EPA's Trash Free Waters Program

Supporting Healthy Communities and Vibrant Ecosystems

Prevention

Reduce waste generation at the source and change behaviors that cause trash to get into the environment.

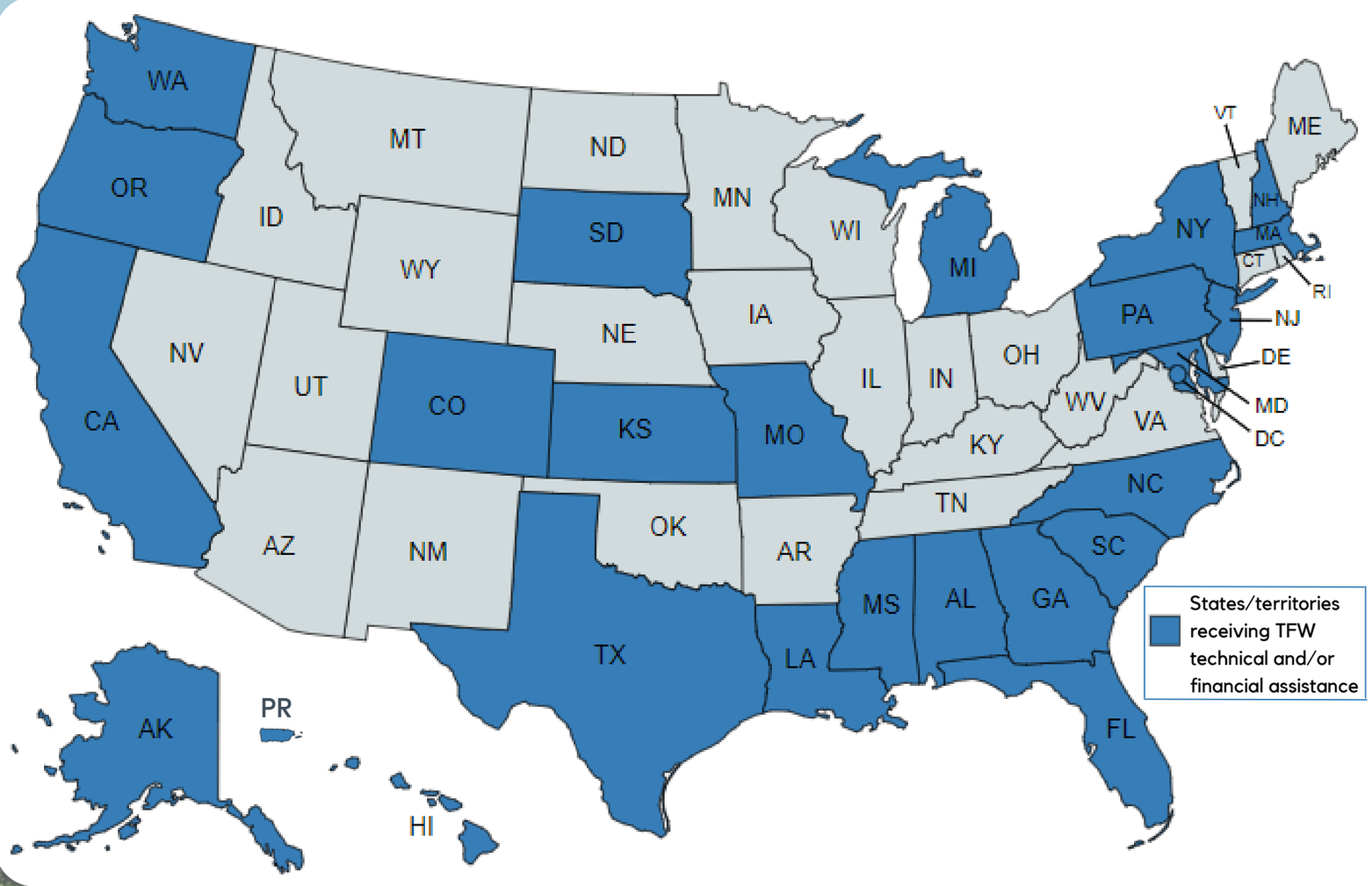
Removal

Remove trash from U.S. waterways by supporting trash capture solutions and other remediation efforts.

