



Cleanup Chronicle

23rd Annual Source to Sea Cleanup
September 27 & 28, 2019

Connecticut River Conservancy

Special edition
Volume 68 Issue 3

Thank you to everyone who got dirty for cleaner rivers!

This year's Source to Sea Cleanup was the biggest one yet. Cleanup groups are getting bigger and they're covering more ground.

Nearly half of this year's Cleanup participants were young people who care about our environment and the future of our rivers. School groups of all kinds joined us, with students from kindergarten to college. Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, environmental clubs, college rowing teams, and more joined the effort for cleaner rivers. One team even participated as part of Positive Tracks—a program that teaches youth to rally their communities for a good cause and provides free support on leadership, advocacy, event planning, and online fundraising.

More groups than ever before adopted trash sites that had been reported to us by community members. Not only is the event covering more ground, but it's tackling areas we

“It's difficult to imagine what the river would be like without this kind of effort.”

—Stacey Chiochio, Corporate Citizenship Manager, Hypertherm

Source to Sea Cleanup: Bigger & Better Than Ever

know are in need of trash cleanup help. The effort has become more targeted for maximum benefit. And groups are going beyond the easy, obvious litter locations to find—and clean up—old, hidden dump sites.

Over 23 years, the Source to Sea Cleanup has removed 1,167 tons of trash from our rivers. Just imagine what our rivers would look like if that trash was still out

there. Ugly and depressing! We must never forget that's what we're working to prevent. Someday the historic dumps will be gone. We'll have an economy that isn't based on throw-away packaging and products, and litter will become a thing of the past.

But wishes and trash cleanups alone won't make it happen. We all must demand change NOW for a better future to take shape—a future where our waste systems and our economy don't result in trashed rivers. Turn to page 8 for ways you can join us and our youth in working toward a future free of single-use plastic and dumped tires.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!
24th Annual
Source to Sea Cleanup
September 25 & 26, 2020



Hypertherm Handoff

Hypertherm and their HOPE Foundation have been sponsors of the Source to Sea Cleanup for many years and they regularly organize multiple employee volunteer cleanup groups. This year, after the retirement of long-time leader Bubba Von Baltzer, two new group leaders stepped up. Ben Rogers and Lindsay Grace organized the company's largest volunteer groups to date. The teams removed roughly 7,000 pounds of trash from our rivers. "Nothing is better," said Lindsay, "than being out on the water and cleaning up a spot that is close to home for many of us!" Ben added, "There is still lots of garbage to remove from the river, but with your help there is less and less every year."

Homeless Lend a Helping Hand

GZA, an engineering and science consulting firm, came on as a new Cleanup sponsor and organized three employee volunteer groups in NH, MA, and CT. The NH team visited an active homeless camp. They were met by an ambassador who showed them around and led them to trash the camp had collected beforehand. The team in CT partnered with other local cleanup groups to haul more than 60 tires out of the Jeremy River in Colchester, while the team in MA removed approximately 900 pounds of junk out of the Chicopee River in Chicopee.

Homelessness is something we often see along our rivers. As this NH group experienced, homeless individuals are typically happy to get involved in keeping our rivers clean. Please note that it is CRC's policy to avoid removing active living spaces along our rivers.



Participating Groups

New Hampshire

Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee
 Ashuelot River & Beaver Brook-1
 Ashuelot River & Beaver Brook-2
 Ashuelot River & Beaver Brook-3
 Ashuelot River & Beaver Brook-4
 Bethlehem Elementary School
 Cheshire County Conservation District
 City of Keene
 Claremont Conservation Commission
 Dirty Martinis
 Eversource*
 GZA New Hampshire*
 Harris Center for Conservation Education
 Hypertherm*
 Keene State College

Ledyard Kayak and Canoe Club
 LIS Hypertherm*
 Mascoma River Local Advisory Committee
 Moosewood Ecological
 Mystical Mountain Maple Syrup LLC
 Pittsburg Anglers Association
 The Lyme School

