What is the Source to Sea Cleanup?

The Source to Sea Cleanup is a yearly trash cleanup of the Connecticut River and its tributaries throughout the four-state watershed (NH, VT, MA, CT). Participants of all ages and abilities help protect our water resources by participating in this fun and positive event. Volunteer group leaders coordinate specific cleanup sites where individuals and groups spend a few hours picking up trash. People across the watershed also help out by reporting sites in need of cleaning. For more information on the Source to Sea Cleanup and how you can get involved, visit www.ctriver.org.

Source to Sea Cleanup Strengthens Communities & Connections

“In addition to removing tons of trash from our rivers, the Source to Sea Cleanup strengthens community and gives people an opportunity to take meaningful action to improve their neighborhoods,” says Andrew Fisk, executive director of the Connecticut River Watershed Council. “When people help clean their rivers, they make connections with each other and their rivers. Those connections have benefits lasting well beyond the Cleanup.”

In 2013, 2,227 volunteers in 124 groups joined the Cleanup. Participating with their families, schools and community groups, youth made up more than 30% of this year’s volunteers. Groups tackled new and larger sites, cleaning up at least 138 miles of rivers from North Stratford, NH near the Canadian border all the way down to the mouth of the river in Old Saybrook, CT. Groups are also reporting cleaner sites than in years past (see more, page 8) – wonderful news!

“Tires and recyclable bottles and cans continue to be some of the most commonly found items during the Source to Sea Cleanup,” reported Jacqueline Talbot, CRWC River Steward and cleanup coordinator. “CRWC uses this trash data throughout the year to advocate for cleaner rivers, such as supporting an expanded bottle bill in Massachusetts. Data from previous cleanups contributed to the mattress stewardship and recycling legislation that recently passed in Connecticut – the first such law in the country.”

Thank you for all your hard work to clean up the river. We hope you’ll enjoy the photos and stories in this year’s expanded Cleanup Chronicle.

TRASH TALLY 2013

Hardworking Source to Sea Cleanup groups haul so much trash from rivers and streambanks that it is impossible to account for everything. Actual numbers/weights are likely much higher than listed here. 57% of groups recycled what they could, a 28% improvement over last year. Groups with recycling systems set up in advance reported greater recycling success.

TOTAL HAUL = 45 tons from 138 miles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity Reported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beverage containers</td>
<td>8,432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrap metal</td>
<td>17,791 lbs. including 24 shopping carts or parts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Styrofoam</td>
<td>1,016 lbs. including many dock parts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpet</td>
<td>538 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automotive</td>
<td>464 tires, 41 cans of motor oil, 4 batteries, &amp; 53 car parts including a complete truck bed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic</td>
<td>274 pieces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmaceuticals &amp; health care</td>
<td>100 including 26 syringes, 18 pill bottles &amp; one leg cast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing &amp; shoes</td>
<td>98 items including 76 shoes, underwear, &amp; swim goggles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronics &amp; appliances</td>
<td>56 items including 20 TVs, 3 computers, 3 vacuum cleaners/parts, &amp; 2 refrigerators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture</td>
<td>43 pieces including 17 chairs, 14 couches &amp; a sink!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diapers</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mattresses</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paint cans</td>
<td>21 with 3 open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational</td>
<td>4 items boating gear, 1 kayak, 4 wooden dock sections; 120 pieces fishing gear including much line, 1 rod, &amp; 40 bait containers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SAVE THE DATES:
18th Annual Source to Sea Cleanup
September 26 & 27, 2014
Sponsors Help Out in Many Ways

“Lane employees and their families look forward to taking part in this annual event because it’s a great way to enjoy the outdoors, show appreciation for the Connecticut River and its tributaries—and to make a real difference,” says Meagan Sylvia, Lane Environmental Manager. Lane Construction Corporation, a lead sponsor of the Cleanup, donated equipment and staff to remove large debris from along the Green River in MA & VT, including the metal remains of an old pedestrian bridge (photo at right), tires and a recliner chair.

Cleanup sponsor Hypertherm formed a multi-faceted partnership with North Star Canoe & Kayak Rentals of Cornish, NH (donating canoes) and the Town of Hartland, VT (donating trash removal). Group leader Bob “Bubba” Von Baltzer and 10 employees hauled more than 50 tires, a TV and many bags of debris from Sumner Falls in Hartland, VT.

