For the 25th straight year, volunteers scoured riverbanks, boat launches, trails, and more to get their feet wet and hands dirty for cleaner rivers. The Source to Sea Cleanup has grown from a few hundred to thousands of volunteers. In that time, you’ve cleaned up more than 1,245 tons of trash. It’s truly astonishing what you have accomplished by persistence and working together. THANK YOU!

While this event connects people to each other across the four Connecticut River states, it also connects us to something much larger. Picking up trash here at home keeps it from traveling to the already massive garbage patches that are present in every ocean on the planet. The Source to Sea Cleanup is helping to keep our planet a cleaner place.

There is also real impact right in our own backyards. We all enjoy local rivers and our favorite river spots more when they aren’t polluted with trash. And our communities are stronger when residents work together toward a common goal. It’s those connections, growing and strengthening over time, bringing in new people and engaging the next generation, that instill hope for a brighter (cleaner!) river future.

As this event has grown, so too has our understanding of the waste systems that produce this litter. Our current reliance on disposable products is another example of inequity in our economy. It benefits some at the expense of others, where our current manufacturing system was designed to profit the producers while blaming us, the consumers, for the resulting waste. Sure, we need to stop littering, but it’s bigger than that. Holding producers responsible for better design and recycling creates new markets, economic opportunity, and LESS WASTE in rivers and landfills.

We won’t stop this work until we put ourselves out of the river clean-up business. But we can’t just clean our way out of this mess. Head to page 8 to learn more about what we can do to stop trash before it starts.
While the Source to Sea Cleanup may be over, the online #RiverWitness community lives on! Keep getting out there to connect with your rivers and keep sharing your photos, videos, and stories.

Here is a small selection of the many wonderful images shared online during the Cleanup using #RiverWitness. Search that hashtag on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to see more great photos and connect with new river friends.
Cleanup sponsor Eversource hosts employee cleanup groups in NH, MA, CT!

Photo: Eversource

Cleanup sponsor Hypertherm hauled two engines from the river in Norwich, VT!

Photo: Hypertherm

Cleanup sponsor USA Waste & Recycling makes sure trash gets disposed of properly.

Photo: USA Waste & Recycling

Plogging = Picking up litter + Jogging

Photo: Luppoleto

Cleaning in thrifted suits earns this group “Best Dressed!”

Photo: Keene High School AP Environmental Studies

Photo: Deer Paths Nature School

Photo: Chris Zajac

Cleaning sponsor Hypertherm hauled two engines from the river in Norwich, VT.

Photo: Hypertherm

Cleaning sponsor USA Waste & Recycling makes sure trash gets disposed of properly.

Photo: USA Waste & Recycling

Photo: Chris Zajac

Plogging = Picking up litter + Jogging

Photo: Luppoleto

Photo: Allison Bell

Photo: Keene High School AP Environmental Studies

Photo: Deer Paths Nature School

Photo: Chris Zajac
PARTICIPATING GROUPS

This list represents those who registered or submitted a trash tally. There were likely more groups out there!

Academy at Charlemont · Adventure East · All American Waste / USA Hauling & Recycling* · Amherst College Sustainable Ocean Alliance · Ashuelot River & Beaver Brook in Keene and Swanzey, NH (3 groups) · Audacy · Bellows Falls Improvement Initiative · Bement Family Association · Benesch 2021 · Biocitizen Corps · Black River Action Team · BlissLife Foundation · Bobo’s Beach Busters · Brattleboro Outing Club-Rowing · BUHS Student Environmental Advocates · Chicopee Comp · CHS Carbon Club · Claremont Conservation Commission · Clean, Clear and Free Flowing · Connecticut River Academy · Conway Trashpickers · Cooley Brook Friends_LCSOP · Cromwell Middle School · CT DEEP Adopt-a-Park Volunteers · CT River Coolidge Bridge Area–Public Clean-up · Cub Scout Pack 13/Girl Scout Troop 63000 · Dartmouth Club of Pioneer Valley · Deer Paths Nature School · Deerfield River Watershed Trout Unlimited #349 · Easthampton Oxbow Cleanup Crew · Essex 3 Villages River Cleanup · Farmington River Clean Up · Fort River Cleanup · Four Rivers Charter Public School 7th grade · Franklin County Rivers–Gill-Montague Group · Franklin County Rivers–Green River Cleanup · Franklin County Technical School · Friendly Cleanup 420 · Friends of Machimoodus and Sunrise · Frontier Regional · Fuss & O’Neill · Girl Power · Girl Scouts Troop 64980 · Goodwin University · Great Meadows Conservation Trust · GZA Green Team* · Hampshire College Trail Maintenance & Restoration · Hard Workers · Hartland Conservation Commission · Happy Street Cleaners · IMI Precision Engineering · Jarvis Island · Jewish Community of Amherst · Kleinfelders · League of Women Voters of Franklin County · Ledyard Canoe Club Cleanup Crew · Lindsay’s Clean Team · Mascot River Cleanup–Lebanon Rotary & Conservation Commission · Meriden Motor Boat Club (MMBC) · Middletown Rotary Club · Mill Pond Cleanup · Montague River Guardians · Mountain Lodge–Guiding Star Grange · Mystic Mountain Maple Syrup LLC · Northeast Paving · NRG* · Patch Neighborhood Clean Up · PeoplesBank* · Plogging Persons for a Pristine River · Pratt & Whitney Great River Park Cleanup · Pratt & Whitney Union Pond Cleanup · Prettiess Smith & Company* · Putney Rowing Club · PV Squared · PVCI Environmental Club · River Roaders · River’s Edge River Rats · Scout Troop 5 Cleanup Crew · SLR CT* · SLR Trash Slayers MA* · SLR VT# · Smithfield Foods · South Hadley Volunteers Conservation Corps · Southeastern Vermont Watershed Alliance · Sunderland Families · SWCA Environmental* · Team ECOS at Forest Park · Team Erving · Team Eversource CT* · Team Eversource MA* · Team Eversource NH* · Team Exquisite · Team Flinchbaugh · Team Hypertherm* · Team Wood · The Greenwood School · The Trash Slinging Trashers · The Trashers · Tri-Town Cub Scout Pack 13–Chester/Deep River/Essex · Turners Falls Hot Tickets · Turners Falls HS · Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst (2 groups) · University of Hartford · Vaneks · VHB · Western Mass Trash Pandas · Westfield River Watershed Association–Agawam · Westfield River Watershed Association–Westfield · Wethersfield Cove · White River Partnership · Woodard & Curran

