



Trash on the beach is more than just ugly and unsanitary; it is a threat to the health of our oceans. Marine animals consume bits of plastic, leading to injury and death. Plastic bags and discarded fishing line can fatally entangle wildlife. And plastics are accumulating in the ocean at an alarming rate.

But thanks to volunteers around the world, the International Coastal Cleanup has become a beacon of hope, leading and inspiring action in support of our ocean. Save The Bay is proud to coordinate Rhode Island's part in the International Coastal Cleanup. Our Ocean State volunteers join with others all over the world to say that the solution to trash and plastics in our waters begins with us. From simply being responsible with our trash, to participating in and leading cleanups, to calling our legislators in support of policy action on marine debris, we can all make a difference.

This report highlights the results of Rhode Island's 2021 International Coastal Cleanup and provides tips on how you can help reduce the problem of marine debris. Join us!

***The 2022 International Coastal Cleanup will take place September-November 2022. Sign up at [SAVEBAY.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://www.savebay.org/volunteer).***

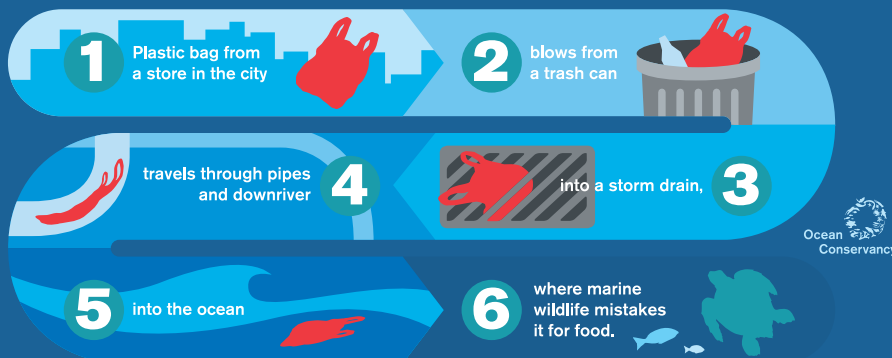
## DID YOU KNOW?

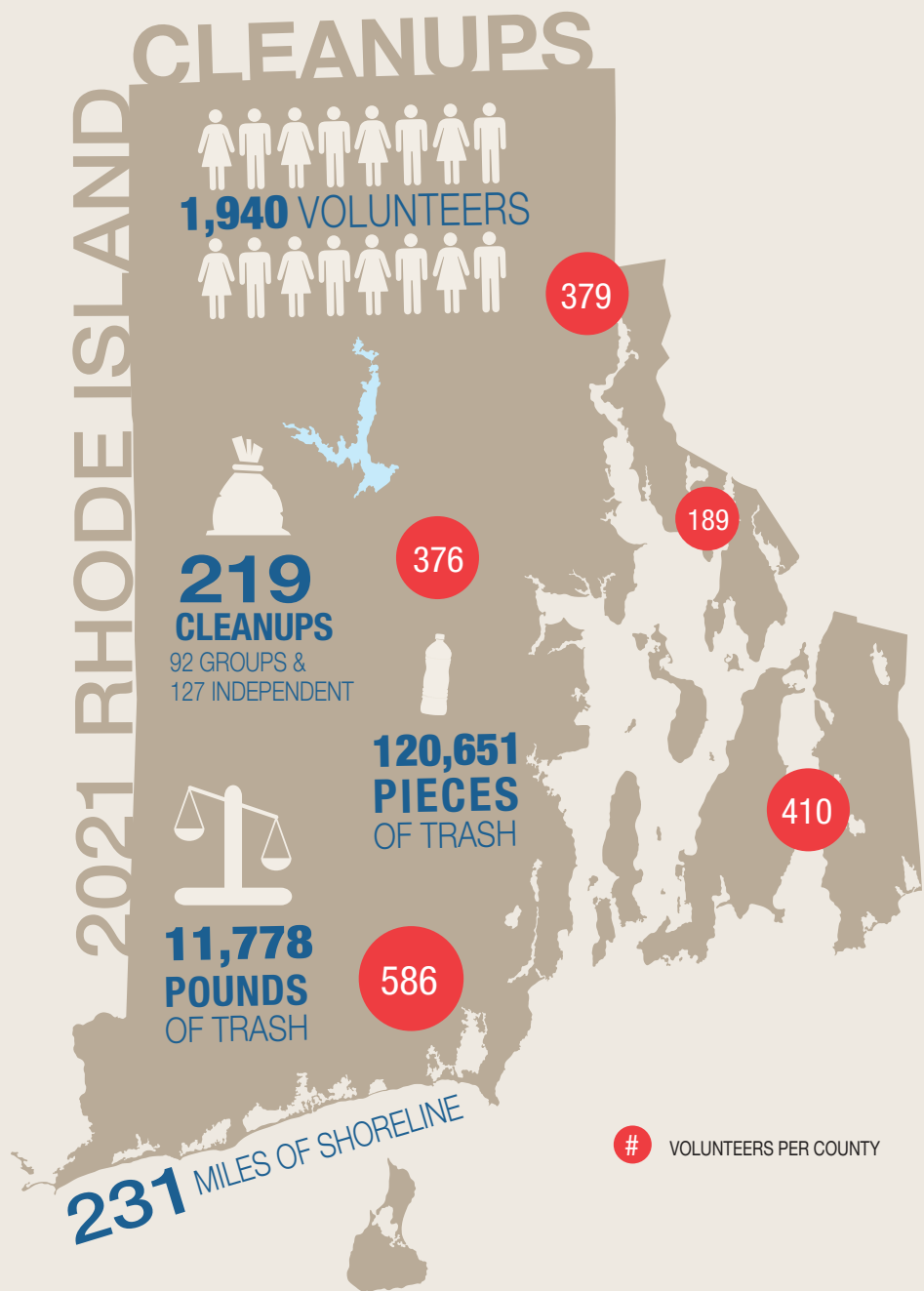
***Even miles from the water, litter finds a way to our Bay.***

