

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Heidi Pedicone, Program Director

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

Tel: (724) 836-4121

Email: hpedicone@keeppabeautiful.org

Web site: www.keeppabeautiful.org



Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful State Agency Partners Recognized Nationally

PA Department of Environmental Protection and PA Department of Transportation Receive Keep America Beautiful Partnership Award

(March 11, 2021) The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) were two of 14 Keep America Beautiful State Agency Partner Award recipients recognized by Keep America Beautiful. The award recognizes state agency partners for their support of Keep America Beautiful state affiliates through partnership projects. This award recognizes the value Keep America Beautiful places on public-private partnerships.

"It is my privilege to recognize the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and its partner Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful for their mission-based work and impactful efforts in supporting local communities, despite challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic," said Keep America Beautiful President and CEO Helen Lowman, PhD.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation were recognized for supporting Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's 2020 community improvement programs and their *Pennsylvania Litter Research Study* and *The Cost of Litter and Illegal Dumping in Pennsylvania: A Study of Nine Cities Across the Commonwealth*.

The Department of Environmental Protection has been an invaluable partner to Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful since its inception, providing resources and expertise that enable thousands of volunteers to participate in thousands of community improvement projects from cleanups to plantings in all 67 counties in the state of Pennsylvania each year. In addition, the Department of Environmental Protection provided program funding for the purchase of cleanup supplies and encouraged individual waste facilities to provide free or reduced cost disposal for participants registered with Pick Up Pennsylvania, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's premier community improvement initiative.

PennDOT supported Pick Up Pennsylvania by utilizing its network of 7,500 Adopt-A-Highway groups to promote and encourage participation and distributed bags, gloves, and safety vests to all registered participants through its 67 county maintenance facilities throughout the state, where the supplies are more easily accessed by local volunteers.

Both agencies were integral partners for [The Pennsylvania Litter Research Study](#), which documents the quantity, composition, and sources of litter as well as attitudes toward litter and

littering in Pennsylvania and [*The Cost of Litter and Illegal Dumping in Pennsylvania: A Study of Nine Cities Across the Commonwealth*](#), which provides a full cost accounting of litter and illegal dumping expenditures as they relate to education and outreach, prevention, abatement, and enforcement. The studies will allow for the development of tailored strategies and initiatives to combat litter within the commonwealth, in addition to providing a basis for future measurement of progress towards reducing litter.

“We are grateful for the support of our state agencies. Both DEP and PennDOT are integral to our success and the success of our programs,” said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful.

For more information about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, visit keeppabeautiful.org.

###

About Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's vision is a clean and beautiful Pennsylvania. Since 1990, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful has worked with hundreds of thousands of volunteers across the state to pick up nearly 148 million pounds of trash from Pennsylvania's roadways, waterways, greenways, vacant lots, forestlands and other community spaces. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's core programming focuses on litter and illegal dump prevention, cleanup, community greening, and proper waste handling and sustainable practices. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful works with many partnering organizations on the state and grassroots level to accomplish our goal of a clean and beautiful Pennsylvania. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is the state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Inc., the nation's largest volunteer-based community action and education organization. To learn more about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, visit www.keeppabeautiful.org.

About Keep America Beautiful

Keep America Beautiful, the nation's leading community improvement nonprofit organization, inspires and educates people to take action every day to improve and beautify their community environment. Established in 1953, Keep America Beautiful strives to End Littering, Improve Recycling and Beautify America's Communities. We believe everyone has a right to live in a clean, green and beautiful community, and shares a responsibility to contribute to that vision. The organization is driven by the work and passion of nearly 700 Keep America Beautiful affiliates, millions of volunteers, and the collaborative support of corporate partners, social and civic service organizations, academia, municipalities, elected officials, and individuals. Join us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube. Donate and take action at kab.org.