*Source to Sea Cleanup Sponsor

Unusual Items Found

- Pig Garden Gnome—Saxtons River, VT
- Several Sports Balls (returned to Parks Dept.)—Springfield, VT
- Safe & Pitch Fork—Northampton, MA
- Unopened Can of Chili Beans—Middletown, CT
- Intact Mooring Buoy (returned to owner!)—Essex, CT
- Old Agricultural Trailer (still functional & used to haul more trash!)—Whately, MA
Trash Tally 2021

Hardworking Source to Sea Cleanup groups haul so much trash from in and around our rivers and streams that it’s impossible to account for everything. Volunteers used Ocean Conservancy’s CleanSwell app as well as CRC’s Trash Tally form to report trash data. CRC received this information from approximately 53% of registered Cleanup groups. Actual numbers/weights are likely much higher than listed here.

Additional Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity Reported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Styrofoam</td>
<td>1,018 pieces including foam dock pieces, packaging, food containers, and cups*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronics &amp; Appliances</td>
<td>20 appliances* including a mini fridge and AC unit + 169 electronics* (phones, batteries, etc) + 57 e-cigarettes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmaceuticals &amp;</td>
<td>618 items including condoms, cotton swabs, diapers, tampons, and syringes + 418 pieces of personal protection equipment (PPE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Care</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automotive</td>
<td>196 items including an old farm trailer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing &amp; Shoes</td>
<td>534 pieces of clothing + 328 pieces of footwear*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Materials</td>
<td>343 items + 31 paint cans*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrap Metal*</td>
<td>1,835 pieces including BBQ grills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mattresses*</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toys &amp; Balloons</td>
<td>412</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Items

- 16,287 beverage containers
- 6,032 plastic bottles
- 4,743 aluminum cans
- 3,011 glass bottles
- 2,501 nips*
- 129.8 miles cleaned
- 43.3 tons of trash
- 113 cleanup groups
- 1,394 Volunteers
- 213 tires
- 6,032 plastic bottles
- 4,743 aluminum cans
- 3,011 glass bottles
- 2,501 nips*

*Data reported from CRC Trash Tally only. All other data is reported from Trash Tally + Clean Swell app.
LEAD SPONSORS

**EVERSOURCE** harnesses the commitment of approximately 8,300 employees across three states. The company is empowering a clean energy future in the Northeast, with nationally recognized energy efficiency solutions and successful programs to integrate new clean energy resources like solar, offshore wind, electric vehicles and battery storage, into the electric system.

As local, family owned companies, **USA Waste & Recycling** and **All American Waste** recognize and embrace their role as a leader in the community. Giving back to communities has always been a value of its management and has been embraced and embodied by its employees. They are proud to be stewards of the environment and support the communities in which their employees live and work.

WATERSHED SPONSOR

**Brookfield** Brookfield Renewable U.S., based in New York City, is a leading owner, operator, and developer of renewable power, delivering innovative renewable power solutions that accelerate the world towards a sustainable, low-carbon future. Our diversified portfolio of hydropower, wind, solar, and storage facilities extend across 34 states, totaling approximately 8,050 megawatts of generating capacity.

