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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania sponsors Great American Cleanup of PA and Participates in Local Events across PA

Columbia Gas participate in events in Allegheny, Fayette, Lawrence, McKean and York counties

(April 23, 2018) – [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](http://www.KeepPennsylvaniaBeautiful.org) announced today that [Columbia Gas](http://www.ColumbiaGas.com) has pledged support for the [2018 Great American Cleanup of PA](http://www.GreatAmericanCleanup.org), a statewide community improvement initiative that runs from March 1 through May 31. Events registered with the initiative receive free cleanup supplies of gloves, bags and vests, as supplies last and access to free or reduced disposal during Pick It Up PA Days, from April 7-30.

As part of their support, Columbia Gas employees participated in five service days with local Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful affiliates. Columbia Gas employees joined local volunteers for the following community improvement projects.

- On April 19, 7 Columbia Gas employees joined local volunteers to clean up approximately 10,000 pounds of trash and over 200 tires in a roadside cleanup and beautification of 'Natalie's Garden' located in the Beltzhoover neighborhood, Allegheny County. The event was coordinated by **Allegheny CleanWays**.
- Nine Columbia Gas employees, members of **PA CleanWays of Fayette County** and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources staff tackled a site at Wharton Furnace 2 in Forbes State Forest, Fayette County on April 18. The site, located along a stream, required a winch to haul 50 tires, 800 pounds of trash, 12 appliances and other miscellaneous items over the embankment.
- On April 18, Columbia Gas employees joined local residents and members of **Tri-County CleanWays** to remove approximately 2,000 pounds of trash and 22 tires from along the Stavich Bike Trail, part of the Lawrence County greenways plan. The cleanup crew also did a litter sweep of the surrounding area.
- Columbia Gas employees joined members of **PA CleanWays of McKean County**, Foster Township and McKean County Adult Probation to clean up 1,500 pounds of trash and 70 tires from along Pratt Hollow in Foster Township, McKean County on April 20.
- A Community Garden on East King Street in York was the location of the service project on April 19. Columbia Gas employees and **Keep York County Beautiful** volunteers constructed twelve new raised garden beds, filling them with soil. The beds will be used for planting flowers and other vegetation to assist in the beautification of the local community.



Photos: Columbia Gas employees assist with cleanups in Fayette (l) and Allegheny Counties (r).

“Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania is committed to environmental stewardship,” said Sarah Perry, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania Community Engagement Manager. “We are humbled to support community organizations like Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful that help to protect and conserve the environment.”

“We are grateful for the support of Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania. Our volunteers and sponsors are who help make the Great American Cleanup of PA, Pennsylvania’s premier community improvement initiative, possible. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and Columbia Gas both believe in responsible use and protection of the natural environment. We are honored to partner with them on these community improvement projects,” said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful.

To become a sponsor of the annual Great American Cleanup of PA initiative, contact Shannon Reiter at sreiter@keeppabeautiful.org or 724.836.4121. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is the state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, the nation’s largest volunteer-based community action and education organization. Your contribution will directly support the Great American Cleanup of PA efforts.

Since the inception of the Great American Cleanup of PA in 2004, over 2.1 million volunteers have picked up 97 million pounds of litter and waste, 170,619 miles of roads, waterways, shorelines, and trails have been cleaned, and more than 181,000 trees, bulbs, and flowers have been planted. Volunteers also removed over 279,681 tires and 226,395 pounds of scrap metal.

The statewide event continues through May 31. To register, please visit www.gacofpa.org or contact Michelle Dunn, Great American Cleanup of PA Program Coordinator, at 1-877-772-3673 ext. 113 or mdunn@keeppabeautiful.org.

About Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful’s mission is empowering Pennsylvanians to make our communities clean and beautiful. Since 1990, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and its volunteers have removed over 126 million pounds of litter from Pennsylvania’s roadways, greenways, parks, forests, and waterways. To learn more about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, visit www.keeppabeautiful.org.

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