Local Diver Puts Skills to Work for the River

“We own a 3 ½ acre piece of land at the junction of the Williams & CT Rivers. This piece has very rare birds and lots of wildlife,” says Annette Spaulding of the Sustainable Valley Group in Bellows Falls, VT. “I have been scuba diving in the river for about 30 years and it has cleaned up so much with everyone’s help. We have also been kayaking for about 28 years on the river, cleaning up as we go along the banks.” The Sustainable Valley Group organized a cleanup in Rockingham, VT and cleaned over 14 miles of rivers.

PARTICIPATING GROUPS

Ashuelot River Local Advisory Council
Black River Action Team
Change the World Kids
Cheshire County Conservation District and partners
City of Keene
Cold River Materials Walpole
Connecticut River Watershed Council staff & board members
Dartmouth College
Fitzharris-Onyon
Granite United Way
Hanover Conservancy

Hypertherm*
Keene State College
Ledyard Canoe Club
Ledyard National Bank*
Lunker Larrys
Lyme School
Moosewood Ecological
NorthStar Canoes & Kayak Rentals
Putney Rowing Club
Rockingham, Vermont
Roundy’s Rascals
Southeast Vermont Watershed Association

Sustainable Valley Group
The Peace Club
The Trashy Trippers
Vermont Academy
Vermont Law School
Walpole School Team
Wantastiquet Hellgrammites
Weathersfield Greenup Association
White River Partnership
Other fantastic family & individual volunteers

*Source to Sea sponsor cleanup groups
Volunteer Leader Marks 10 Years of River Cleanups

David Boles is celebrating his 10th year organizing one of the biggest cleanup groups of the Source to Sea Cleanup in Greenfield, MA. As the volunteer leader for the Deerfield River Watershed Association / Friends of the Green River cleanup group, Boles rallies hundreds of area residents, including multiple school and religious groups. David got involved with the cleanup when his son Noah (pictured right) started a group at Greenfield Community College many years ago. When Noah left, David took over.

“David is a terrific community leader who cares passionately about his home river,” says Jacqueline Talbot, CRWC cleanup coordinator. “He inspires others to get involved and helps form lasting connections to the river–while also sending the message that trash doesn’t belong in nature. Our rivers and trails are worth protecting.”

“I am always glad to have put in the time when I see the results. It makes me realize it all makes sense,” says Boles. “The reality is we’re making some progress here. My goal is to clear the Green River so we can swim all the way through town.”

MID-WATERS
Massachusetts – 48+ miles of riverbanks, shoreline, islands and trails cleaned

PARTICIPATING GROUPS

2nd Congregational Church, Greenfield
8th Grade Academy at Greenfield High School
Amherst Regional High School
Environmental Action Club
Baystate Village Association
Coca-Cola Northampton*
Connecticut River Watershed Council staff & board members
Covanta Energy Springfield*
Deerfield Academy Outdoor Team
Deerfield River Watershed Association / Friends of the Green River
Eaglebrook School
Environmental Science Career Club at Holyoke Community College
FirstLight Power

Four Rivers Charter School
Franklin County Sheriff’s Dept.
Franklin County Solid Waste Management District
Franklin County Technical School, Landscaping & Horticulture Shop
Friends of Great Falls Discovery Center
Gill Montague SuperGroup
Greater Northfield Watershed Association
Hampshire County Sheriff’s Dept.
Jewish Community of Amherst
John Morrell Food Group/Carando
Lake Wallace BEST
Lane Construction Corporation*
MacDuffie School Key Club
Mount Holyoke College Crew
Mount Toby Friends Meeting

Northfield Mount Hermon School Outdoor Team
OL-A Crew
Rotary Club of Franklin County
South Hadley Pride
Stoneleigh Burnham School
Tighe & Bond Westfield Office
UMASS Amherst
United Water/Sonoco Products
United Water Springfield
Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst
Westfield River Watershed Association
Other fantastic family & individual volunteers

*Source to Sea sponsor cleanup groups

2013 CLEANUP BY THE NUMBERS

2,227 Volunteers 124 Groups
138 Miles Cleaned 45 Tons of Trash
Daniel Drew, Mayor of Middletown, CT, at the opening of the first city-wide cleanup on October 5th. At Middletown Harbor, Noah Anderson and his mother Giselle were eager to lend a hand. As kayakers, they were familiar with debris in the river.

A few months before, Noah had expressed interest in initiating a children’s cleanup of the river. “We saw the Cleanup in the paper, we had to come,” said Giselle. Noah’s enthusiasm was catchy, encouraging others in his group to leave the shore and banks as clean as they could.

