



CONNECT + COLLECT

2022
REPORT



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A MESSAGE FROM Ocean Conservancy's CEO

At its core, the International Coastal Cleanup® (ICC) is about community.

Since its early beginnings on the shores of Texas in 1986, the ICC has mobilized millions of volunteers to collect hundreds of thousands of pounds of trash from beaches and waterways. We've worked together with partners and volunteers to record each item collected, create the world's largest database on marine debris, and help inform solutions across the world to the ocean plastic problem.

Personally, I cherish coming together with friends, family and colleagues for the ICC every September. With every bit of plastic collected and recorded, I'm reminded of the global community working, piece by piece, to make a difference for our ocean. Whether I'm participating on a faraway beach or in my home state of Oregon, it is clear that a love for our ocean unites us all.

The COVID-19 pandemic put the importance of the ICC community into a new light. While the incredible network of ICC volunteers and partners continued in the face of

adversity through small group and solo cleanups, for the first time in our nearly 40-year history, we did not host community cleanup events.

For many of us, this made coming back for the 2021 ICC after a year apart a uniquely joyful experience. I joined the ICC Santa Monica cleanup in California where I was lucky enough to reconnect with friends and colleagues, many of whom I hadn't seen in years.

Whether you were able to safely participate in a community beach cleanup; take part in a small group cleanup with family and friends in your neighborhood; or even create your own using the Clean Swell app, you are a part of the global ICC community. In total, over 318,000 volunteers came together to collect 5,595,330 pounds of trash. No matter how you joined the ICC last year, Ocean Conservancy sees your contribution, and we thank you.

2021 was also a year of new connections for Ocean Conservancy. In October, we announced our participation in the viral #TeamSeas campaign, which to date has engaged millions

of donors worldwide to raise over 30 million dollars for ocean cleanup efforts. As part of this campaign, Ocean Conservancy will clean up 15 million pounds of trash from beaches and the ocean in the next three years, and we are excited to work with the incredible network of ICC partners and volunteers to make this happen. We're thrilled to see new people joining global cleanup efforts, and we hope these new voices can also help call for a suite of actions to tackle the global plastic pollution crisis. Cleanups are important, and yet we must reduce plastic production at the source to truly tackle this problem.

As I look forward to this year's cleanup effort, I'm heartened by the ways this community has shown up for each other and for the ocean. To everyone who makes the ICC possible—thank you, stay safe, and see you in September.

For our ocean,



Janis Searles Jones



CONNECTED GLOBALLY:

An International Plastic Pollution Agreement

Global environmental treaties and instruments aim to combat the planet's most pressing concerns, from preventing climate change to protecting iconic wildlife and fragile ecosystems. For years, those who work daily on the problem of marine debris and plastic pollution, whether through their career or volunteerism at cleanups, have been calling for an international agreement to combat this issue at a global scale. On March 2nd, 2022, a major step was taken towards achieving this goal, when the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) agreed on a resolution under the name "End plastic pollution: Towards an internationally legally binding instrument". This historic resolution is a triumph of international collaboration even amongst geopolitical turmoil. It is the first major step in addressing the plastic pollution emergency.

To have arrived at this point is no small feat. Many thought it would be difficult, if not outright impossible to meet the needs of countries around the world in a single text. There were many issues on the table such as whether any agreement would be legally binding or voluntary, or if it would address plastic production and design or be confined to improving waste management and recycling. The agreement speaks volumes to the great work done by all negotiators and the spirit of cooperation shown by all parties involved.

So what exactly is a "legally binding instrument"? A legally binding instrument is an enforceable agreement between countries. It is an important tool to tackle a global challenge like plastic pollution. In this case, the instrument under development can inform national environmental laws and policies

governing the production, use, and recycling of plastic products in countries worldwide. Corporations that make, use, or manage plastic and its waste are likely to be affected by this agreement as well.

Felipe Victoria, Ocean Conservancy's Senior Manager for International Plastics Policy, had a front row seat to the UNEA meeting. He stated, "We recognize the importance of celebrating this resolution; however, we also know that the real work is just beginning, and we look forward to supporting this effort over the next two years."

The private sector and other environmental stakeholders like Ocean Conservancy will have the opportunity to participate as observers in the meetings to develop, inform, and advise on sound policies that should be considered in the agreement. The agreement is slated to be finalized in late 2024.



▲ Fisher and recycler from Buenaventura, Colombia

▼ Recycling center, Buenaventura, Colombia



INTRODUCING THE International Trash Trap Network

In 2021, Ocean Conservancy and the University of Toronto Trash Team launched the International Trash Trap Network (ITTN). Trash trapping technologies are an important addition to community cleanups, working around the clock and helping increase the amount of trash diverted from our waterways. There are many successful trash trapping technologies, and the network aims to inspire new projects across the globe and link these local efforts by reporting data on the trash that groups collect as part of the International Coastal Cleanup.

In the network's first year, 63 devices joined our efforts from across the United States and Canada. Seabins™ were the most popular trash trap throughout the network, used by many groups throughout the Great Lakes to clean up their local harbors and marinas. Similar to community

cleanups, the top large trash item (>3cm) collected from waterways using trash traps was cigarette butts. Comparably, tiny trash pieces outnumbered any other type of debris by far. Across the network, over 150,000 pieces of tiny trash (2mm–3cm) were collected, most of which were foam. These tiny pieces of plastic weigh hardly anything, but they can be easily ingested by wildlife and are often too small and too time consuming to collect by hand.

In addition to cleanup, the ITTN aims to use trash trapping projects as an opportunity to share knowledge, engage communities and inform upstream solutions. We have developed free materials groups can use to identify trash hotspots in their local waterways, a checklist for setting up a successful trash



trapping project, and a directory of the trash traps currently used around the world. We're excited by how far the ITTN has come in its first year and we hope that as the network grows the data collected will help us better understand the issues related to marine debris and inform solutions to solve our plastic pollution problem.



