

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Clean Up Your Neighborhood with the Pick Up Pennsylvania Community Improvement Initiative

*~ March 1 through May 31 ~*

(March 18, 2021) Pick Up Pennsylvania is in full swing. The community improvement initiative opened to the public on March 1 and will continue through May 31. This annual initiative offers registered participants free trash bags, gloves, and safety vests provided by support from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, PennDOT and Keep America Beautiful, as supplies last. Events can include litter cleanups, illegal dump cleanups, community greening and beautification, special collections and public education events. Events 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 trash disposal, free of charge or at a reduced rate, for registered program participants at participating landfills from April 1 through April 30, with prior approval.

Each year, volunteers remove an average of 7 million pounds of trash and tires from our roads, waterways, parks, trails and other shared public spaces, through this initiative.

Nancy Krablin, from Downingtown, is participating in Pick Up Pennsylvania for the first time this year. "I have been watching the trash accumulate along this stretch of Route 100 for several years and felt like the best way to get something done is to just do it. I contacted Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and they responded immediately. The staff was fabulous! They made it easy for me to attack this cleanup," said Krablin.

Krablin, who gets help from her husband and a friend, has picked up 40 bags of trash so far this spring with plans to continue. "I have about 10 hours invested and another three or four might complete the task. There's a little bit of everything out there, plastic bags, drink cups, plastic bottles, Styrofoam, tarps, you name it. I have always been a recycler, composter, Girl Scout and lover of nature, so it's natural for me to want to clean up my community."

"Cleanup activity is ramping up across the state. We are honored to support the efforts of groups and individuals, like Nancy, who are working hard to improve their communities. After the year we just had, many folks are eager to get outside and make a difference. Picking up litter, planting a tree or painting a park bench are simple, easy activities that most people can do and the results are immediate," said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful.

“We are thankful for our sponsors and all the volunteers who participate each year and make it all possible.”

2021 participants are encouraged to observe the most recent social distancing guidelines and are encouraged to clean up in small groups, with family members or solo. To host an event, join an event near you or to inquire about free supplies and trash disposal, visit [gacofpa.org](http://gacofpa.org) or contact Michelle Dunn, Pick Up Pennsylvania Program Coordinator, at 877-772-3673 ext. 113 or [mdunn@keeppabeautiful.org](mailto:mdunn@keeppabeautiful.org).

Anyone participating in Pick Up Pennsylvania can earn cash prizes for their nonprofit or charity of choice by entering the Pick Up Pennsylvania Video Contest. Send Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful a 60-second video of your event showing how you keep Pennsylvania beautiful. Your event must be registered with Pick Up Pennsylvania to participate. For details go to [gacofpa.org](http://gacofpa.org) and choose Video Contest.

Current 2021 Pick Up Pennsylvania supporters include: Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania funded by the NiSource Charitable Foundation, The Giant Company, Coca-Cola, Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association, Wawa, Giant Eagle, Luminent - Fayette Energy Facility, Mahantango Enterprises, Inc., Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association, Republic Services and Wegmans.

If you are interested in becoming a supporter of the 2021 Pick Up Pennsylvania initiative contact Shannon Reiter at 724-836-4121 or [sreiter@keeppabeautiful.org](mailto:sreiter@keeppabeautiful.org).

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### **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](http://www.keeppabeautiful.org).