

# 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.

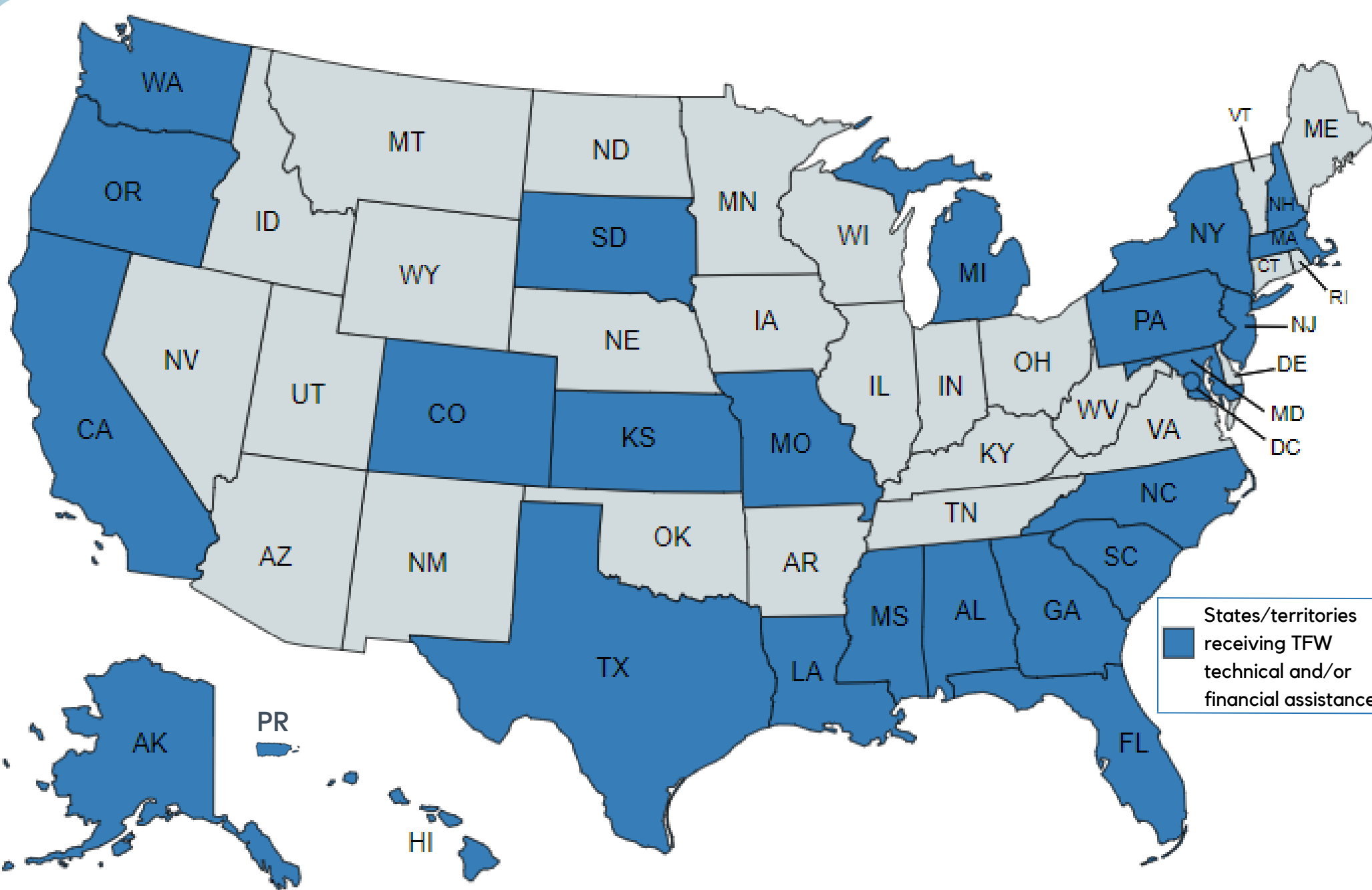
## Removal

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**

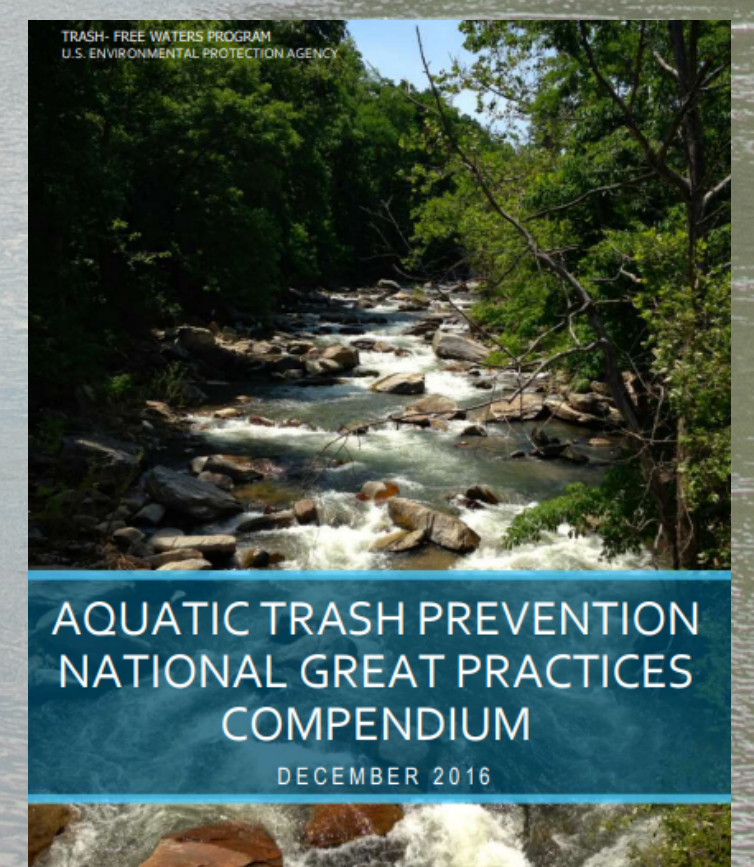
