

# clean pittsburgh

## COMMISSION

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 [Clean Pittsburgh Commission City Page](#)

PREPARED BY  
Halena Procopio Ross

# 2025

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Annual

# REPORT





## A Message From The Co-Chairs

### Year of Renewal

In 2025 we hosted many community partners. These included Caily Grube who presented on the Immaculate Collection, Crystal Witt and Pat Kelly from Riverlife who presented on their mission and programming, Katie Wettick, DOMI, who presented on right of way management, and Moses Wamalwa from Humane Action Pennsylvania presenting on their Plastic Collaborative program.

We were also able to fund many wonderful programs, such as...  
Friends of the Riverfront's Color Park project | Allegheny CleanWay's dumpsite cleanups |  
PRC E-waste and HHW drop off events | The 9th annual Pittsburgh Garbage Olympics |  
PPC litter cleanups

The City welcomed a fully staffed anti-litter enforcement crew, and we anticipate being able to leverage the increased awareness on litter-related issues to inform our future engagements and advocacy.

We are excited to welcome Mayor O'Connor and his goal of  
Redding Up Pittsburgh!

# 2025 Clean Pittsburgh Commission Members

For a current list, our bios, and more, search 'Clean Pittsburgh Commission' on  
[pittsburghpa.gov](http://pittsburghpa.gov) or find us on Facebook @CleanPGHCommission

**Omoye Aikhuele**, District 9 Representative - Co-Chair

**Lyssa Eberhardt**, Allegheny Cleanways - Co-Chair

**Aftyn Giles**, Department of City Planning - Co-Treasurer

**Halena Procopio Ross**, Bureau of Environmental Services - Outreach Coordinator

**Larson Scheller**, Pennsylvania Resources Council - Co-Treasurer

**Deborah Steinberg**, Carnegie Mellon University - Secretary

**Anna Bagwell**, Bureau of Environmental Services

**Emily Embrey**, Department of Public Safety

**Sanjeeb Manandhar**, Pittsburgh Public Schools

**Kelsey Ripper**, Friends of the Riverfront

**Josh Schuneman**, Pennsylvania Resources Council

**Paul Scott**, Mayor's Office

**Erin Tobin**, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

**Katie Wettick**, Department of Mobility & Infrastructure

# Garbage Olympics 2025

## Awardees:

First place- South Side Flats  
Second place - Central Oakland  
Third place - Carrick  
Dirtiest Volunteer - Penn Hills  
Most Volunteers - Central Oakland



## The Dirty Details:

Over 752 volunteers  
Over 1408 bags of garbage  
Over 710 tires  
Over 328 TVs or other e-waste  
Over 1052 bulk items

The Garbage Olympics is an annual, citywide litter clean-up competition where neighborhood teams compete to pick up the most trash. In its 9th year, the Olympics saw turn out from 50 competing neighborhoods!

Thank you to our sponsors and supporters: Clean Pittsburgh Commission, Piatt Companies, Brandywine Communities, Representative Lindsay Powell, Pennsylvania Resources Council, Allegheny Cleanways, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, Velum Fermentation, Cold Friends Kitchen, Maria's Art Ideas, Soil Sisters, Redd-Up PGH, Barrel & Flow, Worm Return, Pittsburgh Furniture Company, Gateway Outdoor Advertising, POGO, and all who donated prizes!

Thank you to the Department of Public Works' leadership and Division Supervisors: Chris Hornstein, Bill Crean, Marcelle Newman, Donald Meyers, John Olkosky, Ray Brooks, Ed Williams, George Gipko, Jeff Koch, John McClory. We especially want to give a big shout-out to the hard-working men and women in the divisions street crews that ensured this event was successful! Additionally, thank you to Pittsburgh City Council, City Channel, and Mayor Ed Gainey for attending the award ceremony and capturing the celebrations!

Most importantly, thank you to the incredible neighborhood teams and volunteers that came out to make our City a cleaner place for all residents!