MAIN STEM SPONSOR

**Hypertherm – HOPE Foundation**

RIVER SPONSORS

**THank you Windham Solid Waste Management District** for your trash disposal support!

STREAM SPONSORS

Aquarion Water Company  
Ashuelot River Hydro, Inc.  
Casella Waste Systems, Inc.  
CDM Smith, Inc.  
Chroma Technology  
Essential Power Massachusetts, LLC  
Greenfield Savings Bank  
Jamrog HVAC  
Kleinfelder  
NorthEast Solar  
SLR  
SumCo Eco-Contracting  
SWCA Environmental Consultants

IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

The Source to Sea Cleanup is a collaborative effort with many helping hands. This list is sure to miss some. Thank you to all who help make the Cleanup a success.

Agawam Department of Public Works  
All Waste  
American Rivers  
Audacy  
Big Y  
Brattleboro Department of Public Works  
Casella Holyoke Transfer  
City of Greenfield Public Works Department  
City of Hartford Department of Public Works  
City of Lebanon NH Department of Public Works  
City of Middletown  
City of Northampton Department of Public Works  
Cold River Materials  
Cold Springs Orchard  
Easthampton Department of Public Works  
Essex Fire Department  
FastLights  
FirstLight Power  
Friends of Reusable Bags, a project of Greening Greenfield  
Glastonbury Refuse Disposal, Water Pollution Control Division  
Greening Greenfield  
Henion Bakery  
Holyoke Department of Public Works  
Home Depot–Greenfield  
James Plumbing & Heating Co.  
Keney Park Sustainability Project  
Ledyard Canoe Club and Dartmouth College  
Leverett Town Transfer Station  
Longmeadow Department of Public Works  
Montague Department of Public Works  
Ocean Conservancy International Coastal Cleanup  
Pete’s Tire Barns, Inc.  
Pioneer Valley Brewery  
Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters  
Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters (Greenfield)  
South Hadley Department of Public Works  
Springfield Parks Department  
Town of Amherst, MA  
Town of Hartland  
Town of Norwich, VT  
Town of South Hadley – Planning and Conservation Department  
USA Waste & Recycling  
Windham Solid Waste Management District  
WRSI
Together, we all own our rivers. And together we will protect them. Please join us in this work by becoming a CRC member today. Donate online at [www.ctriver.org/donate](http://www.ctriver.org/donate), return the enclosed envelope, or contact Corey Kurtz, Development Director, at ckurtz@ctriver.org or 413-772-2020 ext. 202.

Connecticut River Conservancy is the voice for the Connecticut River watershed, from source to sea. We collaborate with partners across four states to protect and advocate for your rivers and educate and engage communities. We bring people together to prevent pollution, improve habitat, and promote enjoyment of your river and its tributary streams. Healthy rivers support healthy economies.

**Believe in the power of clean.**

**Together, we all own our rivers.**

**Connecticut River Conservancy is the voice for the Connecticut River watershed, from source to sea.**

**Healthy rivers support healthy economies.**

**CRC is a membership organization** and relies on your support to protect our rivers. Visit [www.ctriver.org](http://www.ctriver.org) to become a member and sign up for our email news.

Headquarters: 15 Bank Row, Greenfield, MA 01301
NH & VT 802-258-0413
MA 413-772-2020
CT 413-772-2020 x216

Be part of the solution for cleaner rivers. Visit [www.ctriver.org/cleanup](http://www.ctriver.org/cleanup).
The trash totals that are reported here come from the many volunteers who count and report to us the trash they find. While not every cleanup group reports their trash to us, many provide us with estimates or even detailed reports of what they collect. Submitting a trash tally is one of the most important parts of the Source to Sea Cleanup. Your data help show the scope of the trash problem so we can focus solutions where they’re needed most.

For example, in the 2020 Source to Sea Cleanup, a total of 10,654 beverage containers were reported. Nearly a quarter of those were miniature spirits bottles called “nips!” We are lucky that three of the four Connecticut River states already have bottle bill programs that, if expanded to include nips, can help keep these little bottles from becoming a big pollution problem for rivers.

CRC’s trash data had already helped support a major update to Connecticut’s bottle bill in 2020 to include more types of bottles and a ten-cent redemption increase. Unfortunately, the update did not include nips. Currently, Vermont and Massachusetts are also working to update and expand their bottle bills. So, as part of this year’s Cleanup, we used your trash data and photos to support that effort. CRC targeted MA and CT legislators to take action because Cleanup data showed more nips found there than in NH and VT.

This is just one example of your trash data at work. It has also supported solutions for mattresses, and is helping motivate solutions for dumped tires. We didn’t always live this disposable, trash-filled lifestyle. And just like we got rid of lead paint and smog, we can achieve a future free from single-use and petroleum-based plastic and dumped tires. Together we must urge our legislators, businesses, and other decision-makers to put people and planet above profit.

This change is going to take time, decades even. And we’ll keep at it as long as it takes. But rivers need us to start now. Thank you for joining us to speak up for rivers and for being part of the solution. Get involved, sign up for Action Alert emails, learn more about the nips campaign, and more at www.ctriver.org/TakeAction.