You'd be surprised how trash makes its way to our oceans. Sure, plenty of it is left there carelessly by people on the shore. But beach trash also originates in our inland cities and towns, where litter left on the ground is carried to our waterways.



The Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup is the largest global volunteer effort on behalf of the ocean. Over 1 million volunteers worldwide work together to clean up beaches and shorelines in all corners of the world.

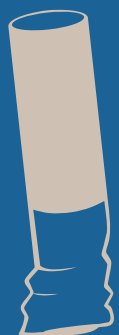




*"I love the International Coastal Cleanup because it seems to galvanize a whole group of people to not only pick up trash, but also to pay attention to the things that were picked up [...]. For example, now we pick up a lot of masks and gloves! I can't wait to participate again next year!"*  
~ Kathryn Langlois

All data represents early results. Numbers may increase when the final international report is published in the summer. For more International Coastal Cleanup data and reports from around the world, visit [COASTALCLEANUPDATA.ORG](https://coastalcleanupdata.org)

## HOW YOU CAN HELP REDUCE MARINE DEBRIS IN NARRAGANSETT BAY



### CONTAIN YOUR BUTTS.

Cigarette filters are NOT biodegradable. Use a container for your butts so they don't reach waterways and the ocean.

### CARRY IT OUT.

Not all public areas have trash cans. Bring an empty garbage bag and take your trash home to dispose of it there.

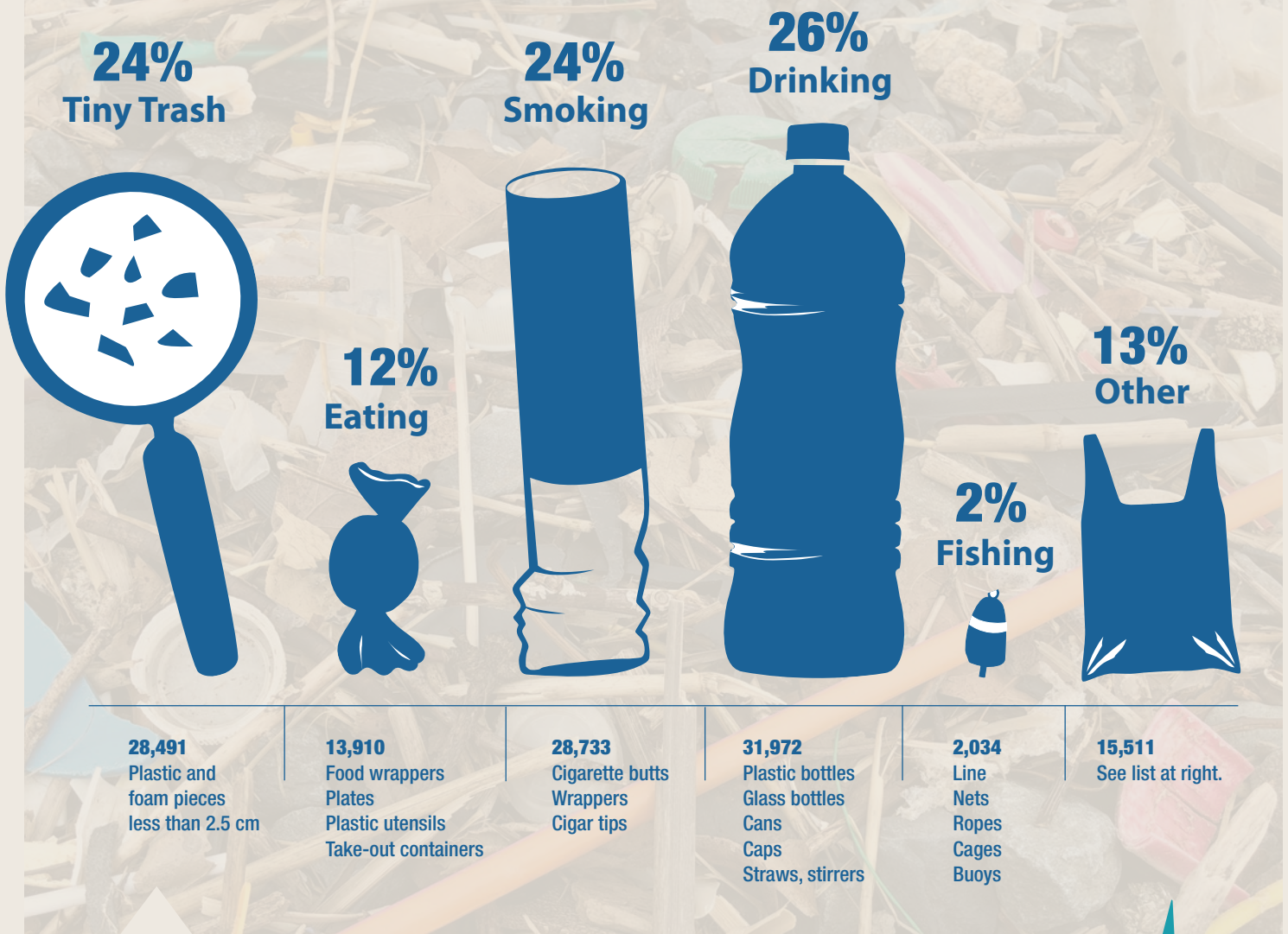
### TOSS IT IN.

