

ON THE BEACH

Island County CLCP Newsletter



BATTERIES PG 2

NEW CHANCES FOR DERELICT VESSELS THROUGH NOAA

NOAA has developed some innovative ideas for derelict vessels and for repurposing fiberglass. Read all about it on page 2.

CLEANUPS PG 3-4

REDUCING SINGLE-USE PLASTICS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

Students on some college campuses are stepping up the opposition to single-use plastics. Make-your-own plastic alternatives are not only being tried out, but are having success among the students. Read on page 3.

PLASTICS PG 4/5

CLEANUP SCHEDULE AND REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION!

Here is our continuing beach cleanup schedule. This is also posted on the website, where any changes to the schedule will be updated. Always check the website or dewslist prior to heading out on a cleanup!

New Report: Recycling Opportunities for Abandoned, Derelict, and End-of-Life Recreational Vessels

The NOAA Marine Debris Program is pleased to share a report on [Recycling Opportunities for Abandoned, Derelict, and End-of-Life Recreational Vessels](#). Section 136 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (P.L. 116-224) required a study to determine the feasibility of developing a nationwide vessel recycling program, using a pilot project in Rhode Island as a model. The report was created by the [Rhode Island Marine Trades Association \(RIMTA\) Foundation](#), in partnership with the NOAA Marine Debris Program and [National Marine Sanctuary Foundation](#) in order to summarize that study.

[Abandoned and derelict vessels](#) litter ports, waterways, and estuaries around the country, posing a threat to people and the environment. Vessels become abandoned and derelict for many reasons: owners may no longer be able to afford maintenance, they may break loose from anchors or moorings and drift away, and some may even be stolen. Severe weather events, like hurricanes or flooding, can also cause vessels to sink at moorings, become submerged in tidal areas, or strand on shorelines, marshes, or reefs. Boat owners may also struggle to responsibly dispose of vessels that are too old to continue using.

Through a grant from the NOAA Marine Debris Program, the RIMTA Foundation [explored the reuse of fiberglass material](#) used to build recreational vessels. Fiberglass can both displace fossil fuels and replace raw resources, such as silica and alumina, in cement production. Through the development of a diverse partnership network, the RIMTA Foundation collected, tested, processed, and delivered 22 tons of fiberglass materials collected in coastal New England from a variety of abandoned, derelict, and end-of-life vessels for reuse by a cement manufacturing facility.

Following the conclusion of this project, with additional funding provided by the NOAA Marine Debris Program in partnership with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, the RIMTA Foundation examined the potential to build a nationwide vessel recycling program. Its findings are documented in this report, which found that a centralized, nationwide fiberglass vessel recycling program would present a viable solution for the responsible disposal of abandoned, derelict, and end-of-life vessels. However, the logistics for breakdown, storage, transportation, and co-processing of recovered fiberglass are complex, and further investigation, development, and collaboration is recommended.

To learn more about the challenges and opportunities of recycling fiberglass vessels, view the [full report](#).

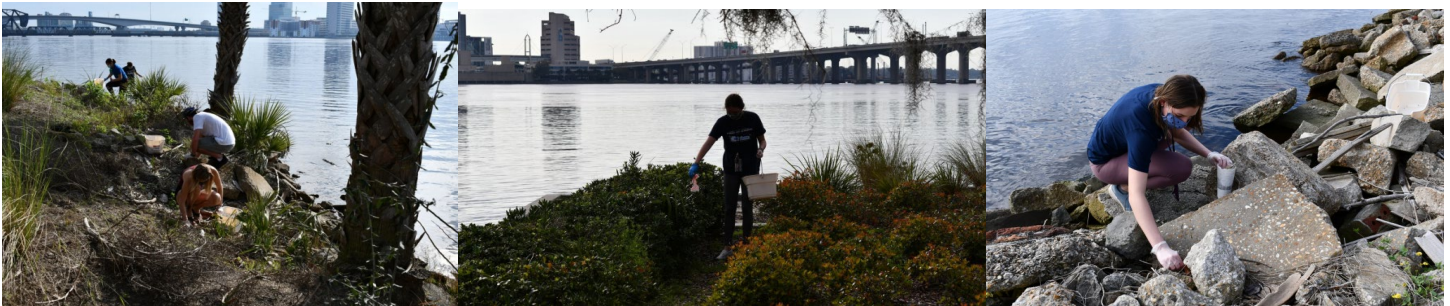
<https://blog.marinedebris.noaa.gov/new-report-recycling-opportunities-abandoned-derelict-and-end-life-recreational-vessels?>

Reducing Single-Use Plastics on College Campuses

Guest blog by: Makayla Doran, Student Intern, Eckerd College

[Eckerd College](#), located along the sunny coast of the Gulf of Mexico, has been working hard to reduce single-use plastic consumption on campus for years. Following a successful [NOAA Marine Debris Program prevention grant](#) focused on reducing single-use plastic at Eckerd, the [Reduce Single-Use Project](#) teamed up with the [University of North Florida](#)

(UNF) in Jacksonville. On both campuses the team has [encouraged college students to rely less on plastics](#) through events, beach cleanups, and even an app.