▲ Waste characterization from a trash trap in Toronto Harbor

CLEANUP CONNECTIONS:

Updates from the Global ICC Network

Remarkable Data Collection in Ghana

In Ghana, the Smart Nature Freak Youth Volunteer Foundation (SNFYVF) of Accra has taken data collection to the next level. This ICC partner never backs away from data collection, even at the dirtiest coastlines volunteers tackle. Their solution involves training a brigade of data collection volunteers every year who become familiar with the ICC trash categories and work in shifts throughout a cleanup, which leaders note can last six hours or more. Collected trash gets sorted by item and counted by hand or a bucket system. With a standard bucket size, they know how many plastic bottle caps, for example, fill that bucket. From there, they can quickly multiply full buckets to reach a total. It's not perfect science but it works for the immense amount of debris that is collected and counted from Ghana's beaches.

The results are outstanding. Volunteers in Ghana count millions of debris items during each ICC season. Tyler Kobla,

founder of the organization and ICC coordinator for a decade, says, "As we have been engaged in the ICC for years, we are always learning, at every level of the cleanup, to find the best ways to handle challenges like data collection." He adds that over the years the data collection has extended beyond the actual cleanup days, and schools, other community organizations, fisher people, ocean users and even some curious onlookers take part in the counting.

For this report, Ghana item totals were removed from global ICC totals due to the outsized efforts by SNFYVF volunteers to diligently count all trash removed. Consequently, Ghana greatly outpaced the rest of the world's item-count data with over 128 million individual items tallied, including buckets of microplastics which through their methodologies, were estimated at 31.9 million pieces. What incredible work!

ACCRA, GHANA ▶



ACCRA, GHANA ▶



From the Beach to City Hall

When it comes to halting plastic pollution, Ocean Conservancy and International Coastal Cleanup Coordinators know that the importance of playing the long game.

As their name implies, Fight Dirty Tybee knows a lot about perseverance. This ICC Partner on Tybee Island, Georgia (USA) has been battling cigarette butt litter for years. After an initial proposed smoke-free beach ordinance was rejected in 2015, the organization and volunteers kept at it, conducting year-round cleanups and methodically counting every single cigarette butt and sharing these findings with city council.

When a new ordinance was proposed in early 2022, Fight Dirty Tybee were not only prepared with the numbers, but they also had a visual statement to make. After saving bucket upon bucket of cigarette butts collected off their beaches, they lined the walkway leading up to their city hall. This time the ordinance passed, making Tybee's beaches smoke and vape-free by June 2022.



A Cleanup for All: Sardinia Draws Oldest and Youngest Volunteer at Single Event

During the 2021 International Coastal Cleanup, volunteers across the globe shared an excitement to reconnect. For some, this meant reconnecting with natural spaces and cleaning up solo or in small groups. Others were able to safely gather again, and events hosted by ICC Coordinators attracted volunteers of all walks of life. In Sardinia, partner Clean Coast Sardinia noted that among their volunteers two were over 80 years apart in age. Pino, the oldest volunteer, is 85 and he cleaned alongside a little girl who at three years old, was their youngest participant. Not only are new volunteers motivated to take part, but each year also sees new initiatives blossoming from the once-a-year annual event. In Sardinia, a local science teacher who had attended a past cleanup turned out in 2021 with a student-led group from her school, called 'CleanQ', referring to the local town, Quartu Sant'Elena. Participation in the ICC has sparked a year-round effort for the community and that's something that all of us, young and old, can feel connected to.





#TEAMSEAS



JAMAICA ▶

On October 29, 2021, YouTube creators MrBeast and Mark Rober launched #TeamSeas, a global campaign to raise \$30 million to remove 30 million pounds of plastic and trash from our ocean, rivers and beaches. #TeamSeas is the second wave of the largest creator-led fundraising campaign to ever hit the internet, #TeamTrees. Building on the 35-year history of the International Coastal Cleanup and the impressive work of the Global Ghost Gear Initiative®, Ocean Conservancy is thrilled to be the official beaches and ocean partner for the campaign. Ocean Conservancy will be partnering with ICC coordinators around the world over the next two years to focus cleanup projects on beaches and ocean habitats most impacted by plastic pollution. Since October 2021, over 4 million pounds of plastics and trash have already been removed from beaches in 33 countries.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ▶

SMALL GRANTS, Big Changes



◀ DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC

Ocean Conservancy's Small Grants program was launched in 2019 with a mission to provide dedicated support to the International Coastal Cleanup coordinators implementing community-based activities around the globe. From education and outreach to improving waste collection and recycling, ICC partners are uniquely positioned to advance durable, locally-relevant solutions to the marine debris crisis.

PARTNER: Reef Check Malaysia
Location: Malaysia
Project Title: *Upstream Solutions to Marine Debris and Plastic Pollution*
Project Description:

Small remote islands of Malaysia face challenges such as lack of waste collection infrastructure and expensive and complicated logistics to transport waste from island to mainland for proper disposal. Reef Check Malaysia completed the first study on current waste management practices on all inhabited islands, and in consultation with federal, state and regional governments, identified steps to improve systems, seek viable alternate technologies, and implement financial mechanisms for funding waste collection and transportation in perpetuity.



Partner: Mariposa DR Foundation
Location: Dominican Republic
Project Title:
Community Cleanup and Recycling: Building with Ecobricks
Project Description:

The young women of the Mariposa DR Foundation worked diligently throughout 2021, collecting more than 2,000 pounds of trash in their local community. They then transformed this trash into Ecobricks, bottles that are tightly packed with other plastic waste. The Ecobricks were used to build a pavilion for a neighboring school. The Mariposa girls participated in every step of this project, including the planning and building of the pavilion.

Their demonstration of leadership and care for the environment, educating community members and visitors about the challenges of single-use plastics, is absolutely inspirational.

EGYPT ▶



Partner: Youth Love Egypt Foundation
Location: Egypt
Project Title: *Clean Shores Project*
Project Description:

The Clean Shores Project brought together groups across the Mediterranean Seas, the River Nile and the Red Sea for large-scale cleanup events that improved the environmental health and awareness of local community members.

MAKING Policy Waves

Landmark Legislation in California

Earlier this year, Ocean Conservancy's domestic plastics policy team helped champion the strongest plastics legislation in the country across the finish line in California—SB 54 or the Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act.

