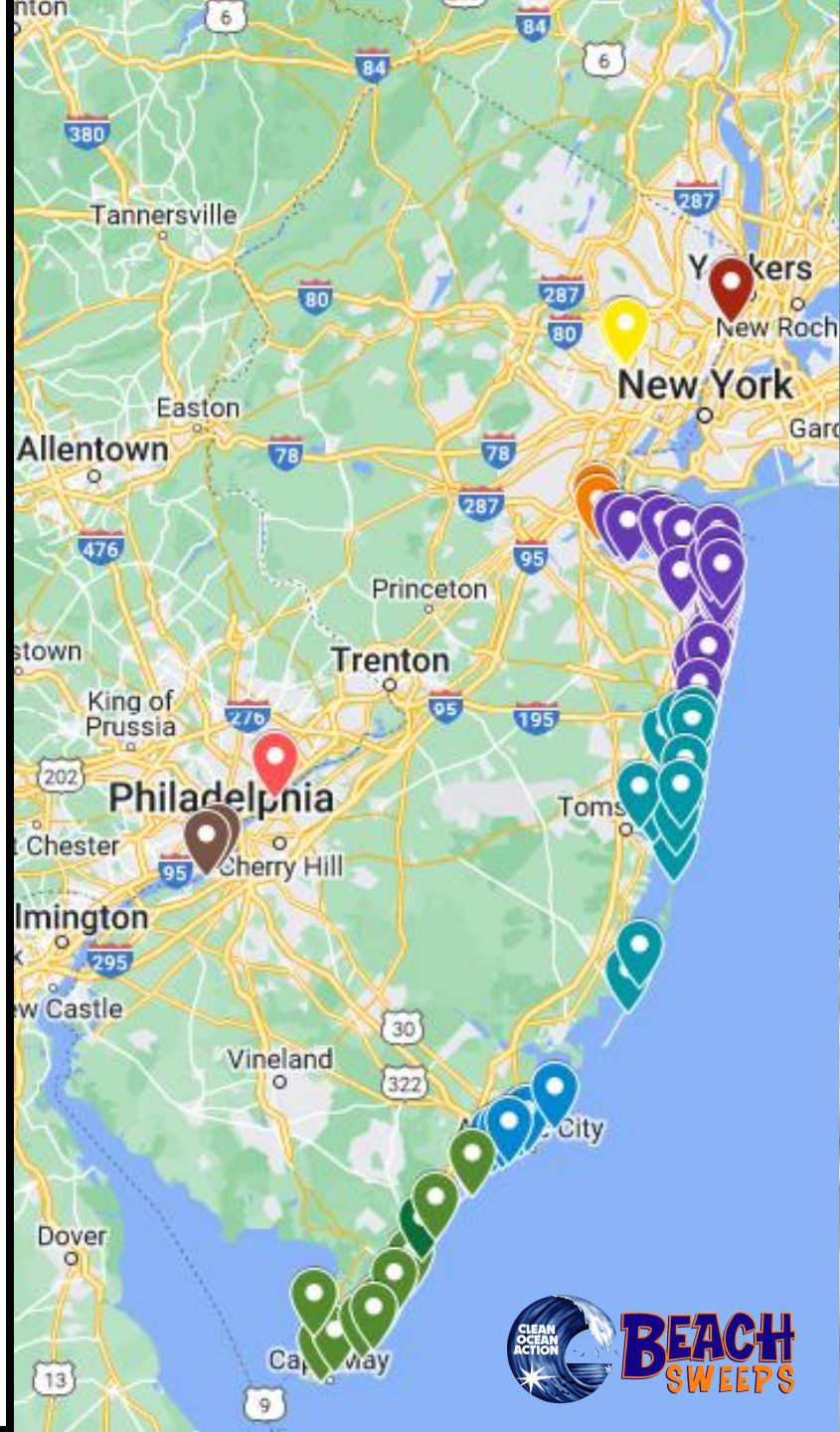




Aberdeen, Allenhurst, Asbury Park, Atlantic City, Atlantic Highlands, Avalon, Avon-by-the-Sea, Bay Head, Bayville, Belmar, Berkeley, Bradley Beach, Brick, Brigantine, Cape May, Deal, Englewood Cliffs, Gateway National Recreation Area-Sandy Hook Unit, Glen Ridge/Montclair, Highlands, Island Beach State Park, Keansburg, Keyport, Lavallette, 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, Dswego Lake, Palisades Interstate Park Commission, Palmyra, 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, Tuckerton, Union Beach, Ventnor, Villas, Wildwood, Wildwood Crest

**75 Sites  
in 2023**

**Special thanks to  
our Beach  
Captains, Junior  
Beach Captains,  
Towns, and  
Department of  
Public Works who  
make it all  
possible!**





# Jessica Mumford, Beach Captain





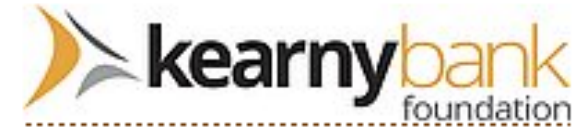


# Thanks to Our 2023 Sponsors

## Statewide



## County



Hackensack  
Meridian *Health*



## Site

Appalachian Mountain Club-NY-North Jersey Chapter, Atlantic City Electric, Baine Contracting, Bank of America, Caesars Entertainment, Check Cashing Station, Church & Dwight, Cohen Water Initiative, Crum & Forster, Enterprise Holdings Foundation, Eurest, First Atlantic Federal Credit Union, Pasta Life, Raritan Bay Federal Credit Union, Republic Services, ServPro Eatontown/Long Branch, Sims Metal, United Teletech Financial Federal Credit Union



# True Blue 2024 Sponsors

## Statewide



Hackensack  
Meridian *Health*



## County







# Questions?

Cindy Zipf, Executive Director

Kira Cruz, Debris Free Sea Coordinator

Swarna Muthnukrishnan, Water Quality Research Director

Kiana "Kiki" Miranda, Public Relations & Communications Coordinator

Toni Groet, South Jersey Coordinator

Erika Bosack, Policy Attorney