Vermont

Black River Action Team
 Black River Action Team 2 school groups
 Brattleboro Conservation Commission
 Brattleboro Rotary Club
 Dover School Kids
 Grafton Improvement Association
 Great River Hydro, LLC*
 Hartland Conservation Commission
 LTK Engineering Services*
 Marlboro College
 Milone & MacBroom Engineering*



Scout Troop 428
 Southeastern Vermont Watershed Alliance
 Town of Grafton
 US Army Corps of Engineers
 Vermont Law School
 Vermont Youth Conservation Corp

Vernon Cleanup Crew
 White River Partnership
 Windham Conservation District
 Woodstock Union High School

*Source to Sea Cleanup Sponsor

New Team Sets High Bar

Over 100 volunteers joined a new community cleanup group in Amherst, MA—the Fort River Watershed Association—to clean up 12 sites along the Fort River. This river is the longest Connecticut River tributary without any dams. It is a valuable resource for fish and other aquatic wildlife like the federally endangered dwarf wedgemussel.

Volunteers removed nearly 800 pounds of trash in and along the Fort River and filled a “fish” (pictured right) with plastic to highlight how trash impacts local wildlife. They celebrated their hard work with a RiverFest immediately after the cleanup with lunch, live music, activities, prizes, and more!



Leaf-ing Things Better than Before

As the Source to Sea Cleanup continues to grow, there are times when the event is able to do more than just remove what doesn't belong in our rivers and instead leave behind what does belong. Students and teachers from Conway Grammar School, along with volunteers from One Tree Planted and Friends of South River, planted 400 trees and shrubs at South River Meadows in Conway, MA. Then they picked up a truckload of trash, too! The trees will help protect the riverbank, provide habitat for wildlife, and keep the river cooler for fish.

The students said they were thankful for “the opportunity to take care of a place I care about,” for learning “a small way to give back to nature,” and for “helping me fight climate change.”

Massachusetts

Participating Groups

Agawam Daisy Troop 65068
Amazon in Holyoke
Amherst College Democrats
Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee
Bay State Village Association
BEST of Lake Wallace
Camp Keewanee
Chicopee Comprehensive High School
Chicopee 4 Rivers Watershed Council
Cleaner-uppers
Compass
Conway South River Meadow
Deer Paths Nature School
Deerfield River Clean Up
Deerfield River Watershed Trout Unlimited
Eaglebrook
Eversource*
Exquisite Clean Up Group

Franklin County Technical School
Fort River Watershed Association
Four Rivers Charter Public School
7th Grade
Four Winds School
GHS 8th Grade Academy
GHS Environmental Science Club
Girl Scout Troop 64792
Greater Gill-Montague Super Group
Green River Cleanup
Greenfield Middle School
Greening Greenfield
GZA Massachusetts*
Hampden Charter School of Science
Happier Valley Comedy
Holyoke High School
JCA
Jones Group Realty
Just Roots
Landscaping Shop

League of Women Voters-Franklin County
MacDuffie School
Mill Pond Cleanup
Mill River
Mitch's Marina
MGM Springfield
Mt Holyoke Lacrosse Team
NexAmp Solar
Nonotuck School
Northampton Community Rowing Club
Northfield Mount Hermon School
Palmer Conservation Commission
PeoplesBank*
Pioneer Valley Regional School
PV Squared Solar*
River Rat Clean Up Crew
River Roaders
Rotary Club of Amherst College
Scout Troop 164
Shelburne Masons
Sherwood Lumber

Smith College
Springfield Water and Sewer Commission*
SRS Enviro Classes
Stoneleigh Burnham School
SUEZ*
SWCA Incorporated*
TEC Virtual Academy
TECCA
Tighe & Bond -Easthampton Cleanup Crew
Town of South Hadley
UMass Amherst Outing Club
UMass 5 College Credit Union
Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst
USA Waste & Recycling*
Water is Life
Westfield River Watershed Association
Woodard & Curran
Yankee Rowing
*Source to Sea Cleanup Sponsor



LOWER WATERS

Connecticut



Photo: K. Loomis

River Cleanup is a Family Tradition

Kelly Loomis spent the summer collecting water samples as a water quality volunteer for CRC and this fall became a brand new Source to Sea Cleanup group leader. She remembers that the “Don’t be a litterbug” campaign from her youth made a lasting impression on her. She started picking up litter as a teen and has passed on her love for our environment and river to her son, who now also does his fair share of litter clean up.