This new law is a turning point in how we tackle our plastic pollution crisis because for the first time it requires that we make less plastic in the first place—25% less over the next 10 years. Ocean Conservancy's team, who helped negotiate and write this critical piece of legislation, estimate that this requirement will lead to 23 million tons less single-use plastics in California over the next 10 year—that's equivalent to the weight of 26 Golden Gate Bridges! As part of this shift away from single-use plastics, this bill includes the first reuse and refill requirements in the country, meaning this bill would also support California's ability to recycle by requiring that all single-use

packaging and foodware actually be recyclable or compostable, holding producers accountable for the cost of managing their products and requiring producers to pay for the much needed improvements to California's recycling and composting systems. By shifting the financial responsibility of waste management to the producers through extended producer responsibility, this policy will set California on the path towards a circular economy.

This bill would also require plastic producers to provide significant funding (\$5 billion over 10 years) to protect and restore California's lands, waters, and communities most impacted by plastic pollution.

Bottom line—California's new law will mean less plastic production, less plastics in our communities, and less plastics in our ocean. Thank you, California for setting the example of how to lead us out of our ocean plastic pollution crisis!



Ocean Conservancy scientists estimate that **California's SB 54** would eliminate

~23 million tons of single-use plastics over the next **10 years!** 

This is equivalent to the weight of:

 **26**
Golden Gate Bridges

U.S. National Parks Ban Single-Use Plastics

On World Ocean Day, the U.S. Department of Interior announced an order to reduce and eventually phase out the sale of single-use plastics in national parks, wildlife refuges, and other public lands by 2032. This is a monumental win for our ocean and natural wonders as well as the animals and wildlife that depend on it. More than 10,000 Ocean Conservancy supporters contacted their representatives to ask them to take action to keep our natural parks plastics-free.

The majority of the more than 130 million pieces of trash collected from beaches and waterways across the United States over the 35-year history of Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup are single-use plastic foodware items, like bottles, cutlery and food wrappers, many of which are currently sold on public land including our national parks. The last thing we want to see while exploring these majestic sites is plastic pollution that can harm the incredible wildlife we came there to see. Not only will this policy help reduce single-use plastics throughout our country, but it will also show the more than 330 million visitors to our national parks each year that it is possible to have a trash-free future if we work together.

Cleaning from the Water in Komodo

In Komodo, Indonesia, ICC coordinator Stefan Rafael has created a small fleet of cleanup kayaks which he notes are especially popular with youth, who get to see the issue of plastic pollution from a different perspective when on the water. "With kayaks, we can reach remote islands easily and do cleanups in the shallow waters with lots of coral reefs and mangrove forests where plastics get trapped." As an educator, he notes that the major lesson learned from a sea-based cleanup is that trash travels without boundaries and the data collection he and his volunteers take part in help trace those avenues back to sources, often on land, which will help targeted reduction and prevention plans in the future.

2021 ICC WATERCRAFT CLEANUPS

5,232 PEOPLE	429 MILES
72,498 POUNDS	691 KILOMETERS
32,884 KILOGRAMS	32,478 TOTAL ITEMS

1,473
PEOPLE

13,695
POUNDS

6,212
KILOGRAMS

41
MILES

66
KILOMETERS

30,135
TOTAL ITEMS

2021 ICC UNDERWATER CLEANUPS



2021 INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

Locations

Participating countries shaded in dark blue.



◀ CLEAN SWELL APP USER, CALIFORNIA

CLEAN SWELL ▶ APP USER, MALDIVES





▼ CLEAN SWELL APP
USER, SINGAPORE



PLASTIC POLLUTION: Updates from the Field

ICC Data: More Than Just Numbers

The rich and robust data collected by ICC volunteers each year serve as a platform from which countless scientific research endeavors sprout. Not only does the science built upon ICC data help to expand our understanding of the plastic pollution problem; but often, findings from these studies also help support the passage of plastic pollution abatement policies. At least 27 peer-reviewed scientific papers using ICC data were published in 2021, with authors hailing from 20 countries and represent more than 50 organizations, including NGOs, universities and government agencies. Each of these studies used ICC data in numerous, insightful ways. Some cited it as rationale for investigating and seeking solutions to one or more particularly problematic types of debris (e.g., Ambrose et al. 2021; Fauziah et al. 2021;), while others

used it to help answer social science and socioeconomic questions (e.g., Aretoulaki et al. 2021, Hardesty et al. 2021). Some provided a look at debris over time, or combined it with other large datasets to answer key pollution questions (e.g., Kanhai et al. 2022; Vysotskaya et al. 2021; Morales-Caselles et al. 2021), and others cited it as a way to help devise and frame solutions (e.g., Royle et al. 2022; Alfonso et al. 2021; Jorgensen et al. 2021).

NASSAU, BAHAMAS ►





ICC-derived cigarette butt data were cited in numerous studies published in 2021. One of these studies found cigarette butts degrade and generate thousands of cellulose acetate microplastics when they are littered, posing a concern for local wildlife (Belzagui et al. 2021). Another identified toxic substances leaching from cigarette butts, proving that this type of litter is not only an eyesore and a source of microplastics, but it also poses a concern due to its chemical impacts (Akhbarizadeh et al. 2021). A third confirmed that the presence of chemicals extracted from smoked cigarette butts impact the health of aquatic organisms (Oliva et al. 2021), and a fourth presented a history of cigarette filter inclusion in products and how they likely impact human health (Silva et al. 2021).

2021 GLOBAL

Data at a Glance

Top 10 Items Collected



1
Food Wrappers
(candy, chips, etc.)
1,341,463



6
Grocery Bags
(Plastic)
415,245



2
Cigarette Butts
1,134,292



7
Beverage Bottles
(Glass)
304,337



3
Beverage Bottles
(Plastic)
849,321



8
Beverage Cans
267,189



4
Other Trash
(Clean Swell)
613,972



9
Straws, Stirrers
260,395



5
Bottle Caps
(Plastic)
579,020



10
Cups, Plates
(Plastic)
245,961



◀ JAMAICA

Topline Data

Volunteers	318,928
Pounds	5,595,330
Kilograms	2,537,996
Miles	16,766
Kilometers	27,195

Total Items Collected
9,760,227

Tiny Trash

< 2.5 cm in size

Plastic Pieces	1,168,857
Foam Pieces	221,132
Glass Pieces	105,545

2021 DATA GO THE Distance

GLASS BOTTLES =
304,337

The amount of glass beverage
bottles collected by volume would fill

**two and half
18-wheeler
cargo trucks**

PLASTIC BOTTLES = 849,321
Enough plastic bottles were collected to
equal the height of

