

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

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## Join Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's PICK UP PENNSYLVANIA

*Recent study identified over 500 Million Pieces of Litter on Pennsylvania Roadways*



The results of a recent statewide study on litter, conducted by the Departments of Environmental Protection and Transportation and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, found that there are currently an estimated 502 million pieces of litter on Pennsylvania roadways, most of it cigarette butts and plastic items. Among other things, this litter pollutes our environment and affects our quality of life.

Because trash attracts trash, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful offers multiple community improvement programs throughout the year providing residents with the opportunity to improve our communities. One such opportunity this spring is Pick Up Pennsylvania, an initiative supporting the Great American Cleanup. This annual event begins on March 1 and ends on May 31. During this period, registered events can get free trash bags, gloves, and safety vests donated by the Departments of Environmental Protection and Transportation and Keep America Beautiful, as supplies last. Events can include litter cleanups, illegal dump cleanups, community greening and beautification, special collections and education events and must be registered at [gacofpa.org](http://gacofpa.org) to receive free cleanup supplies.

As part of this event, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association are sponsoring free or reduced cost trash disposal for registered program participants at participating landfills from April 1 through April 30, with prior approval.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is also encouraging state leaders to 'lead the way' with their newest initiative, Leaders for a Beautiful Pennsylvania. The initiative asks legislators and public officials to support community volunteers and improvement events in their service areas. To learn more visit [keeppabeautiful.org](http://keeppabeautiful.org) and Choose Keep It.

"We can't hide from the results of the Pennsylvania Litter Research Study. There is an urgent need for systems to properly manage our municipal waste, but we also need to change behaviors to stop litter from happening in the first place. We are so grateful to our volunteers, local officials and sponsors who are willing to give up a day, get dirty and pick up other peoples trash," said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. "Your help is needed more than ever. We all need to take responsibility for clean and beautiful neighborhoods. Pick Up Pennsylvania provides tools and resources at no cost to our residents. If everyone picked up one bag of litter this spring, the results would be pretty powerful."

To host an event or join a cleanup event near you visit [gacofpa.org](http://gacofpa.org). Questions can be answered by Michelle Dunn, Pick Up Pennsylvania Program Coordinator, at 877-772-3673 ext. 113 or [mdunn@keeppabeautiful.org](mailto:mdunn@keeppabeautiful.org).

The group is also offering cash prizes for the top three community improvement videos. To participate in the video contest, send Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful a 60-second video showing how you keep Pennsylvania beautiful. For details go to [gacofpa.org](http://gacofpa.org) and choose Video Contest.

Current 2020 Pick Up Pennsylvania supporters include: Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania funded by the NiSource Charitable Foundation, Coca-Cola, Giant-Martins Food Stores, Mahantango, Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association, Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association, Sheetz, Wawa, Wegmans, Giant Eagle, Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority, Republic Services and Vistra-Luminent.

If you are interested in becoming a supporter of the 2020 Pick Up Pennsylvania initiative contact Barb Christner at 724-836-4121 or [bchristner@keeppabeautiful.org](mailto:bchristner@keeppabeautiful.org).

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### **About Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful**

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's mission is empowering Pennsylvanians to keep our communities clean and beautiful. Since 1990, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and its volunteers have removed over 141 million pounds of litter from Pennsylvania's roadways, greenways, parks, forests, and waterways. To learn more about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, visit [www.keeppabeautiful.org](http://www.keeppabeautiful.org).