“My son and I hosted this Source to Sea Cleanup group together!” noted Kelly. “Being a chair member for The Friends of Machimoodus and Sunrise, we decided to incorporate parts of the Salmon River (that runs along the state park) into our clean up. I will continue to offer my services to our river for as long as I can. I’ve recently become a grandmother and I’m hoping to pass on my love for the environment and a cleaner Connecticut River to my granddaughter as well.”

Final Stop for Trash

The Connecticut River Museum took to the water and ferried volunteers by boat to Hayden’s Point, Nott Island, and Lord Cove near Essex, CT. This area near the mouth of the Connecticut River is a final stopping place for all sorts of trash before it gets whisked out to sea. Volunteers collected multiple pieces of plastic foam dock floats and enough sports balls to start their own team—tennis and soccer balls, a football, and a bowling ball. They also found three half-buried home oil tanks that had to stay behind. We’ll work on getting those tanks out in the future.



Photo: Monique Heller

Connecticut Participating Groups

Alfred Benesch & Company
 All American Waste*
 Alpha Epsilon Phi
 Avangrid
 Boy Scout Troop 880
 CDM Smith East Hartford*
 Clean, Clear & Free Flowing
 Connecticut River Museum
 Connecticut River Watershed Paddlers
 Cromwell Cleanup Crew
 Cromwell Middle School
 CT DEEP Adopt A Park
 CT River Academy
 East Hampton High School Environment Club
 Ecomentors
 Enfield Conservation Commission
 Eversource*

Farmington River Watershed Association
 Friends of Machimoodus & Sunrise
 Fuss & O’Neill
 Geo SubSea
 Goodwin College Environment
 GZA Connecticut*
 Harbor Improvement Agency
 Hartford Advisory Commission on the Environment
 Day One Hartford
 Day Two Hartford
 Hartford Hawks
 Kleinfelder*
 MDC*
 Meriden Motor Boat Club
 Middletown Commission on Conservation & Agriculture
 Milone & MacBroom Engineering*
 NRG Energy*
 Pratt & Whitney Middletown*
 Scantic River Watershed Association



Photo: Monique Heller

Stantec Hartford Office
 Team PNT
 The Valley Stands Up
 USA Waste & Recycling*

Veterans Park Clean-up Crew
 Wesleyan Rowing Team
 Wintonbury Land Trust
 *Source to Sea Cleanup Sponsor

Source to Sea Cleanup 2019



Trash Tally 2019

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. Actual numbers/weights are likely higher than listed here.

Item	Quantity Reported
Construction materials	3,950 paint cans & bottles; 2 cans of spray paint; 1 can of lighter fluid; 2 paint brushes and 1 paint roller; construction cones; bathtub; 2 kitchen sinks; 1 radiator; road signs; 1 wheelbarrow; 27 types of roofing materials including asphalt; 4 locations reported shingles; plywood; siding; fiberglass; 2 bags of concrete mix; a storm window; tiles; metal roofing; gutters
Styrofoam	50 pieces of dock float parts (varying sizes); 1,363 styrofoam cups; 1.46 cubic yards of styrofoam particles (equal to 13 kitchen-sized garbage bags of styrofoam particles)
Electronics & appliances	68 items including a typewriter, 3 circuit boards, 4 TVs, 1 hard drive, 2 computers, 6 cell phones and 1 charger, 3 stereo/radios, headphones, 2 refrigerators, 2 air conditioners, 1 toaster oven, 1 hot tub, 2 vending machine parts, 2 washing machines and parts, 1 microwave
Automotive	93 items including 29 motor oil and fluid containers, 3 bumpers, 2 fenders, brake parts, 3 car batteries, 2 engines, windshield and window frames, 2 tailpipes, 1 car door, 1 carseat
Pharmaceuticals	351 syringes and pill bottles
Scrap metal	18,412 pounds
Mattresses	51
Furniture	107 items including 1 laundry basket, 6 chairs, 2 couches, 2 recliners, 1 bedframe, 2 shelving units, 1 computer stand, gym equipment
Toys	168 including 34 balls, 1 bicycle, water gun, toy truck, wading pool, dog toy, 4 balloons, hula hoop, plastic sand box, 1 pair ice skates

