

BEACH CLEAN-UP SUMMARY – September 23, 2017

The Sea Isle City Fall 2017 Beach Clean-Up and Dune Grass Planting took place on September 23. Here are some highlights:

1. The number of volunteers was a bit less than in previous years. All told, we had about 90 participants - 10 percent fewer than last year. Many volunteers elected to plant dune grass along with their clean-up. Beaches and dunes corresponding to roughly half the streets were covered, with 3,830 pieces of trash and debris reported, compared with 4,200 for 2016. No beaches north of 23rd Street were covered, but they're usually pretty clean to start with.

This year's clean-up seemed more family-oriented than ever; it was great to see the kids pitching in. The volunteers turned in 33 data cards, the compilation of which is being sent to Clean Ocean Action for inclusion in their state-wide totals.

2. The most heavily reported categories were:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 651 Plastic Wrappers | 186 Plastic Pieces |
| 515 Plastic Cigarette Filters/Butts | 185 Plastic Beverage/Soda Bottles |
| 349 Plastic Caps and Lids | 177 Metal Beverage Cans |

These six categories accounted for 54% of the total items reported.

Once again, the common denominator is the word "PLASTIC." If we add up all the plastic items on the data sheets (including plastic cigarette filters/butts), they represent 73% of the total - about the same unfortunate percent as last year.

3. Some of the more unusual items reported were:

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| -- prescription eyeglasses | -- a Barbie leg | -- part of a tire |
| -- a can of whipped cream | -- 2 wine corks | -- underwear |
| -- part of an oar | -- a bicycle lock | -- a metal umbrella shaft |
| -- 3 toy plastic figures | -- an egg carton | -- a 3-ft fireworks tube |
| -- a "heroin bag" | -- 2 syringes | -- a pacifier |

4. Written volunteer comments were mostly positive:

- Overall, beach was pretty clean (several comments like this)
- I was surprised by the amount of trash
- Closer we got to town - more debris
- Most garbage along fences and on the edge of the dunes
- So many cigarettes! - Lots of cigarette butts
- We need to have signs: "This is not your ashtray!"

5. The Environmental Commission would like to thank the following for their donations:

- Mike's Seafood for their generous post-clean-up volunteer luncheon
- Approach Apparel of Sea Isle for providing t-shirts to the participants
- The Weiler family for providing much-appreciated bottled water

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SIC Environmental Commission