Trash tossed out on streets and sidewalks, even far from the shore, ends up in storm drains and washes into the Bay. Use trash cans.





## TOP TRASH COLLECTED



### TINY TRASH IS A BIG PROBLEM!

Plastics never go away; they just break down into tinier and tinier pieces that end up being ingested by marine life, and, in turn, by us humans. These “microplastics” are found in plankton, arctic sea ice, and the gills and digestive tracts of the seafood we humans eat. How much plastic do YOU want to eat?



### PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG.

Pet waste contains harmful bacteria that contaminate our waters and seafood and make humans sick.



### SET AN EXAMPLE.

When you go to the beach, take a trash bag with you and pick up surrounding trash you see. People are less likely to litter on a clean beach.

### SHOUT IT OUT.

If you see friends and family members littering, let them know it is NOT OK to trash our Bay.

## UNUSUAL ITEMS

FIRE EXTINGUISHER

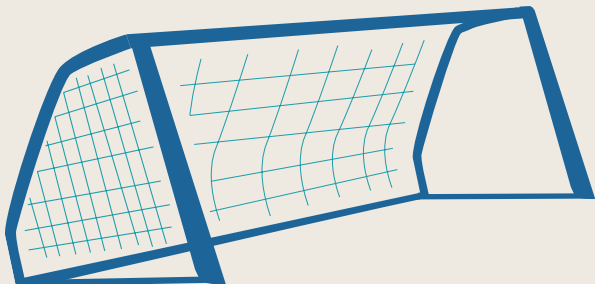
WIG

CASE OF TAKI CHIPS

SOCCER NET

FIRE PIT

DEHUMIDIFIER



## ALL TRASH ITEMS COLLECTED

Cigarette Butts	26,751	22.17%
Plastic Pieces	18,818	15.60%
Food Wrappers (candy, chips, etc.)	10,819	8.97%
Bottle Caps (plastic)	8,064	6.68%
Glass Pieces	6,138	5.09%
Beverage Bottles (plastic)	6,052	5.02%
Straws, Stirrers	4,387	3.64%
Foam Pieces	3,535	2.93%
Other Trash*	3,288	2.73%
Beverage Bottles (glass)	3,261	2.70%
Beverage Cans	3,041	2.52%
Bottle Caps (metal)	2,555	2.12%
Other Plastic Bags	2,027	1.68%
Grocery Bags (plastic)	1,840	1.53%
Cups, Plates (plastic)	1,553	1.29%
Lids (plastic)	1,486	1.23%
Take-out/away Containers (plastic)	1,410	1.17%
Other Plastic/Foam Packaging	1,239	1.03%
Tobacco packaging, cigarette lighters	1,187	0.99%
Construction Materials	1,107	0.92%
Forks, Knives, Spoons	959	0.79%
Fishing Gear*	873	0.72%
Rope (1 yard/meter = 1 piece)	830	0.69%
Other Packaging*	726	0.60%
Take-out/away Containers (foam)	722	0.60%
Gloves and Masks (PPE)	714	0.59%
Fishing Line (1 yard/meter = 1 piece)	710	0.59%
Cups, Plates (paper)	681	0.56%
Balloons	671	0.56%
Strapping Bands	656	0.54%
Cups, Plates (foam)	627	0.52%
Personal Hygiene*	608	0.50%
Cigar Tips	596	0.49%
Toys	546	0.45%
Paper Bags	513	0.43%
Tampons/Tampon Applicators	278	0.23%
Fishing Net and Pieces	229	0.19%
Fishing Buoys, Pots and Traps	222	0.18%
E-cigarettes	199	0.16%
Beverages/Sachets	174	0.14%
Other Plastic Bottles (oil, bleach, etc.)	163	0.14%
6-Pack Holders	91	0.08%
Diapers	82	0.07%
Fireworks	79	0.07%
Condoms	54	0.04%
Syringes	46	0.04%
Tires	36	0.03%
Appliances (refrigerators, washers, etc.)	8	0.01%
<b>Total Pieces of Trash</b>	<b>120,651</b>	