Research

Improve understanding of the sources, causes, pathways, and impacts of aquatic trash, including microplastics.

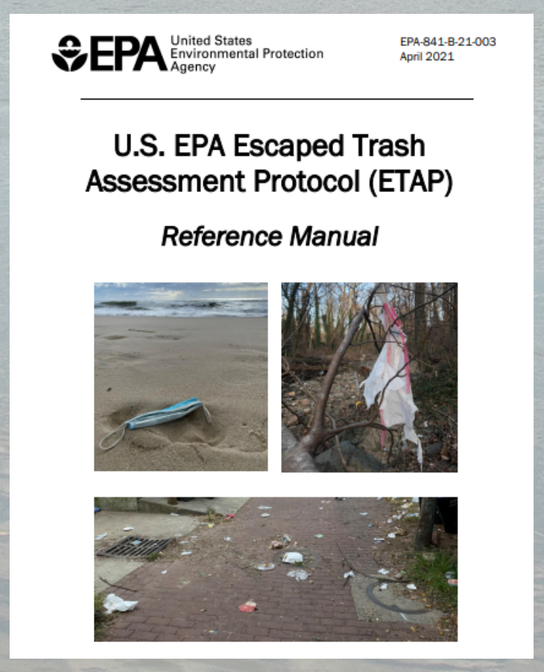
TFW fosters partnerships for cleaner waters and communities

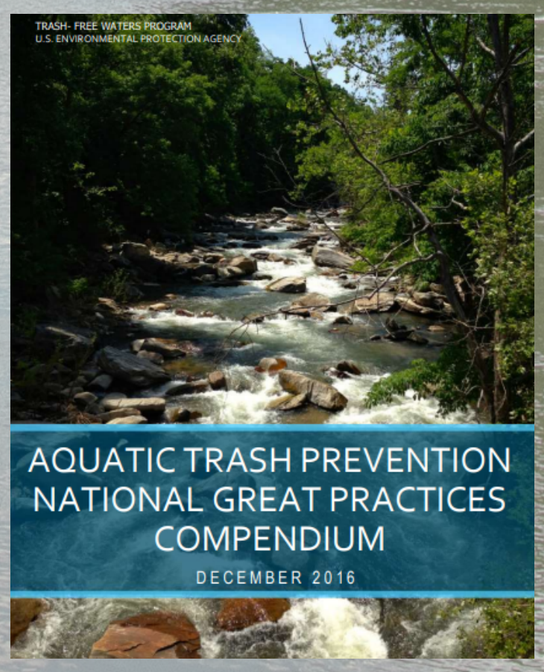


80+ place based projects across all 10 EPA Regions received TFW technical and/or financial support

200+ additional trash-related projects totaling $24.2 Million implemented through other EPA programs

20+ published TFW technical reports, tools, and resources





TFW is reducing and preventing land-based sources of trash from entering the environment

As a voluntary partnership program, TFW collaborates with communities, academia, state and local governments, tribes, federal agencies, NGOs, and the private sector to implement projects at the municipal, state, and regional levels.

Source Reduction

The four participating restaurants of Santa Monica Bay's ReThink Disposable Pilot used ~**246,570** fewer disposable items per year.

Approximately **349,189** plastic bottles were prevented over a two year span after installing 32 hydration refill stations in New York State Parks.

Cleanup & Trash Capture

The TFW program has supported the installation of **dozens** of trash capture devices in watersheds across the country, from Atlanta to St. Louis.

"Litter Gitters" upstream of Mobile Bay's Three Mile Creek have removed over **9,000 lbs** of ocean-bound litter from the environment.

Education & Outreach

8,000 informative stickers were distributed to Washington, D.C. residents as part of the Curbside Disposal Education Pilot to reduce unintentional leakage associated with curbside collection day.

The EPA Region 8 TFW Tribal Handbook will be used to educate **28** tribes.

Research

TFW's Escaped Trash Assessment Protocol (ETAP) has been used to quantify and characterize trash during **several hundred** cleanups.

Significant U.S. watersheds like the Potomac River of the Mid-Atlantic and the Columbia Slough in the Pacific Northwest have been sampled for microplastics.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
epa.gov/trash-free-waters/contact
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