

FISCAL YEAR October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025

ANNUAL REPORT



2025

Allegheny CleanWays

100 Hafner Ave Suite 1111
Etna, PA 15223

A CLEAN, BEAUTIFUL, AND SAFE COUNTY FOR EVERYONE

Our Mission

Allegheny CleanWays is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed in 2000 to "engage and empower people to eliminate illegal dumping and littering in Allegheny County."

Core Values

- Collaboration
- Safety
- Holistic Approach
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



PROGRAMS



- DumpBusters engages staff and volunteers in cleaning up illegal dumping
- StepKeepers enables residents to adopt and keep outdoor stairways free of litter and other debris
- Litter Competitions facilitate group litter cleanup through a fun, game-based format
- Litter Kits encourage individual/independent stewardship of community spaces



- Tireless Project engages volunteers in cleaning up river shoreline debris using our 28-foot pontoon boat (Rachel Carson), our 36-ft pontoon barge (Plastic Magnet 1), and jon boat (K'n B)
- GrateKeepers enables residents to adopt and keep storm drains free of litter and other debris
- Streams and Creek Cleanups facilitate the cleanup of smaller bodies of water using kayaks, canoes or wading



- Education helps children and adults gain a better understanding of what a watershed is and how every day choices impact the health of the watersheds we live in
- Service Learning engages students in learning educational standards through cleaning up litter, discussion, and reflection
- Outreach raises awareness about the problems associated with litter/illegal dumping, the work we do to address it, and ways to reduce or prevent it
- Research provides information to the public, other organizations, local governments, and other decision makers that encourages policy and/or procedure changes to reduce or eliminate litter/illegal dumping

ACW STAFF

Caily Grube

Executive Director

Michelle Lawler

Development Director

Lyssa Eberhardt

Program Director

Erica Pasquali

Land Coordinator/Boat Captain

Ben Halliburton

Water Coordinator/Boat Captain

Matt Nemeth

Communications Coordinator

Ben Kusserow

Education Coordinator

John Bagley

Cleanup Crew Member

Kylie McCutcheon

Cleanup Crew Member

Britt Menhart

Cleanup Crew Member



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President

Jack Rearick

Vice President

Patrick Cornell

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Jeff Pepper

Secretary

Greg Austin

Marcia Brissett

Chelsea Cramer

Lloyd Hedlund

David Himes

Stacy Marinos

Craig McCloud

Steve Wood

Laura Zurowski

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Dear Supporters,

This year, we celebrated a major milestone: 25 years of Allegheny CleanWays. In that time, we've moved over eight million pounds of trash with the support of thousands of volunteers. These numbers are humbling.

We also grew in meaningful ways: new boroughs, a dedicated Pittsburgh-based crew, two licensed boat captains, and taking on the huge Immaculate Collection effort ahead of the 2026 NFL Draft. We are hitting our stride! Our program metrics show it.

The real impact goes beyond the trash weights and tire numbers. It exists in the moment when a volunteer looks at a hillside full of dumped tires and says, "Why is this okay?" That question sparks a conversation, a new community litter group, a watershed association, or an advocacy push. That impact is a ripple that spreads far beyond a single cleanup.

We know that the waste crisis can't be solved by cleanups alone. But over 25 years, we've learned that giving people a chance to do something tangible, side by side, changes how they see the world and their agency within it. That's where systemic change begins.

Thank you for being part of this movement, whether you joined us last week or 20 years ago!

In community,

Caily Grube, MSW
Executive Director
Allegheny CleanWays

Strategic Plan

2025 was our first year living inside our 2025-2028 Strategic Plan. We made meaningful progress across all four strategic pillars, strengthening both our internal foundation and our impact in communities.

Community-Centered Approach

We expanded our community presence, engaging more residents, formalizing partnerships, and strengthening ties with everyone from grassroots advocates to municipalities and elected officials.



Organizational Maturity

We strengthened core internal systems this year from launching a new performance evaluation framework to updating our illegal dumpsite map, volunteer registration process, and donor management systems. Foundational HR and operations improvements are supporting a more resilient organization.



Financial Sustainability

We improved our understanding of ACW's true program costs, diversified revenue through new fee-based services, and expanded individual giving. We're continuing to explore additional fee-based service opportunities.

Issue Advocacy

We increased ACW's visibility through speaking engagements, media, and educational content, while advancing upstream solutions like trash trapping and expanded waste diversion. We formalized education programming and launched the Eco Scouts program.