# Clean-Up Kudos



## Friends of The Riverfront



In 2025, Friends of the Riverfront hosted 71 events with a total of 1,123 volunteers. Over these events, we removed 24,222 lbs of trash, planted 347 new trees and cared for over 1,000, removed 12 abandoned encampments and 41 four-ton trucks of invasive vegetation. Alongside our amazing volunteers, we were able to continue caring for the Three Rivers Heritage and Water Trail system here in Allegheny County.

In September of 2025, Friends of the Riverfront hosted the Slammin' Cans Graffiti Jam at the Color Park along the Three Rivers Heritage Trail in South Side. Around 200 folks showed up to celebrate a space along the trail meant for art, free expression, and community. Thank you to the Clean Pittsburgh Commission for supporting the event!



# Neighborhoods of Focus 2025-2026

Marshall-Shadeland, Crafton Heights,  
Elliot, Sheraden

## Allegheny Cleanways

By the end of March 2026, cleanups were conducted  
in all four neighborhoods of focus.

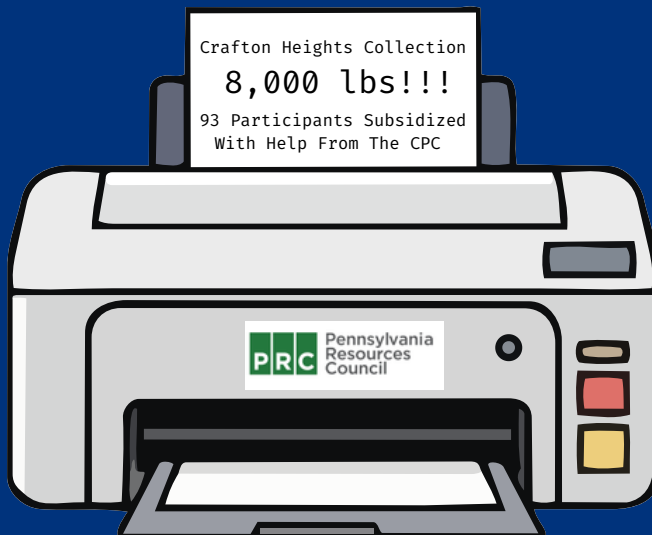
 40  
Volunteer  
Hours



  
16,341 lbs



## Pennsylvania Resources Council



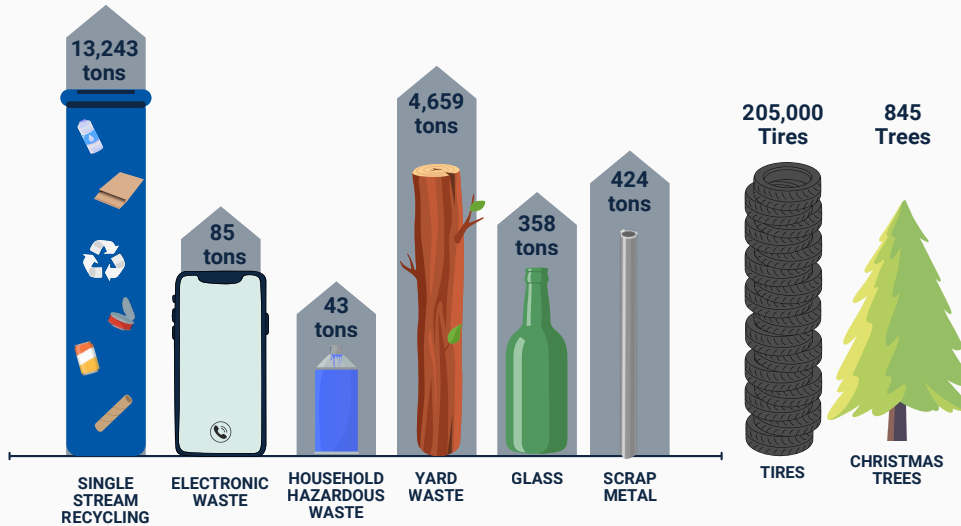


# City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Environmental Services

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## Recycling Rundown 2025



34 community engagement events in 2025!



