

SEA ISLE CITY BEACH CLEAN-UP REPORT

APRIL 21, 2018



Photo by Katherine Custer, Sea Isle City Public Relations

Prepared by Maria Andrews
Sea Isle City Environmental Commission

Acknowledgments

The Sea Isle City Environmental Commission is immensely grateful to the many volunteers who participated in the Sea Isle City Beach Clean-Up on April 21, 2018.

We extend a warm thank you to the following groups and city departments who also participated in the Beach Clean-Up:

Sea Isle City Police Department
Sea Isle City Public Works Department
Coca Cola Bottling Company
First Bank of Sea Isle

We are grateful to all of the donations that we received from the following Sea Isle City vendors and families:

Post-sweeps free lunch for volunteers provided by Mike's Seafood
T-shirts donated by Approach Apparel
Bottled water donated by the Weiler Family
Ice-cream cones donated by Spinners
Tree saplings donated by the State of New Jersey

Bob Thibault deserves special thanks for facilitating all his knowledge and prior beach clean-up reports to the new beach captain.

We would like to acknowledge Katherine Custer from Sea Isle City Public Relations who provided all the photos and captions attached to this report.

We thank Clean Ocean Action for including the data collected from Sea Isle City in their state wide report.

Lastly, I would like to thank all my fellow Sea Isle City Environmental Commission members led by our President Annette Lombardo for their participation and organization of this successful Beach Clean-Up event.

Maria Andrews
SIC Environmental Commission

BEACH CLEAN-UP SUMMARY – April 21, 2018

The Sea Isle City Spring 2018 Beach Clean-Up took place on April 21. Here are some of the highlights:

More than 230 volunteers showed up to clean our beaches. The weather was sunny with a temperature range from 41°F early in the morning to 50 °F by noon and a gentle breeze with wind speed of 8.7 miles per hour. The crowd was composed of a variety of ages and from different locations. All volunteers were enthusiastic and eager to participate in the Beach Clean-up effort. They managed to collect 7,318 pieces of trash and debris. They turned in 70 data cards, the compilation of which was sent to Clean Ocean Action for inclusion in their state-wide totals.

Number of items collected based on categories displayed below:

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF ITEMS COLLECTED	PERCENTAGE %
PLASTIC	5202	71
GLASS	363	5
BALLOONS& RUBBER	167	2
METAL	648	9
PAPER	687	10
WOOD	154	2
CLOTH	97	1
TOTAL	7318	100



The most heavily reported categories:

- Plastic Cigarette Filters:	1,240
- Plastic Food/Candy Wrappers:	929
- Plastic Bottles Caps/Lids:	389
- Foam Plastic (all forms):	584
- Plastic Bottles:	485
- Plastic Pieces:	303
- Plastic Bags:	526
- Metal Bottle Caps:	134
- Metal Cans:	407

These nine categories accounted for 70% of the total items reported.

According to the data shown above, plastic collected items were the most abundant among all of the categories collected. Within the plastic category, cigarette filters represented 28% of the total collected plastic items.

Some of the more unusual items collected:

Vaping Pipe	Silica pack	Large lumber	Styrofoam block
Sneakers	Cloth diaper	Dog waste bags	Wire brush
Little pony toy	Baseball	Mattress foam	Barbie doll
Whip cream can	Car tire	Golf ball	Planter
Metal rack	Large piece of coal	Goggles	Roof tiles
Insulation material	Siding Material	Backpack full of liquor	

Written volunteer comments:

- "Need to assign more groups to areas in the center of town, 39th-43rd St, areas that hold a lot of trash"
- "Dug up a very large and heavy fishing net and left on dune on 26th St"
- "Beach not too dirty"
- "Dunes area repository for large amount of cigarette butts"
- "A lot of plastic bags and glass"
- "Dunes were much worse than beach"
- "Cigarette butts found at street entrance to the beach"
- "Beach seemed relatively clean but sand pushed up on dunes, may be covering trash"
- "Trash on the bay side between 29th and 35th St"
- "A large amount of trash found in dunes"
- "would like to see more trashcans on the Promenade"
- "Volunteers impressed by the amount of volunteers and the number of people who don't live in Sea Isle who volunteered"
- "Beer cans were very common"
- "No place to place cigarette butts, all over boardwalk and dunes"
- "Suggestions to place signs No Dumping"

Recommendations:

Based on the data collected and volunteers' observations, cigarette filters remain a problematic item collected along the beach and on the dunes. Cigarette filters or butts are the most common form of litter found in our Sea Isle beaches. Cigarette butts are non-biodegradable toxic plastics. Numerous scientific studies have found toxic heavy metals, such as arsenic, and toxic organic compounds, such as nicotine and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons released to the environment by cigarette butts litter. These chemicals can also leach out of the cigarette butt and pose acute toxic effects to aquatic organisms. In order to decrease the number of cigarette filters that are littered on the beach, dunes and their proximity and also decrease the toxic effects of cigarette butts, a smoke-free policy is recommended in all public areas.

To prevent and minimize any harmful effect to the beach environment and dune areas from all kinds of litter a second recommendation would be to post 'No Dumping' signs or "No Littering" signs at the street beach entrance. This can be part of an anti-litter campaign across the city led by the Environmental Commission with input and collaborations from city officials, city vendors and other city stake holders.

Photos of the Beach Clean-Up:



Members of the Sea Isle City Police Department and their families are shown during Sea Isle City's Spring Beach Clean-Up on April 21.

Photo by Katherine Custer, Sea Isle City Public Relations



Bella Steelman, of Upper Township, and her grandmother Fran Steelman, of Sea Isle City, helped clean Sea Isle's beaches and dunes on April 21.

Photo by Katherine Custer, Sea Isle City Public Relations



Ron Custer and Donna Hadfield, both of Sea Isle City, are shown cleaning debris from the 48th Street dunes on April 21 during Sea Isle City's annual Spring Beach Clean Up.
Photo by Katherine Custer, Sea Isle City Public Relations



Sea Isle City Environmental Commission Chairperson Annette Lombardo (far left) is shown after the Beach Clean-Up with employees from Coca-Cola's Distribution Center in Marmora, NJ, as they entered the Volunteer's Luncheon at Mike's Seafood Restaurant. "The employees from Coca-Cola have been participating in our beach clean-up for many years," said Mrs. Lombardo. Photo by Katherine Custer, Sea Isle City Public Relations



Following Sea Isle City's annual Spring Beach Clean-Up on April 21, the event's volunteers were treated to a complimentary luncheon at Mike's Seafood Restaurant in Historic Fish Alley. Volunteers also received free event tee-shirts, courtesy of Approach Clothing Company, and free ice cream cones, courtesy of Spinners Pizza and Ice Cream Parlor.
Photo by Katherine Custer, Sea Isle City Public Relations



After helping clean trash and debris from the beaches and dunes, the McHale Family, of Sea Isle City, enjoyed a complimentary luncheon at Mike's Seafood Restaurant.
Photo by Katherine Custer, Sea Isle City Public Relations