**1,780 Artemis
1 moon voyage
rockets**

CIGARETTE BUTTS =
1,134,292

The amount of cigarette butts
collected, laid end to end, would
stretch longer than the

**length
of the
Panama
Canal**

TOTAL WEIGHT OF
DEBRIS COLLECTED =
5.59 MILLION POUNDS

Weight of trash removed equals that of

186 buses

GLOBAL OCEAN TRASH INDEX

2021 International Coastal Cleanup

TOP 10 ITEMS COLLECTED GLOBALLY

Location	Volunteers	Pounds	Kilograms	Miles	Kilometers	Total Items Collected	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
							Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	Cigarette Butts	Beverage Bottles (Plastic)	Other Trash (Clean Swell)	Bottle Caps (Plastic)	Grocery Bags (Plastic)	Beverage Bottles (Glass)	Beverage Cans	Straws, Stirrers	Cups, Plates (Plastic)
Algeria	2	60	27	0.1	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American Samoa	82	347	158	1.0	1.7	4,728	259	547	522	50	493	216	296	622	78	197
Antigua and Barbuda	74	571	259	1.8	3.0	1,457	74	9	152	105	34	48	285	165	19	140
Argentina	4	2	1	0.1	0.1	103	3	—	1	—	93	4	—	—	—	—
Aruba	40	130	59	0.1	0.1	388	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Australia	1,532	8,506	3,858	133.9	215.5	65,231	4,654	4,509	1,143	107	33	483	835	859	1,564	18
Azerbaijan	33	2	1	0.1	0.1	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bangladesh	520	3,197	1,450	3.1	5.0	104,206	17,650	11,870	3,278	—	1,124	1,345	169	132	3,860	76
Belize	111	1,181	536	5.6	9.0	6,109	421	135	468	485	441	1,008	209	160	201	156
Bermuda	9	68	31	0.1	0.1	216	1	1	12	11	25	1	—	—	—	—
Bonaire	6	8	4	0.1	0.1	5,305	36	4,614	—	—	51	—	18	4	96	8
Brazil	1,709	12,703	5,762	47.5	76.5	39,113	2,639	7,056	2,190	938	2,096	2,335	1,540	526	912	1,363
British Virgin Islands	196	672	305	3.5	5.6	2,717	83	36	717	291	122	106	322	159	52	146
Bulgaria	3	20	9	0.3	0.5	140	10	—	12	15	—	19	8	8	2	13
Cambodia	6	8	4	0.1	0.1	185	16	6	17	30	5	26	—	13	—	—
Cameroon	216	156,969	71,200	1.7	2.7	15	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada	13,822	29,617	13,434	985.9	1,586.6	328,284	28,984	88,513	9,559	567	22,816	13,001	5,986	14,036	9,160	6,728
Chile	4,691	217,115	98,482	87.8	141.2	221,414	7,598	82,269	6,257	23	8,544	4,199	5,441	7,877	2,002	2,150
China	10,319	55,402	25,130	144.8	233.1	31,588	372	6,243	2,752	63	2,142	2,134	439	225	381	18
Colombia	141	697	316	3.1	5.0	11,767	408	45	1,950	—	2,247	345	97	105	75	1,987
Costa Rica	16	93	42	0.9	1.5	208	14	2	54	1	31	3	7	6	2	7
Croatia	22	38	17	0.7	1.1	3,448	13	3,016	4	6	83	3	3	2	4	—
Cyprus	79	99	45	3.4	5.4	1,492	128	375	161	198	78	52	16	120	49	37
Czechia	2	2	1	0.1	0.1	11	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Denmark	1	2	1	0.1	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dominican Republic	33	93	42	0.2	0.3	1,200	23	314	18	51	92	10	7	7	31	18
Ecuador	6,052	81,458	36,949	464.2	747.1	309,550	27,713	8,171	18,097	94	10,620	14,340	10,199	6,857	7,163	16,203
Egypt	11	28	13	0.1	0.1	489	192	88	14	17	1	35	1	4	40	3

GLOBAL OCEAN TRASH INDEX

2021 International Coastal Cleanup

TOP 10 ITEMS COLLECTED GLOBALLY

Location	Volunteers	Pounds	Kilograms	Miles	Kilometers	Total Items Collected	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
							Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	Cigarette Butts	Beverage Bottles (Plastic)	Other Trash (Clean Swell)	Bottle Caps (Plastic)	Grocery Bags (Plastic)	Beverage Bottles (Glass)	Beverage Cans	Straws, Stirrers	Cups, Plates (Plastic)
El Salvador	2	1	0	0.3	0.5	33	2	—	7	—	7	4	—	2	—	6
Finland	2	2	1	0.0	0.1	48	13	3	1	11	—	4	—	5	—	—
France	526	2,093	949	21.5	34.6	15,158	606	5,999	578	1,694	261	401	164	456	142	260
Germany	1,810	3,534	1,603	29.7	47.8	32,245	3,755	15,911	198	242	776	1,197	971	225	391	213
Ghana	1,487	141,292	64,088	2.3	3.7	128,013,609*	6,978,955*	3,173,620*	2,213,556*	601*	5,815,808*	163,922*	886*	1,090*	7,473,397*	5,423,026*
Greece	5,630	18,382	8,338	35.7	57.4	103,917	2,219	29,559	4,181	56	8,379	4,557	3,609	2,888	7,846	4,501
Guam	17	37	17	1.8	2.9	556	—	—	49	49	124	5	5	33	1	—
Guatemala	15	7	3	3.7	5.9	197	15	6	29	9	57	8	2	1	10	11
Guyana	82	1,695	769	2.6	4.2	10,452	283	16	5,324	—	320	213	818	530	37	965
Hong Kong	17,705	283,051	128,390	82.4	132.7	6,237	499	211	550	208	310	402	64	80	123	56
Hungary	2	25	11	0.1	0.1	5	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
Iceland	10	1,984	900	3.0	4.8	453	—	—	5	—	—	3	3	—	4	—
India	432	188	85	0.6	1.0	736	97	4	63	15	77	67	10	9	82	23
Indonesia	978	12,936	5,868	30.6	49.2	5,881	383	493	646	312	382	639	363	67	349	181
Iran	1	0	0	0.1	0.1	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ireland	886	4,257	1,931	163.0	262.3	37,926	3,338	8,941	2,292	896	1,467	567	1,489	1,895	531	218
Israel	123	680	308	1.9	3.1	1,439	139	4	132	3	5	150	26	43	4	49
Italy	1,292	9,310	4,223	12.1	19.5	15,101	419	3,050	322	575	600	182	136	171	314	165
Jamaica	1,846	40,914	18,558	122.9	197.8	245,191	6,950	1,314	133,656	202	28,373	2,064	5,520	2,707	1,323	11,374
Japan	3,024	11,000	4,989	201.1	323.6	73,208	4,328	10,489	3,964	1,021	3,647	1,130	1,213	2,204	981	512
Kazakhstan	2	2	1	0.1	0.1	3	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kenya	2,807	18,029	8,178	37.0	59.6	80,555	9,270	494	10,865	1,864	4,875	1,796	1,502	763	3,537	12,308
Madagascar	170	192	87	0.1	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaysia	999	13,385	6,071	20.0	32.2	47,161	2,509	2,314	9,951	3,563	2,828	2,768	533	455	1,251	674
Mauritius	210	1,565	710	4.4	7.0	8,139	824	697	601	—	626	145	153	710	57	430
Mexico	17,696	367,073	166,501	2,374.1	3,820.7	2,954,892	802,381	74,146	279,252	335,177	104,114	186,358	125,187	68,727	52,435	80,269
Mongolia	1	2	1	0.1	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mozambique	75	2,681	1,216	18.6	30.0	4,957	15	90	359	—	699	106	159	130	91	125