“We really appreciate that there have been groups cleaning in Middletown for multiple years and that the city has embraced the Source to Sea Cleanup in the way it has,” says Jacqueline Talbot, cleanup coordinator. The mayor noted he is “proud that Middletown and its residents will be a part of it” and that the event “will not only beautify the city’s most valuable natural resource but will also help the environment.”

Wethersfield Cove Partnership Tackles 50 Years of Trash

“I think we had the best cleanup yet in all the years I’ve been coordinating,” says Julie McLaughlin, MDC. “What a great group of individuals we have that worked so hard to make such an impact. The Nature Conservancy and Jim Woodworth from the Great Meadows Conservation Trust worked closely and tirelessly with me to help provide additional volunteers and expand our area of clean-up to include the north side of the Cove.” Other partner groups include Ricoh, Dive Siren Marine Services, Oak Leaf Marina, Old Saybrook DPW, CT DEEP, COMPASS Youth Collaborative in Partnership with Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy, and Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center.

“The 2,000 feet of I-91 embankment is remarkably cleaner than it has been in 50 years,” says Jim Woodworth of Great Meadows Conservation Trust. “The goal was to ‘make a dent’ but with all that man, woman and kid power we gave the 100-year flood plain a 100-year scrub.” The group achieved their goal of filling the 30 cubic yard dumpster, donated by USA Hauling & Recycling, Inc., in just three hours.

**PARTICIPATING GROUPS**

- Beat Bike Blog
- Bob Ludwig
- Boy Scout Troop 22
- CDM Smith, Inc.*
- Chase Collegiate School
- CME Associates*
- COMPASS Youth Collaborative
- Connecticut River Gateway Commission*
- Connecticut River Watershed Council staff & board members
- Cromwell High School ECO Club
- CT DEEP
- CT DEEP Marine Fisheries
- CT River Academy at Goodwin College
- CT River Coastal Conservation District
- CT River Museum
- Cub Scout Pack 40
- Dennis Walters
- Dive Siren Marine Services
- East Hartford Hockanum River Commission
- Eastern CT State University
- Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center
- Enfield Conservation Commission
- Enterprise Rent-a-Car*
- Essex Land Trust
- Farmington River Watershed Association
- Friends of the River
- Friends of the Windsor Locks Canal
- Goodwin College Environmental Studies*
- Great Meadows Conservation Trust
- Green Travelers
- Haddam Neck Spirit
- Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy
- Hockanum River Linear Park Committee
- Jonah Center for Earth and Park
- Lyme Land Conservation Trust
- Manchester Community College
- MDC*
- Meriden Motor Boat Club
- Middlesex Community College
- Middletown City Wide Cleanup
- Middletown Regional Agricultural Science & Tech Program
- NRG Middletown Power*
- Oak Leaf Marina
- Old Saybrook DPW
- Park Watershed, Inc.
- Pequabuck River Watershed Association
- Pratt & Whitney
- Prudential Green Team*
- Ricoh
- Rocky Hill High School Lend a Paw
- Scantic River Watershed Association
- St Pius X Youth group
- The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut
- Tighe & Bond Middletown Office
- University of Hartford
- Windsor Locks Conservation Commission
- Other fantastic family & individual volunteers

*Source to Sea sponsor cleanup groups
Source to Sea Cleanup Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Projects & Tips

Here are tips from around the watershed that may help your cleanup group next year. To share your ideas, contact Cleanup Coordinator Jacqueline Talbot at cleanup@ctriver.org or 860-704-0057.

DIY boat barge…
…to haul more trash.
A number of cleanup groups have put this idea to good work. You can use 2x4’s and plywood to turn canoes into catamarans for hauling tires or other large debris from rivers or streambanks. Be sure to tie everything down tightly!

Thanks to Ron Grosslein of the Amherst Unitarian Universalist Society, the Scantic River Watershed Association, Scott Larkham and others for sharing this tip.

DIY scarecrow…
…to spread the word that trash is scary.
With Halloween just a few weeks after the cleanup, a Source to Sea Cleanup scarecrow at your cleanup site is a great way to catch people’s attention and alert them of the trash problem in your neighborhood. You can post the amount of trash collected or shocking items found during your cleanup.

Thanks to Jim Woodworth of the Great Meadows Conservation Trust for sharing this tip.

DIY bottle washing station…
…to clean and sort recyclables.
Sorting recyclables is a great way to make your cleanup event even greener. Set up a team to sort materials into distinct piles: pure trash, metals, tires, tires with wheels, recyclables, and redeemables. Many bottles found by Cleanup groups are too dirty for recycling or returning for deposits. To avoid just trashing them, set up this washing station.

