

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Kicks Off Pick Up Pennsylvania Community Improvement Initiative

~ March 1 through May 31 ~



(February 23, 2021) Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful kicks off its cleanup season on March 1 with Pick Up Pennsylvania. This annual community improvement 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 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.

“Starting in March of last year, we have completed 14 separate beautification projects. With support from PennDOT, we conducted cleanups throughout our neighborhood of East Falls. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful launched our efforts. We are looking forward to reaping the benefits of affiliating with the Pick Up Pennsylvania program again this year,” Mary Jane Fullam, President of East Falls Town Watch and cleanup coordinator.

“After the year we just had, many folks are eager to get outside and make a difference in their neighborhood. Picking up litter is a simple, easy activity that most people can do and the results are immediate. We’re looking forward to supporting efforts across the state,” 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 or contact Michelle Dunn, Pick Up Pennsylvania Program Coordinator, at 877-772-3673 ext. 113 or mdunn@keppabeautiful.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 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@keppabeautiful.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.keppabeautiful.org.