Student interns have been very active leading activities on both campuses, including beach cleanups that collected and removed hundreds of pounds of trash. At Eckerd, we have been hosting Make Your Own Plastic Alternatives! events where students make beeswax wraps to replace plastic wraps, tie-dyed cotton masks, t-shirt bags, mini planters with seeds, and all-natural face scrubs in glass jars. At UNF, students have had the opportunity to engage with a series of speakers to explore topics such as the lifecycle of plastics and using science to reduce plastic pollution.

During the Fall of 2021, the Reduce Single-Use team introduced a smartphone app to track single-use plastic use and refusal in a cohort of first year students while they participated in plastic reduction challenges over three semesters. Our goal was to increase awareness and accountability for individual plastic consumption. During these challenges, over 33,000 single-use plastic items were refused by students. We also tested the effectiveness of the app to reduce plastic consumption by comparing plastic use between students who tracked their plastic use and refusal through the app and those who did not. We hope that in the future we can use data from this study to improve the app and make it available to the general public.

In 2022, Eckerd College received an additional grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to further expand on their NOAA-funded work, building on the app design to help the surrounding St. Petersburg community to digitally track their single-use plastic consumption and hopefully keep plastic out of the Gulf of Mexico. Stay tuned!

Eckerd College reaffirmed its commitment to reduce plastic waste to *Break Free From Plastics* at a signing in October 2022 (Credit: Zach Franco).

Our continued work to reduce plastic waste inspired Eckerd College to reaffirm its commitment to *Break Free From Plastics* in October 2022. This commitment, originally signed in 2019, prohibits the purchase of unnecessary single-use plastic with college funds. At UNF, student leaders are working toward a similar commitment.

With the support of the NOAA Marine Debris Program, the Reduce Single-Use team at both schools were able to make great strides over a short period. Our goal is to continue to educate and help our campus communities to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, their plastic consumption. We hope that this inspires others to do the same.

<https://blog.marinedebris.noaa.gov/reducing-single-use-plastics-college-campuses>

Cleanup Schedule

COMMUNITY LITTER CLEANUP PROGRAM, C.L.C.P. MARCH-MAY SCHEDULE	
MARCH 7, 2023 FORT CASEY STATE PARK 2:00-4:00	APRIL 25, 2023 JOSEPH WHIDBEY STATE PARK 1:00-3:00
MARCH 14, 2023 WINDJAMMER CITY PARK 2:00-4:00	MAY 2, 2023 FORT CASEY STATE PARK 10:00-12:00
MARCH 21, 2023 KEYSTONE SPIT WEST 10:00-12:00	MAY 9, 2023 KEYSTONE SPIT WEST 1:00-3:00
MARCH 28, 2023 EBEY'S LANDING 1:00-3:00	MAY 16, 2023 EBEY'S LANDING 10:00-12:00
APRIL 4, 2023 KEYSTONE SPIT EAST 10:00-12:00	MAY 23, 2023 WINDJAMMER CITY PARK 1:00-3:00
APRIL 11, 2023 WINDJAMMER CITY PARK 1:00-3:00	MAY 30, 2023 KEYSTONE SPIT EAST 10:00-12:00
APRIL 18, 2023 ADMIRALS COVE BEACH CLUB 10:00-12:00	JUNE 6, 2023 ADMIRALS COVE BEACH CLUB 12:00-2:00



WEEKLY BEACH CLEAN-UPS

These clean-ups are a fun, free, and easy way to give back to you community by keeping pollution from damaging marine organisms in and around Island County. It is easy to participate!

Purple Card Program

Our Purple Card Program helps those who have marine debris or have cleaned up marine debris and need to dispose of it. There is no charge for disposal of beach litter, all that is required is to sign up! Please see or contact Kacie Dominici for more details or answers to any questions you may have. If you are a member, please don't forget to fill out the [BEACH TRACKER](#) form so that we can keep track of litter disposed and hours volunteered. Thanks again!



CLCP News is news for everyone! If you have an article or story related to beach cleanups or marine debris you would like to share, please send it in today!