*Ghana's itemized data from 2021 were excluded from the global summary to keep data comparable to past ICC years with respect to volunteer effort. See page 4.

GLOBAL OCEAN TRASH INDEX

2021 International Coastal Cleanup

TOP 10 ITEMS COLLECTED GLOBALLY

Location	Volunteers	Pounds	Kilograms	Miles	Kilometers	Total Items Collected	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
							Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	Cigarette Butts	Beverage Bottles (Plastic)	Other Trash (Clean Swell)	Bottle Caps (Plastic)	Grocery Bags (Plastic)	Beverage Bottles (Glass)	Beverage Cans	Straws, Stirrers	Cups, Plates (Plastic)
Nepal	1	2	1	0.1	0.1	20	1	1	2	—	2	1	2	1	—	1
Netherlands	189	408	185	32.4	52.1	6,309	418	2,061	267	675	70	178	85	379	166	160
New Zealand	4	8	4	0.1	0.1	40	6	—	—	5	3	—	3	—	—	—
Nicaragua	306	2,826	1,282	4.4	7.0	22,683	785	226	7,140	437	7,718	1,431	212	82	742	520
Nigeria	102	1,429	648	2.2	3.6	8,576	188	130	956	—	1,182	199	187	331	263	326
Northern Mariana Islands	542	1,172	531	53.3	85.8	13,148	723	2,221	566	108	515	373	133	1,459	242	182
Norway	22,867	859,820	390,008	1.5	2.3	108,795	7,042	25,562	4,182	473	6,524	1,218	1,264	15	734	78
Pakistan	106	45	21	0.1	0.1	333	5	159	24	—	1	3	4	2	32	4
Panama	536	4,713	2,138	79.4	127.7	33,143	659	228	12,658	2,723	2,125	1,044	1,230	1,101	211	618
Peru	2,685	76,439	34,672	352.7	567.6	101,981	6,842	1,914	2,238	1,033	2,285	3,818	735	737	606	1,447
Philippines	4,855	326,166	147,946	144.2	232.0	103,704	9,322	3,505	6,323	28,958	3,396	4,988	2,506	1,496	2,172	2,532
Poland	6	5	2	0.3	0.4	52	7	5	4	3	—	—	—	12	—	1
Portugal	673	2,109	957	9.1	14.6	8,420	267	3,659	194	783	152	184	304	201	148	74
Puerto Rico	6,137	46,664	21,167	399.2	642.4	423,592	15,391	58,207	27,946	36,623	34,587	8,669	16,498	14,426	28,590	17,730
Romania	1	1	0	0.0	0.0	28	1	8	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	1
Russia	20	216	98	5.1	8.2	769	77	123	15	6	76	17	20	9	15	9
Samoa	124	1,292	586	1.9	3.0	16,145	1,031	1,066	1,500	—	1,276	3,856	284	1,081	—	1,392
Saudi Arabia	2	2	1	0.1	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Senegal	21	111	50	0.1	0.2	410	7	—	73	73	3	14	23	71	—	8
Seychelles	271	354	161	283.0	455.4	8,758	734	925	377	146	783	91	93	67	278	76
Sierra Leone	50	950	431	1.5	2.4	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Singapore	611	4,557	2,067	25.4	40.9	21,698	1,871	5,152	706	1,253	705	1,440	203	262	1,181	398
Sint Maarten	222	2,748	1,247	13.2	21.2	9,444	287	337	1,708	809	383	915	982	345	240	200
Slovenia	104	201	91	6.0	9.6	21,692	328	17,222	77	—	151	137	28	91	113	84
South Africa	1,442	7,469	3,388	55.6	89.4	39,147	3,728	3,964	1,870	201	3,538	966	1,348	527	2,504	461
South Korea	3,994	27,171	12,325	667.4	1,074.1	108,526	4,454	20,793	4,824	11,127	3,137	5,882	2,518	2,906	4,098	1,941
Spain	1,878	14,231	6,455	68.9	110.9	78,325	3,544	26,027	2,763	1,035	4,334	2,377	1,549	4,417	1,286	1,449
Sri Lanka	12	107	49	0.6	1.0	691	76	58	114	—	13	25	43	148	16	3