You proved them wrong! Tire manufacturers deny that illegal tire dumping is still happening. They claim that dumped tires are old and it's a historic problem. Thanks to data you collected on tires you found this year, you proved them wrong! Of the 226 tires you were able to find manufacture dates for, 65% were made in the past 19 years. CRC will use this is critical information to help put an end to illegal dumping. **Thank you!**

LEAD SPONSORS

EVERSOURCE Eversource transmits and delivers electricity and natural gas and supplies water to approximately 4 million customers in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Recognized as the top U.S. utility for its energy efficiency programs by the sustainability advocacy organization Ceres, Eversource harnesses the commitment of its more than 8,000 employees across three states to build a single, united company around the mission of safely delivering reliable energy and water with superior customer service. For more information, please visit our website www.eversource.com.

WATERSHED SPONSORS

nrg At **NRG**, we generate electricity and provide energy solutions and natural gas to more than 3.7 million residential and commercial customers through our diverse portfolio of retail brands. NRG delivers innovative solutions while advocating for competitive energy markets and customer choice, and by working towards a sustainable energy future.

Brookfield **Brookfield** Renewable creates value to society by developing innovative natural power solutions that accelerate the world toward a carbon-free future. They do so by combining 100 years of operating experience as a developer, owner, and operator of renewable power facilities with industry-leading environmental stewardship and a strong commitment to health, safety, security, and the environment.



USA Waste & Recycling and All American Waste are locally owned and operated companies specializing in dumpster rentals for use in commercial or residential projects, garbage collection and demolition services in Connecticut and western Massachusetts. As green companies, they recognize and embrace their role as leaders in the community by supporting local cleanups and using clean, natural gas powered refuse trucks.



**Sign
up
now**

to be a 2020 Source to Sea Cleanup sponsor. Contact Corey Kurtz at ckurtz@ctriver.org or 413-772-2020 ext.202.



MAIN STEM SPONSORS



RIVER SPONSORS



STREAM SPONSORS

Aquarion Water Company of CT	Jamrog Kleinfelder
Ashuelot Hydro	LTK Engineering Services
Beyond Green Construction	Milone & MacBroom, Inc.
Essential Power Massachusetts, LLC	New Chapter, Inc.
Community Eco Power	The Orvis Company, Inc.
Enterprise Holdings	Suez
Excel Dryer	SWCA
Greenfield Savings Bank	Wells Fargo Advisors

IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

American Rivers	Hinsdale, NH Police Department
Brown and Roberts (Ace Hardware)	Hinsdale, NH Road Department & Transfer Station
Cisco Geotechnical Drilling	Holyoke, MA DPW
City of Greenfield, MA DPW	Home Depot
City of Lebanon, NH DPW	Kingdom Trails
City of Northampton, MA DPW	Lakin Tire
Deerfield, MA DPW	Manchester, CT DPW
East Burke, VT Garage	Martin's Fireside True Value
Franklin County Sherriff's Office	Monte Belmonte, WRSI
Franklin County Solid Waste Management District	New England Youth Theatre
Glastonbury, CT Refuse Disposal, Water Pollution Control Division	Northeast Paving
Great River Hydro LLC	Ocean Conservancy
Great River Outfitters	One Tree Planted
Greenfield, MA Fire Department	People's Pint
	Ropes Park Equipment at Outdoor Ventures
	Slipaway River Tours
	Sportsman's Marina

Springfield, MA Parks
 Department
 Steve Bonnette
 Sustainable Woodstock
 Town of Burke, VT
 Town of Hartland, VT
 Town of Whately, MA
 Town of Windsor, VT
 Town of Woodstock, VT

Triple T Trucking
 USA Waste & Recycling
 USFWS-Conte Refuge
 USFWS-CT River Coordinator
 USGS S.O. Conte Anadromous
 Fish Research Center
 Windham Solid Waste
 Management District
 Zoar Outdoor

Unusual Items Found

Typewriter—Rockingham, VT
 Old tombstone—Conway, MA
 Antique brass key—Agawam, MA
 Battery-powered mini-bike—Lebanon, NH
 Hand-painted Italian glass egg – Hartford, CT

Tell us about your most unusual item!



