

Report



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A MESSAGE FROM THE ORGANIZERS



Each year, millions of tonnes of waste enter the world's oceans, and approximately 60% of this marine debris consists of plastic materials (UNEP, 2023). Plastics are exceptionally persistent in marine environments, and research estimates that there are over 46,000 individual pieces of plastic litter per square mile of ocean surface (Condor Ferries, 2024). Globally, plastic pollution poses severe threats to marine biodiversity, resulting in the deaths of about one million seabirds and more than 100,000 marine animals, including turtles, whales, and fish, annually due to ingestion and entanglement (Ocean Blue Project, 2024; UNEP, 2023).

The issue is also evident in Guyana. A study conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA, 2023) estimated that between 2,079 and 12,496 tonnes of plastic litter are released into the marine environment from Guyana each year. Similarly, a global marine pollution assessment ranked Guyana sixth in the world for the amount of mismanaged plastic waste entering the ocean, with approximately 1.59 kilograms per person annually (Kaieteur News, 2024). The majority of this waste originates from improper disposal practices, insufficient solid waste management infrastructure, and inadequate public awareness of the long-term environmental impacts of plastics.

Local data further emphasize the magnitude of the problem. During a beach clean-up and sampling activity at Unity Beach, volunteers removed approximately 22.36 kilograms of litter from a 58.8×10 meter section of shoreline, with plastic fragments, single-use packaging, and drink bottles being the most frequently collected items (ProMAR, 2025). Similarly, a national assessment found that plastics account for about 48.2% of all litter recorded along Guyana's beaches (ProMAR, 2025).

Coastal cleanup initiatives, such as those led by the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) in Guyana in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and under the oversight of Ocean Conservancy, play a vital role in addressing the growing threat of marine litter. Cleanup campaigns at Number 63 Beach, Berbice, and the Kingston shoreline in Georgetown have provided citizens with hands-on opportunities to take action against marine pollution. Notably, this year's International Coastal Cleanup recorded the highest participation in recent years—an encouraging sign of rising environmental awareness and a shift toward more sustainable practices. Still, the mission to protect marine ecosystems and reduce marine debris is ongoing. Continued collaboration among communities, government agencies, and civil society organizations remains essential to driving lasting, meaningful change.



ABOUT ICC



The International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) was birthed over 35 years ago from the passion and spirit of two committed individuals, Linda Maraniss and Kathy O' Hara. The first ocean clean-up event was organized by the Ocean Conservancy in 1986. It brought together different groups of people, all with a shared goal of recovering and recording garbage that was littering their coastline.

The ICC has since grown tremendously, garnering participation from over 100 countries each year. This event has undoubtedly become the largest effort to combat marine pollution, attracting millions of volunteers from around the world. Their combined effort has resulted in the collection of more than 400 million pounds of garbage.

This global movement has built a network of people of all ages and backgrounds, who come together every September to bring about positive change in their communities, cities and countries.





From around the world: Numbers from 2024

GLOBAL

486,045 people volunteered

3,612,215 kilograms of trash collected

14,339,832 items collected



GLOBAL

The top three items collected in 2024 were;

Cigarette butts: 1,947,83

Plastic Bottles: 1,358,870

Bottle Caps (Plastic): 853,086



GUYANA

111 people volunteered

336 kilograms of trash

6,080 items collected



GUYANA

The top three items collected in 2024 were;

Beverage Bottles (Plastic): 981

Food Containers (plastic): 493

Cups, plates (plastic): 318



ICC IN GUYANA-2025



This year's event attracted more than 120 volunteers

ICC 2025 was held at #63 beach on September 27



1216 kg of trash was collected



IN OUR BACKYARD– COUNTRY TOTALS 2025



1	Plastic beverage bottles (2405)	6	Plastic grocery bags (401)
2	Glass beverage bottles (1879)	7	Paper cups and plates (343)
3	Beverage cans (1097)	8	Metal bottle caps (281)
4	Plastic cups and plates (745)	9	Paper bags (274)
5	Other plastic bags (474)	10	Plastic take out containers (178)

WHAT IN THE WORLD? WEIRD FINDS IN GUYANA



WINDOW WIPER-I



NUMBER PLATE- I



FOOTWEAR-17

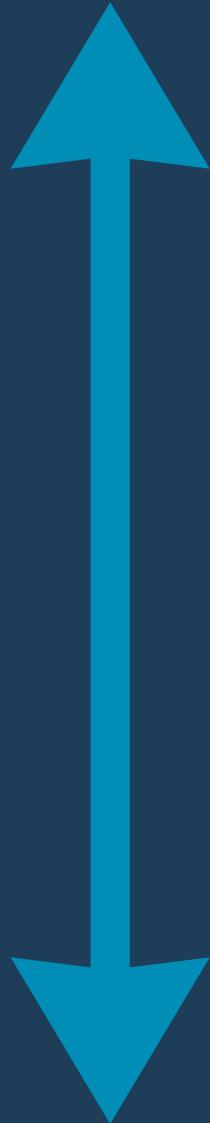




*Staff of the Environmental Protection Agency participating in
International Coastal Cleanup 2025*

WASTE MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

Most favoured



PREVENTION



MINIMISATION



REUSE



RECYCLING



ENERGY RECOVERY



DISPOSAL



Least favoured

WASTE MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES



BUY IN BULK



SHOP LOCALLY



COMPOST YOUR LEFTOVER FOOD



USE LESS SINGLE-USED PRODUCTS



Volunteers who participated in International Coastal Cleanup 2025

A big thank you—recognizing our volunteers and sponsors



Businesses

- Seacor Marine
- Precision Sports

Government Agencies

- 54-63 Neighbourhood Democratic Council
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Region 6 Tourism Association

NGOS & CBOS

- Caribbean Youth Environment Network
- Rotaract Club of Corriverton

University of Guyana

- University of Guyana Biology Club
- University of Guyana Chemistry Club
- University of Guyana Geographical Society
- University of Guyana Berbice Campus
- University of Guyana Performing Arts club

SPONSORS

Environmental Technical Solutions
Inc., Massy Stores,
Homeline Inc.,
Seacor Marine,
Region 6 Tourism Association
The National Park Commission.
Environmental Protection Agency

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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**Caribbean Youth
Environment
Network in Guyana**



cyen-in-guyana

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