GLOBAL OCEAN TRASH INDEX

2021 International Coastal Cleanup

TOP 10 ITEMS COLLECTED GLOBALLY

Location	Volunteers	Pounds	Kilograms	Miles	Kilometers	Total Items Collected	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
							Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	Cigarette Butts	Beverage Bottles (Plastic)	Other Trash (Clean Swell)	Bottle Caps (Plastic)	Grocery Bags (Plastic)	Beverage Bottles (Glass)	Beverage Cans	Straws, Stirrers	Cups, Plates (Plastic)
St Kitts & Nevis	12	42	19	1.0	1.6	428	21	—	95	20	27	30	30	16	20	25
St Lucia	149	991	449	1.7	2.7	4,731	405	20	672	138	577	406	112	71	116	363
Sweden	9	16	7	0.1	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Switzerland	2	2	1	0.1	0.1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Taiwan	4,691	29,573	13,414	22.7	36.5	91,419	1,912	2,674	23,780	70	20,728	4,030	5,425	2,384	7,024	3,975
Tanzania	5,018	97,155	44,069	10.8	17.4	46,512	12,024	4,356	7,237	—	4,745	2,797	1,490	417	586	1,142
Thailand	3,507	48,442	21,973	39.6	63.7	278,359	17,305	1,046	43,544	2,087	3,746	35,449	24,343	4,783	3,703	4,206
The Bahamas	197	1,786	810	15.3	24.7	11,395	360	85	1,192	97	589	265	1,204	873	149	456
Tonga	147	159	72	0.6	1.0	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trinidad and Tobago	36	1,213	550	1.1	1.8	15,090	94	27	13,878	94	104	163	251	26	8	95
Turkey	801	6,248	2,834	25.5	41.0	8,500	170	3,176	99	—	237	72	163	36	10	78
U.S. Virgin Islands	410	2,976	1,350	20.8	33.4	31,293	1,793	2,499	1,624	398	3,167	414	1,403	617	1,350	704
Ukraine	3	12	6	0.0	0.0	52	5	20	5	1	—	10	1	—	3	1
United Arab Emirates	517	4,325	1,962	25.0	40.2	18,006	800	3,203	3,107	390	1,589	545	746	647	201	650
United Kingdom	6,586	14,328	6,499	64.0	102.0	130,610	14,568	17,403	2,993	120	8,447	1,882	1,380	2,748	1,262	2,737
Channel Islands	53	28	13	0.2	0.4	318	18	75	—	—	20	1	—	1	3	2
England	4,095	7,213	3,272	41.8	67.3	85,680	10,020	10,988	1,564	98	5,768	1,310	700	1,290	880	2,159
Northern Ireland	74	255	116	0.3	0.5	3,093	354	343	126	0	359	21	42	80	38	13
Scotland	1,828	6,129	2,780	18.6	30.0	30,377	3,415	2,913	1,101	21	1,570	462	534	1,187	217	360
Whales	536	703	319	2.5	4.0	11,142	761	3,084	202	1	730	88	104	190	124	203
United States	133,027	2,385,630	1,082,103	9,108.0	14,658.0	2,966,725	274,030	505,035	126,162	147,919	224,444	67,489	55,703	94,353	91,988	46,233
Uruguay	2,000	11,023	5,000	62.1	100.0	10,814	1,624	347	1,108	1,474	484	1,262	665	312	182	315
Vanuatu	88	741	336	3.2	5.1	8,826	2,563	216	846	—	606	75	212	869	173	144
Venezuela	1,849	12,501	5,670	59.4	95.5	90,054	6,457	5,672	7,133	110	6,310	3,678	3,138	1,693	3,848	4,782
Vietnam	4	2	1	0.0	0.0	26	1	2	2	—	—	1	2	—	2	5
Wallis and Futuna	228	10,568	4,794	4.3	7.0	13,098	—	—	6,896	—	—	413	497	3,847	—	—
Location Not Recorded	14,324	82,975	37,634	33.9	268.2	319,444	20,199	43,392	32,008	25,633	21,163	15,957	9,512	9,341	10,931	8,747
Grand Total	318,928	5,595,330	2,537,996	16,766	27,195	9,760,227	1,341,463	1,134,292	849,321	613,972	579,020	415,245	304,337	267,189	260,395	245,961

UNITED STATES OCEAN TRASH INDEX

2021 International Coastal Cleanup

TOP 10 ITEMS COLLECTED IN THE UNITED STATES

State	Volunteers	Pounds	Kilograms	Miles	Kilometers	Total Items Collected	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
							Cigarette Butts	Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	Bottle Caps (Plastic)	Other Trash (Clean Swell)	Beverage Bottles (Plastic)	Beverage Cans	Straws, Stirrers	Bottle Caps (Metal)	Grocery Bags (Plastic)	Beverage Bottles (Glass)
Alabama	2,753	25,955	11,773	174.4	280.7	60,245	8,020	4,526	4,001	2,241	4,691	4,570	1,501	1,137	1,860	1,513
Alaska	498	1,206	547	26.7	42.9	8,475	1,676	643	235	—	153	753	61	173	61	185
Arizona	39	930	422	0.5	0.8	373	39	16	13	34	19	14	9	18	13	31
Arkansas	1	53	24	0.1	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
California	34,881	380,725	172,694	2,145.3	3,452.5	629,016	125,157	68,214	24,949	58,799	15,784	12,770	13,291	16,919	14,000	10,559
Colorado	2,305	28,064	12,729	29.0	46.7	1,553	293	195	68	148	112	57	38	41	35	26
Connecticut	1,723	10,215	4,634	274.1	441.2	51,185	5,992	5,194	2,775	4,147	3,535	2,510	1,257	1,334	1,450	1,904
Delaware	611	4,051	1,837	121.5	195.5	26,990	7,988	1,802	1,949	—	1,195	1,265	578	421	327	476
District of Columbia	181	3,251	1,474	4.6	7.4	2,725	507	1,232	564	463	1,057	419	186	143	905	193
Florida	19,116	88,904	40,326	1,528.5	2,459.9	695,403	104,616	41,855	69,534	43,966	23,898	15,472	18,770	20,193	17,814	9,947
Georgia	7,743	288,595	130,905	569.2	916.1	55,369	12,937	2,871	1,843	192	3,876	5,186	1,370	937	2,445	4,430
Hawaii	1,142	35,122	15,931	561.4	903.5	62,879	7,999	3,751	9,719	219	3,515	6,966	609	7,011	173	1,378
Idaho	3	163	74	5.5	8.9	233	106	24	9	—	5	15	3	2	5	1
Illinois	1,664	5,542	2,514	11.5	18.6	71,329	13,069	5,445	5,468	106	1,650	1,603	3,438	3,154	593	671
Indiana	319	227	103	0.8	1.3	25,744	1,011	21,889	373	—	104	43	123	80	12	34
Iowa	1	0	0	0.1	0.1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kansas	64	522	237	0.2	0.4	8,951	330	525	500	225	626	3,551	355	350	100	600
Kentucky	4	21	10	0.0	0.0	211	—	33	4	33	19	12	5	—	24	—
Louisiana	69	5,794	2,628	19.3	31.1	3,131	63	366	166	157	374	367	41	34	366	165
Maine	533	2,580	1,170	56.0	90.2	16,434	4,418	894	412	322	399	258	149	108	169	65
Maryland	311	4,819	2,186	12.0	19.4	40,891	632	2,097	3,032	686	1,935	583	1,667	256	509	534
Massachusetts	2,370	76,414	34,661	118.8	191.2	54,449	8,894	5,167	2,859	3,924	4,651	3,274	1,549	686	1,732	2,633
Michigan	1,139	3,263	1,480	15.7	25.3	67,497	12,959	3,747	3,324	384	575	483	2,126	692	314	249
Minnesota	24	34	15	0.4	0.6	722	303	34	19	3	11	5	12	5	6	1
Mississippi	513	4,101	1,860	38.9	62.6	29,812	5,945	2,843	1,756	778	1,458	812	934	589	745	376
Missouri	213	3,170	1,438	1.2	1.9	13	—	2	1	6	1	—	—	—	—	—