CONGRATULATIONS

to the winners of the 2019 Source to Sea Cleanup Photo Contest! The Judges' Choice Best-of-the-Cleanup winner (above) was taken in White River Junction, VT and submitted by Bill Lipfert of LTK Engineering. The NEW Judges' Choice Advocacy winner (below) was taken at Slim Shad Point in Holyoke, MA and submitted by Melissa Vanek. Thank you to our judges from Matthew Cavanaugh Photography and Kate Hunter Photography, both of Greenfield, MA.

Visit our website to see the People's Choice winner, determined by popular vote, along with the full gallery of wonderful images entered.



Photo: Black River Action Team

Support your rivers all year long!

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, return the enclosed envelope, or contact Corey Kurtz, Development Director, at ckurtz@ctriver.org or 413-772-2020 ext. 202.



www.ctriver.org/photo-contest



Be part of the solution for cleaner rivers. Visit www.ctriver.org/cleanup.

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.

CRC is a membership organization and relies on your support to protect our rivers. Visit www.ctriver.org to become a member and sign up for our email news.

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 NH/VT (lower) 802-258-0413
 Connecticut 860-704-0057





Us + Them = Cleaner Rivers

We're sick of trashed rivers! It's time we all work together—from individual consumers all the way up to manufacturers—to change our trashy ways.

You can help us put a stop to trash and litter before it ever reaches our rivers. Do your part by making choices in your daily life that will help keep our rivers clean—don't litter, choose reusable items, and refuse single-use disposable items. Multiply your impact by inviting friends, family, and co-workers to join you in reducing waste.

Decision-makers need to step up and do their part, too. Our current waste and recycling systems aren't working. We need to redesign our economy so there isn't waste in the first place. By working together to make widespread changes at the individual level AND working to improve the larger trash economy, we will finally move toward a cleaner future for our rivers.

Join us in contacting your legislators to tell them how bad the litter problem is in your town. Urge them to pass laws that will get rid of unnecessary single-use items like plastic bags, bottles, and packaging. Tell them to improve recycling and disposal of hard-to-get-rid-of items like tires. Join us at upcoming Trash Talk events to learn more about what legislation CRC is working on in each state.

Tell businesses and manufacturers to stop making junk that ends up in our rivers. It's

time they take responsibility for their role in deciding what gets made and ultimately gets disposed of. Tell them that, as their customers, we expect better—more reusable and fewer single-use items, more sustainable and climate-friendly options like plant-based plastics that are easily recycled and composted.

Join us in challenging Dunkin' and Cumberland Farms to do better. Trash from these companies is commonly found during the Source to Sea Cleanup, which means they have an opportunity to make changes that will result in huge improvements for our rivers. Find images on our website to share on social media and tag companies to challenge them to make "green" changes for our rivers.



Thank you for being part of the solution for cleaner rivers. Get involved, sign up for Action Alert emails, get Trash Talk event details, and more at www.ctriver.org/TakeAction.

LARGER THAN LITTER

Each year, the Source to Sea Cleanup tackles a couple of "big sites" that are more complex than the average volunteer group can manage. A cement mixer, junk cars, collapsed houses, and a washed out bridge are just a few examples.

The U.S. Department of the Interior flotilla helped out again this year! The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Silvio O. Conte Refuge offered the support of their boats to help haul out large chunks of concrete and metal from the Ottauquechee River in VT and 54 submerged tires from the Ashuelot River in NH. And the Connecticut River in Holyoke and Chicopee, MA got cleaned up by staff from the Silvio O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center and the Connecticut River Coordinator's office, who hauled out almost two tons of tires, metal, and car parts. THANKS!