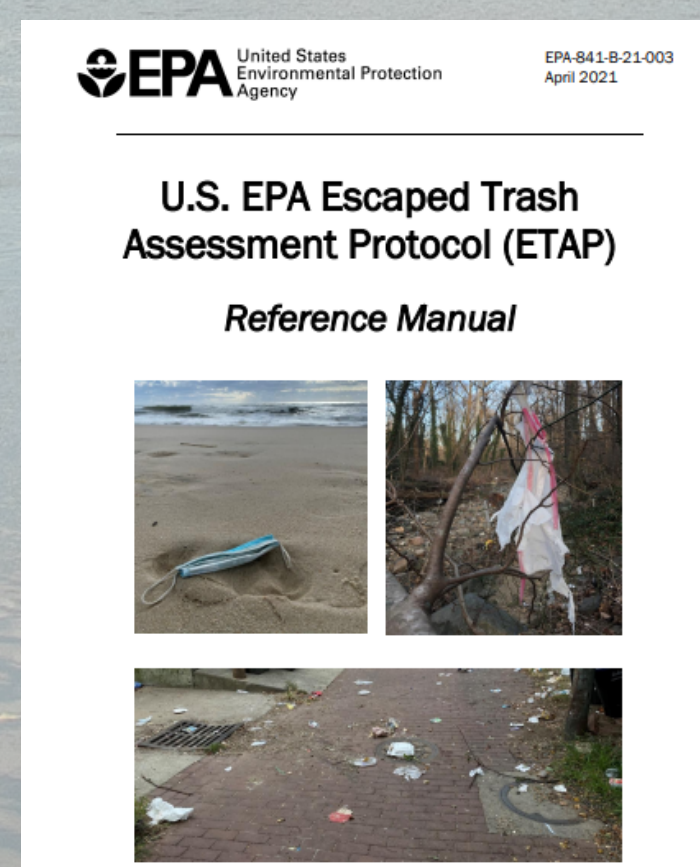


**80+** place based projects across all 10 EPA Regions received TFW technical and/or financial support

**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.