A hose manifold with a female garden hose fitting for the water source and multiple separate male hose fittings works great for this purpose and can be found at many hardware stores. On two fittings, place two bottle washers (available at home brewing supply stores) that allow very efficient one-handed cleaning of any size or shape bottle. On other fittings you can attach a normal spray hose for cleaning other items. Attach the unit to a tree about waist high with rope and/or bungee cords. Hook up to any standard garden hose faucet or your town may be able to hook you up to a nearby hydrant fitted with a hose adaptor.

Thanks to Charlie Olchowski of the Green River Cleanup for sharing this tip.

DIY media…
…to advertise your group and the Source to Sea Cleanup.
Local media love to cover, and sometimes participate in, local community events. For example, Monte Belmonte of WRSI (93.9FM) in Northampton, MA joins the Green River Cleanup in Greenfield, MA every year and is often the dirtiest participant. Contact local media well before your event and invite them join you or ask them to cover the event.

Thanks to David Boles of the Green River Cleanup for sharing this tip.

TIPS FOR A GREAT CLEANUP:

• **Split up duties.** Planning jobs that can be shared include arranging for trash pickup, scouting for cleanup sites, advertising the cleanup & recruiting volunteers and sending thank you notes. Cleanup-day jobs that can be shared are signing in volunteers, recording trash on the Trash Tally form, sorting recyclables and photographing participants.

• **Involve town leaders.** The Town Manager in your community may be able to suggest a good clean-up site. Many municipalities (either the DPW or Parks & Rec) will generously donate a dumpster or trash pickup services. Plan to make any requests early—at least one month prior to your cleanup.

• **Create a map.** If you plan to clean multiple locations that are separate from each other, it can be helpful to create a map. Note all cleanup spots on the map and direct groups to different spots. Write contact information for the group leader on the map so participants can reach the leader if needed.

• **Huddle up before heading out.** Most events benefit from the group gathering at the start of the cleanup to touch base and motivate each other before stepping out. Have participants sign in, offer food if it’s available, give a safety talk, let them know that their group is part of a watershed-wide effort and tell them what to expect. Share known hazards with participants (such as ticks, poison ivy or unstable banks). Stress the importance of tracking the trash they find and recycling what they can, as well as the necessity of reporting hazardous materials to the group leader who will then report it officially. Thank everyone for coming and head out on a high note!

• **Bring in food and/or music.** Consider asking a local band to play at your Cleanup and ask local vendors to donate food. This is a great way to make your cleanup more enjoyable and thank participants.

• **Thank participants.** As volunteers return from their sites and get ready to head home, thank them for participating. This can be a good time to identify enthusiastic volunteers who may be willing to help to coordinate next year’s cleanup.
Thank you for supporting the 2013 Source to Sea Cleanup!

LEAD SPONSORS

Brookfield  Brookfield Renewable Energy Group manages over 200 renewable generation facilities in the United States, Canada and Brazil. As a global leader in clean energy, Brookfield’s portfolio totals over 5,800 megawatts of installed capacity, primarily hydroelectric, powering over three million average homes each year in 12 power markets. For more information on our publicly traded entity, Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners, please visit www.brookfieldrenewable.com.

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One of America’s premier heavy civil contractors, The Lane Construction Corporation is the preferred partner to connect and improve the communities and world in which we live. Founded in 1890, Lane constructs quality highways, bridges, locks, dams, racetracks, and mass transit and airport systems in more than 20 states. For more on Lane, visit www.LaneConstruct.com.

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CDM Smith provides lasting and integrated solutions in water, environment, transportation, energy and facilities to public and private clients worldwide. As a full-service consulting, engineering, construction, and operations firm, we deliver exceptional client service, quality results and enduring value across the entire project life cycle.

As a leader in specialty coffee and coffee makers, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Inc. (GMCR) is recognized for its award-winning coffees, innovative Keurig® brewing technology, and socially responsible business practices. GMCR supports local and global communities by investing in sustainably-grown coffee, and donating a portion of its profits to social and environmental projects.

The MDC is a nonprofit municipal corporation chartered by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1929. The MDC provides water, sewer and household hazardous waste collection services to its member municipalities. The mission of the MDC is to provide our customers with safe, pure drinking water, environmentally protective wastewater collection and treatment and other services that benefit the member towns.