UNITED STATES OCEAN TRASH INDEX

2021 International Coastal Cleanup

TOP 10 ITEMS COLLECTED IN THE UNITED STATES

State	Volunteers	Pounds	Kilograms	Miles	Kilometers	Total Items Collected	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
							Cigarette Butts	Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	Bottle Caps (Plastic)	Other Trash (Clean Swell)	Beverage Bottles (Plastic)	Beverage Cans	Straws, Stirrers	Bottle Caps (Metal)	Grocery Bags (Plastic)	Beverage Bottles (Glass)
Montana	12	60	27	0.1	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nebraska	1	8	3	0.1	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevada	47	1,055	479	0.1	0.1	1,879	939	117	55	98	205	18	9	1	31	37
New Hampshire	404	5,495	2,493	35.3	56.9	7,133	1,287	611	181	126	642	602	85	104	110	260
New Jersey	5,176	27,394	12,426	126.9	204.2	230,108	20,680	30,585	40,960	303	6,588	3,701	20,668	3,018	4,855	1,833
New Mexico	3	10	5	0.1	0.1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New York	4,033	42,735	19,384	224.1	360.6	123,896	17,761	9,247	10,856	4,136	5,352	3,648	6,338	4,671	2,642	2,316
North Carolina	2,009	29,745	13,492	326.4	525.3	80,929	36,831	4,885	1,895	6,450	2,296	1,842	1,188	625	1,467	872
Ohio	1,321	10,421	4,727	76.1	122.5	78,673	8,260	6,192	3,148	664	3,973	2,868	2,326	918	1,960	1,313
Oklahoma	2	2	1	2.3	3.7	19	—	1	—	1	1	—	3	—	2	2
Oregon	56	541	246	9.2	14.8	914	134	85	58	81	25	27	12	18	29	12
Pennsylvania	14,100	749,286	339,871	1,255.7	2,020.8	46,488	10,971	5,686	2,854	259	10,528	2,374	86	23	1,612	970
Rhode Island	2,446	14,249	6,463	302.9	487.5	144,203	33,550	12,870	9,229	3,616	7,131	3,796	4,855	3,060	1,971	3,792
South Carolina	425	1,104	501	21.5	34.6	5,029	1,323	490	307	552	284	103	106	25	136	49
South Dakota	2	40	18	0.3	0.4	120	—	20	7	—	25	4	7	—	20	—
Tennessee	261	8,265	3,749	12.0	19.3	2,317	50	250	88	—	288	194	68	32	168	183
Texas	13,292	402,968	182,783	134.5	216.5	58,853	5,538	3,802	7,613	3,732	3,407	2,509	1,769	1,805	1,194	1,262
Utah	133	700	317	13.0	20.9	1,568	346	337	26	182	102	73	45	7	25	63
Vermont	145	3,717	1,686	13.3	21.4	8,119	296	775	174	—	739	485	212	120	178	262
Virginia	3,514	27,536	12,490	286.7	461.3	135,165	19,383	11,818	6,973	4,974	8,387	5,694	3,330	6,439	4,580	3,001
Washington	1,292	32,246	14,627	101.6	163.5	21,199	4,445	2,297	773	1,836	498	686	356	471	389	538
West Virginia	7	31	14	0.1	0.1	30	—	—	8	1	1	1	1	—	—	1
Wisconsin	1,668	15,225	6,906	29.9	48.1	29,448	6,520	4,638	1,438	243	2,262	1,327	765	261	1,555	753
Location Not Recorded	4,458	39,078	17,725	420.1	676.1	77,003	13,766	5,959	4,228	3,832	3,785	3,413	1,687	1,653	907	2,213
Grand Total	133,027	2,385,630	1,082,103	9,108.0	14,658.0	2,966,725	505,035	274,030	224,444	147,919	126,162	94,353	91,988	77,534	67,489	55,703

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CLEANUP COORDINATORS: Leaders of the ICC

The International Coastal Cleanup would not be the impactful and truly global force that it is today without the remarkable dedication and leadership of a growing network of ICC coordinators. The way that this network was able to evolve during the pandemic and still create meaningful experiences connecting people with our ocean and the plastic pollution problem is a testament to their strength and expertise. Ocean Conservancy is honored to work with these wonderful individuals and organizations from across the globe.