STATISTICS

2,981

Volunteer Hours

554,252

Pounds of Trash Collected

1,091

People Reached Through
Education and Outreach

4,458

Tires Collected



2025 HIGHLIGHTS



25th Anniversary Events

We commemorated our 25th year of operation in September with Trash Talk, a special benefit event, and our 25th Birthday Cleanup, in which we removed 648 tires from an illegal dump in Pittsburgh's East Hills.



Immaculate Collection

Allegheny CleanWays is leading the region-wide campaign, Immaculate Collection, to deep clean and beautify the Pittsburgh region before the 2026 NFL Draft. A key focus has been increasing litter maintenance on state highways.



UpKeep with Riverlife

Riverlife welcomed us aboard their UpKeep riverfront care initiative to clean up the rivers around the Golden Triangle of Pittsburgh. With their support, we removed over 3 tons of marine debris!



Eco Scouts Education Program

We launched the Summer education program, Eco Scouts, with Pennsylvania Resources Council. The series invited participants of all ages to learn repair and reuse, recycling, composting, and conservation skills from local experts.



Acknowledgements

Community Partners

1-800-GOT-JUNK
Allegheny County Health Department
Allegheny Land Trust
Allentown Neighborhood
Black Radish Kitchen
Borough of Braddock
Borough of Wilkinsburg
Carnegie Libraries of Pittsburgh
Central Catholic Crew
Cinderlands Beer Company
City of Duquesne
City of Homestead
City of McKeesport
City of Pittsburgh Clean Pittsburgh Commission
City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Works
City of Pittsburgh Garbage Olympics
Commonplace Coffee
Commonwealth Press
CONNECT
Corbriwoodstock
Duolingo
East End Food Co-op
Environmental Charter School
Elizabeth Township
Friends of the Riverfront
GirlGov
Goodlander Cocktail Brewery
Greenfield Elementary School
Hazelwood Initiative
House of Waxx
Landforce
Little Sewickley Creek Watershed Association
Living Lands and Waters
Patagonia
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Pennsylvania Resources Council
Pittsburgh Councilmember Barbara Warwick
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
Pittsburgh Tomorrow
Pittsburgh Water
Pressley Ridge
Public Lands
Riverlife
Riverwise
Scenic Pittsburgh
Stage AE
Student Conservation Association
Take Action Advocacy Group
Three Rivers Outdoor Company
Three Rivers Rowing Association
Three Rivers Waterkeeper
Tri-Community Anglers Association
Trout Unlimited
University of Pittsburgh Day of Service
Upstream Pittsburgh
Watersheds of South Pittsburgh
West Mifflin School District



Acknowledgements

Foundation, Community, and Corporate Funders

AEO Better World Foundation
Allegheny County Bar Association
Allegheny County Health Department
American Water Charitable Foundation
Banfield Pet Hospital
Benter Foundation
Bradley Partnerships
Buncher Foundation
Buhl Foundation
The Burke Foundations
Chicken of the Sea
Cinderlands Beer Company
City of Pittsburgh
Clean Pittsburgh Commission
Colcom Foundation
Coldwater Heritage Partnership
Covestro
Duquesne Light
East End Food Co-op
Eden Hall Foundation
Environmental Protection Agency/Green and
Healthy Homes Initiative
EQT Foundation
E.R. Crawford Trust
Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds
The Garden Club of America
Gateway Fund
Giant Eagle
The Grable Foundation
Hillman Foundation
Jefferson Regional Foundation
Jefferson Regional Foundation - Clean Air Fund
Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful
Key Bank Foundation
Laurel Foundation
McCune Foundation
McKeesport Business & Professional Women
McKeesport Fund
NiSource Foundation/ KPB Minigrant Program
Patagonia Foundation
Pittsburgh Foundation
Pittsburgh Tomorrow
Port of Pittsburgh
Posner Foundation
PPG
ProWaste
Public Lands Foundation
Richard King Mellon Foundation
Riverlife
Rivers Casino
Seneca Resources
Sports & Exhibition Authority
Thompson Foundation
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy: BHE GT&S
Watershed Mini Grant Program
Waterwheel Foundation
Xylem

*If your organization supported our work in our 2025 fiscal year, but you don't see them listed above, contact our Development Director Michelle Lawler at michelle@alleghenycleanways.org