MAINSTEM SPONSORS

US Fish & Wildlife Service

All American Waste and USA Hauling & Recycling are locally-owned and operated companies specializing in dumpster rentals for use in commercial or residential projects, garbage collection and demolition services in Connecticut and the Springfield, MA area. As green companies since 1974, we recognize and embrace our role in the community.
**RIVER SPONSORS**

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NorthStar Canoe and Kayak Rentals  
Steve Skibniowsky  
The Home Depot - Greenfield  
Town Of Hanover  
Town Of Hartland  
TransCanada  
USA Hauling & Recycling, All Waste  
W.E. Aubuchon Company  
Woodstock Home and Hardware

**SPECIAL THANKS TO...**

Christopher Shepard  
Charlie Forsdick, Harbormaster, Wethersfield, CT  
Corona’s Used Auto Parts  
Municipal DPW’s assisting local groups

**DID YOU KNOW...**

The Connecticut River provides more than 70% of the fresh water entering the Long Island Sound.

Individuals like you have helped to transform the Connecticut River from “the best landscaped sewer in the nation” into a nationally-recognized treasure. Since our founding in 1952, CRWC members have come together to form a powerful force for positive environmental change in New England.

Please join us today.

Yes! I/We want to help protect and preserve the Connecticut River and its watershed.

☐ Enclosed is my gift of $______________  
☐ I’d like to become a sustaining member with a monthly gift of $______________

Payment method: ☐ Check  ☐ Visa  ☐ Mastercard

Card #_________________________ exp. ___/____

Signature ______________________________________

Name(s)__________________________________________

Address__________________________________________

City, State, Zip____________________________________

Email_______________________Phone________________

Checks: payable to CRWC.

Donate online: www.ctriver.org

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CRWC Membership Benefits

- Current & Eddies newsletter  
- Invitations to the Annual Meeting and other special events  
- Priority on event sign-ups  
- Discounts on paddles and other events  
- Email updates, news and action alerts  
- Opportunity to vote for CRWC Trustees  
- CRWC decal  
- Access to CRWC’s research library

And most important……. The satisfaction of knowing that you are making a contribution to the present and future health and vitality of a most precious natural resource.
Many groups reported this year that their cleanup sites were in better condition than previous years. By keeping these areas clean, they are now staying cleaner longer. Upper Valley River Steward David Deen suggests posting ‘No Dumping’ signs at sites that collect trash regularly. It only takes one bag of trash to establish an unofficial dump site, yet dumpers are less likely to leave trash when they know a site is being monitored.

The Source to Sea Cleanup is a positive way to have a direct impact in your community and on the health of the river, yet is just one way to make a difference. You can also help protect our rivers by properly disposing of expired or unwanted medications. Flushing these items down your toilet or drain pollutes our rivers, as treatment facilities are unable to fully remove these contaminants. Similarly, picking up pet waste from your yard or while on a walk prevents that waste from being flushed into storm drains and into rivers when it rains.

Healthy rivers are important because they contribute to healthy local economies and to the beauty and enjoyment of your communities. Source to Sea Cleanup volunteers remove tons of trash from the Connecticut River watershed, preventing it from ever reaching the Long Island Sound, the Atlantic Ocean and the large floating garbage patches around the world. This year’s Cleanup was part of National Estuaries Week as well as a partnership with Save the Sound, the International Coastal Cleanup and American Rivers’ National River Cleanup. By working together at the local and regional level, we can achieve our shared goals of clean, safe waters and trails.

Save the date to donate on December 12, 2013. Visit www.ctriver.org/ValleyGives to learn more. Our goal is for 410 donors to support CRWC through this online giving day – one for each mile of the Connecticut River.

CRWC works to protect the watershed from source to sea. As stewards of this heritage, we celebrate our four-state treasure and collaborate, educate, organize, restore and intervene to preserve the health of the whole for generations to come. Our work informs our vision of ecological and economic abundance.

We welcome your involvement in this effort to protect the Connecticut River. Visit our website, www.ctriver.org, to learn more and sign up for our e-news or contact the office in your region to learn more about what’s happening near you.

15 Bank Row (Headquarters)
Greenfield, MA 01301
413-772-2020

Lower Valley 860-704-0057
Upper Valley 802-869-2792
North Country 802-457-6114

Unusual Items Found

- 2 pounds discarded meat – Brattleboro, VT
- ‘Danger-Dam Keep Back’ sign found below dam – Turners Falls, MA
- Leg splint w/ cast – Agawam, MA
- Headless Buddha statue – Enfield, CT
- 4 Messages in Bottles – Old Lyme & E. Hartford, CT
- Electric guitar – Old Lyme, CT
- Coconut – Portland, CT

Ro bin & Linda Williams – A concert series to benefit CRWC & the Source to Sea Cleanup
April 25-27, 2014