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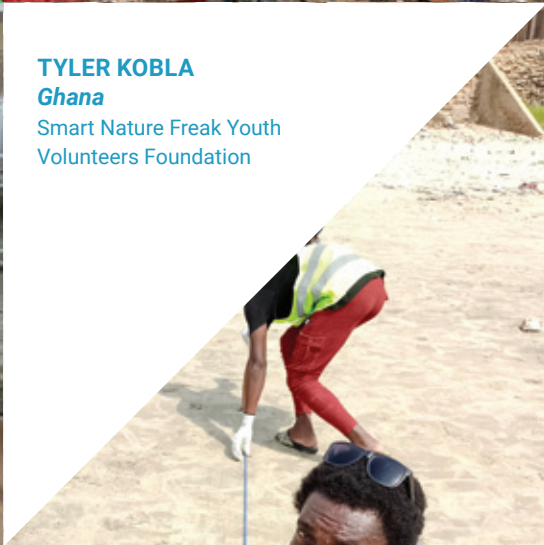
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2021 SUPPORTING Partners

▶ *Mattel volunteers,
Los Angeles, California*

▼ *Oracle underwater
cleanup volunteer*



Oracle

When group gatherings became impossible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ocean Conservancy and the technology company Oracle worked together to fight ocean plastic pollution despite the pandemic. In March and April of 2021, Ocean Conservancy and Oracle joined forces to organize the company's first-ever global cleanup, encouraging employees to pick up trash at their local waterways, beaches and parks. The effort was part of Oracle's annual Focus on Environment initiative, which engages employees to volunteer on behalf of the planet.

Close to 1,400 Oracle Volunteers around the world held cleanups, preventing thousands of pounds of trash from entering the ocean. Volunteers from India, Japan, the U.S., Germany, South Africa and many other nations logged their cleanup efforts in Ocean Conservancy's Clean Swell app. Oracle employees also supported Ocean Conservancy through a fundraising campaign.

Oracle is committed to protecting the planet through its 30-year-old volunteer program as well as philanthropy and sustainability initiatives. The company has a goal to achieve 100% renewable energy use across its operations globally, including all next-generation Oracle Cloud data centers, by 2025.



Mattel, Inc.

Leading global toy company Mattel supports Ocean Conservancy's efforts towards a clean, healthy ocean as an International Coastal Cleanup partner. Mattel PlayBack was launched in 2021 as a toy takeback program with the aim of recovering and reusing materials from old Mattel toys for future Mattel products.

As part of their ongoing global volunteer campaign, Play It Forward, Mattel teamed up with Ocean Conservancy to host three cleanups to engage employees to collect trash from local waterways and beaches. In 2021, 248 Mattel volunteers worked together to collect over 400 pounds of trash at cleanup events in El Segundo, CA; East Aurora, NY; and Middleton, WI.



Garnier

Global cosmetics brand Garnier launched its Greener Beauty initiative in 2020 to radically reduce the beauty brand's environmental impact.

Garnier joined forces several years ago with Ocean Conservancy to tackle ocean pollution. In 2021, Garnier launched a "Spotless September" campaign to celebrate the International Coastal Cleanup, inspiring Garnier employees around the world to participate in cleanups where they live.

In total, 482 Garnier volunteers across five countries collected 4,964 pounds (2,252 kilograms) of trash from beaches, waterways and parks in their local communities.

▲ Garnier volunteers, France

2021 International Coastal Cleanup Supporting Partners

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Pacific Life Foundation
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Page 1: Ocean Conservancy

Page 2: Colombia, Ocean Conservancy

Page 3: Canada, Surfrider Vancouver; Canada, University of Toronto Trash Lab

Page 4: Ghana, Smart Nature Freak Youth Volunteers Foundation

Page 5: Georgia, Fight Dirty Tybee; Sardinia, Clean Coast Sardinia

Page 6: Jamaica, Jamaica Environment Trust; Dominican Republic, Rafeed Hussain

Page 7: Dominican Republic, Mariposa Foundation; Malaysia, Reef Check Malaysia; Egypt, Youth Love Egypt Foundation

Page 8: Ocean Conservancy

Page 9: Indonesia, Plasticman Institute; Philippines, Bellevue Bohol

Page 10: Photos courtesy of individual Clean Swell app users

Page 11: Photo courtesy of individual Clean Swell app user

Page 12 & 13: Bahamas, Dolphin Encounters

Page 14: Jamaica, Jamaica Environment Trust

Page 26: Virginia, Clean Virginia Waterways; Dominican Republic, Fundación Vida Azul; Georgia, Rivers Alive; Maryland, Kent Island Beach Cleanups

Page 27: Nigeria, Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research; Israel, The Israeli Diving Federation; Colombia, Eileen Martes; Trinidad and Tobago, Keegan Callender; Ghana, Smart Nature Freak Youth Volunteers Foundation; Indonesia, Plasticman Institute

Page 28: California, Mattel; Diver, Oracle Volunteer

Page 29: France, Garnier

Page 30: Wallis and Futuna, Benjamin Brial

Page 31: Dominican Republic, Rafeed Hussain

Back cover: Florida, Nola Schoder



INTRODUCING THE NEW **CLEAN SWELL**

Ocean Conservancy has launched its newly revamped cleanup app, Clean Swell®. Clean Swell is the official app of Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup, but it is also a tool available to all for year-round and solo cleanup efforts. "Clean Swell has been a game changer for the ICC, particularly in the wake of COVID-19," said Allison Schutes, director of the ICC at Ocean Conservancy. Millions of data points collected by volunteers inform big picture solutions to the ocean plastic crisis.

Data submitted through the app instantaneously upload to Ocean Conservancy's global Ocean Trash Index, the world's largest database of marine debris. These data have been used by scientists, environmentalists, governments and others to better understand and characterize the global plastic pollution problem.

The app has proven integral during the COVID-19 pandemic as well. In the absence of large community cleanups, individuals used Clean Swell to conduct small group or solo cleanups, and Ocean Conservancy updated the app to include PPE as a new category, which resulted in over 100,000 PPE items recorded by ICC volunteers in just six months in 2020.

In addition to a new and improved interface that makes data recording easier than ever, users will now be able to increase their impact by connecting to Ocean Conservancy's action center directly through the app. The app can be used without WiFi or cellular service and is available in 12 languages. Clean Swell users can also earn badges, based on the different types of trash found and number of cleanups completed, and share their accomplishments on Facebook, Twitter and via e-mail.



App Store



Google Play



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