

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Trash Free Waters Program



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Impacts Associated with Aquatic Trash

- Decrease of aesthetic, recreational, and economic values of rivers, beaches and marine resources;
- Animal entanglement or ingestion;
- Possible human health risks of ingesting microplastics through the fish we eat;
- Pollutant and virus transport;
- Habitat destruction; and
- More taxpayer dollars spent on clean up.



EPA's Trash Free Waters Program

EPA's Trash Free Waters Program is a non-regulatory partnership program which works with federal, state, local, and private stakeholders to reduce and prevent land-based sources of trash from entering U.S. waters and the ocean.

EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler has identified marine litter as an Agency priority.



TFW Program Priorities

1. Support effective regional, state, and local projects.
2. Leverage public and private partnerships.
3. Support research and education/outreach efforts.
4. Provide tools and resources that support high-impact voluntary trash prevention actions.



WANT TO REDUCE MICROFIBERS?

6 Simple tips to help reduce microfiber pollution:



Wash clothing less often.
This is perhaps the simplest and most effective method for reducing microfiber pollution.

Only wash full loads of laundry.

This results in less friction between clothes and reduces shedding of synthetic fibers.

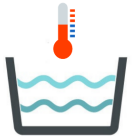


Use microfiber-catching devices when you do the laundry.

Several technologies are available for purchase, including special wash bags and laundry balls designed to trap microfibers.

Wash laundry with cold water for a shorter period of time.

Studies have found that switching to a colder and shorter cycle can dramatically reduce microfiber shedding.



Install an external microfiber filter on your washing machine and dispose of captured microfibers in the trash.

There are several commercially available external lint filters to choose from.

Use a front-loading washer, if possible.

Top-load washing machines tend to produce more microfibers than front-loading machines.



For more information, visit neefusa.org



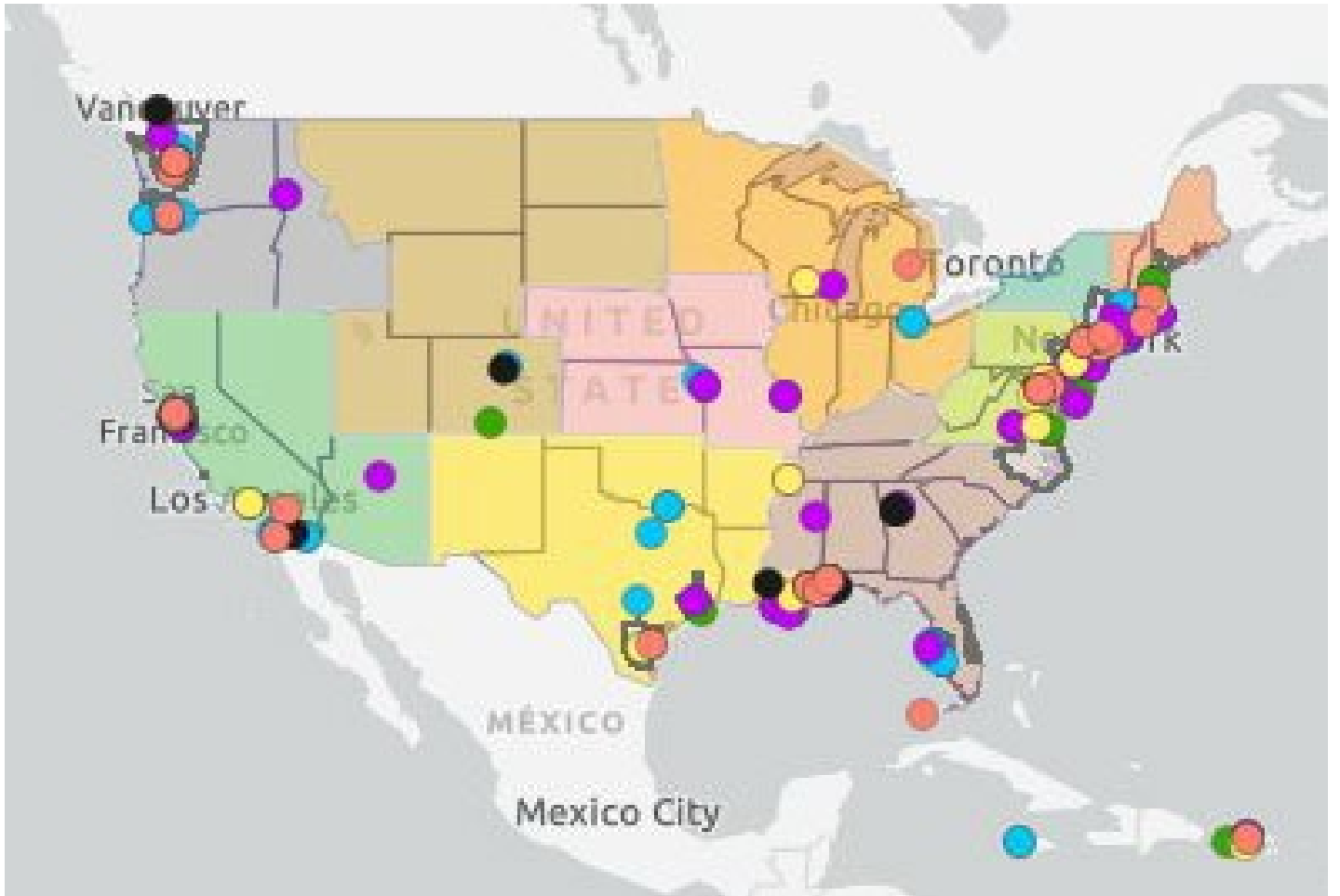
Examples of Trash Free Waters Efforts

1. Headquarters-led projects
2. Geographic Program Office initiatives
3. Regional projects



Project Types

- Source Reduction
- Trash Capture
- Research
- Stormwater
- Education/Outreach
- Remediation
- Microplastics
- Citizen Science
- Working Groups
- Environmental Justice



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