\*Recorded using the Clean Swell app

*"Our little Girl Scouts picked up so many cigarette butts again this year! [...] I'm so proud of these kids for giving up their Saturday morning to make a difference!"*

*~ Melonie*



# VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN

The success of Rhode Island's beach cleanup efforts depends on their generosity of time and love for our environment. Thank you to all our volunteers and to our volunteer Beach Captains who lead dozens of other participants at each cleanup location!

*"I think the International Coastal Cleanup is important because it gives you insight into how much trash there really is. At first glance it doesn't look that bad—even at my cleanup I didn't think there would be that much trash—but once you start actually looking, it's shocking to see how much there is."*  
~ Jack Correia



*"[The International Coastal Cleanup] is fun because it's like a scavenger hunt! I get to help clean the trash off the beach, which helps the animals. It makes me happy when I get to clean with my friends!"*  
~ Evie, age 13

## GET INVOLVED.

**BE A BEACH CAPTAIN:** Clean up on your own, or with a small group of friends and family, at your favorite shoreline spot anytime! Learn how to organize a cleanup in your community at our trainings at the Bay Center in Providence. Visit [SAVEBAY.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://savebay.org/volunteer) or email [volunteer@savebay.org](mailto:volunteer@savebay.org) for the dates and times of upcoming Beach Captain trainings.

**VOLUNTEER FOR A CLEANUP:** Save The Bay holds beach cleanups from April through November. Bring your family, a group of friends, or even just yourself.

➤ Sign up at [SAVEBAY.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://savebay.org/volunteer)

**USE THE CLEANSWELL APP:** Lead your own small cleanup on your favorite shoreline spot anytime! Download the CleanSwell app, take a bag with you to the beach, record the litter you pick up in the app, and take the trash home with you when you leave. The app tracks your efforts, and you can even share your results on social media with a selfie. Your data becomes part of the Ocean Conservancy's global ocean trash database! [OCEANCONSERVANCY.ORG/CLEANSWELL](https://oceanconservancy.org/cleanswell)





# SPONSORS MAKE IT POSSIBLE

Thanks to our generous sponsors who host cleanups, bring teams of employee volunteers, and provide gloves, trash bags, first aid kits, trash pickers, sunscreen and bug spray and more!



## EVENT SPONSORS:

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“At Rexel Energy Solutions, we strive to be a true partner to our clients, and we extend this value beyond our customer base and into our communities.

Rexel supports many charities and fundraising events that truly make a difference. One of the initiatives that is close to my heart is our involvement with Save The Bay, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and improving Narragansett Bay in my home state of Rhode Island and in Massachusetts, including their International Coastal Cleanup to remove trash and clean up our beaches and shorelines. It's very rewarding to work at an organization whose employees come together as a team to make an impact in their communities.”

~ Lindsay Thompson,  
Director of Marketing & Strategic  
Planning, Rexel Energy Solutions

“The Arbella Insurance Foundation is proud to support Save The Bay and its important work to protect Rhode Island's seashore and coastal resources. The International Coastal Cleanup is a wonderful community effort—bringing together thousands of people across the state to remove trash from the shores and help restore coastal habitats. Raising awareness throughout the community about the importance of clean water and natural resources is even more critical now as we face the serious impact of climate change.”

~ Beverly Tangvik, President,  
Arbella Insurance Foundation



**SPECIAL THANKS** to the following partner organizations that went above and beyond by supporting multiple cleanups throughout the season: Clean Ocean Access, Conimicut Village Association, Friends of Salter Grove, and The University of Rhode Island.

DESIGN: DonnaDeForbesCreates.com

**Thank you for your support of Narragansett Bay. Please pass this report on to a friend who may want to know more about how they can help us protect and restore our Bay. Find out more about Save The Bay at [SAVEBAY.ORG](http://SAVEBAY.ORG)**