## Environmental Enforcement Program Growth

In August 2025, Environmental Services hired eight new Environmental Enforcement inspectors, growing the team from two to ten. Inspectors enforce the Municipal Code pertaining to refuse and recycling standards. Typical issues involve trash cans on the curb all week, accumulation of trash on properties, overflowing trash cans, and more. Just a few months later, Environmental Services is already receiving reports of improved neighborhood conditions across the City. Between August 2025 to January 2026, inspectors handled nearly 10,000 case files.

### Before Inspectors



### After Inspectors



# 2025 Additional Member Organization Updates

## Carnegie Mellon University

Carnegie Mellon’s Office of Community Engagement and Leadership Development (CELD) partnered with community organizations on clean-ups during Orientation Day of Service, the Fall Day of Service, and weekly Saturday small-group events. CMU also continued its annual Whatever Drive, with more than 150 students donating items in 2025 to community organizations and internal efforts supporting low-income students, keeping materials out of the landfill.



## City of Pittsburgh - Department of City Planning, Sustainability, & Resilience

Pittsburgh advanced major climate, equity, and resilience initiatives in 2025, from home electrification and toxin removal for 41 households through the Energize Pittsburgh pilot to citywide LED Dark Sky streetlight upgrades and net-zero-ready public safety facilities. The city also piloted community composting, expanded greening and EV efforts, produced studies to guide future infrastructure and mobility planning, and continued work on solar installations, grid improvements, green infrastructure, EV charging, air-quality forecasting, and strategies for a just, zero-waste, climate-resilient future.



## PENNSYLVANIA RESOURCES COUNCIL

In 2025, PRC collected 232,070 lbs of hard-to-recycle materials between weekday e-waste collections, neighborhood e-waste collections, and household hazardous waste!



BREAKING NEWS

BREAKING NEWS

BREAKING NEWS

BREAKING NEWS



# 2025 Member Organization Updates

## City of Pittsburgh - Department of Mobility & Infrastructure

In 2025, DOMI implemented a Right-of-Way Code Enforcement Team. Comprised of an Inspection Supervisor and two Code Enforcement Inspectors this team works hard to clean up or remove obstructions on city streets and sidewalks.

Over the course of the year, the Code Enforcement Team completed 5,601 inspections in response to 3-1-1 calls. In addition, the team proactively inspected dumpsters in the right-of-way working to bring them into compliance to improve cleanliness in and around business districts.



## Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy advanced its environmental stewardship in 2025 by maintaining 153,363 acres across 12 parks, caring for 16 gardens with 2,725 hours of stewardship, engaging 709 volunteers in 2,045 hours of service, and planting 576 trees to strengthen the city's urban forest and support biodiversity. Additional highlights included ongoing restoration work in Hays Woods Park and the annual "What the Muck" clean-up of Lake Elizabeth, where staff and volunteers removed debris and restored habitat to protect one of Pittsburgh's treasured park assets.



# 2025 Member Organization Updates

## Pittsburgh Public Schools

As of 2025, all seventy Pittsburgh Public Schools facilities are equipped with high-efficiency, filtered drinking water fountains with bottle-filling stations, totaling more than 1,100 filtered outlets and 500 stations that serve roughly 24,000 students and staff. This initiative reduces plastic waste, tracks bottles saved, and strengthens district-wide sustainability by promoting reusable bottles, ensuring lead-free water access, and supporting student and staff well-being.



## Mission-Aligned Organization

## Riverlife

In 2025, Riverlife launched UpKeep, a coordinated riverfront care initiative that brings new resources, equipment, and partnership among public and nonprofit organizations to improve the quality and consistency of riverfront maintenance. During the first four months of the pilot season, the program collected more than 15,000 pounds of litter through this collaborative effort.

**Riverlife**



# Stellar Stars of the CPC 2025

