PUBLIC IMPACT REPORT

Cleaner blocks. Healthier communities. Lasting environmental change.

Block by Block Community, also known as Block by Block Philly, is a Philadelphia-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 2020. We bring residents, volunteers, students, and partners together to remove litter, address illegal dumping, maintain public spaces, and build long-term neighborhood waste solutions.

250+	350+	~2,000	50+
Community cleanups	**Tons of waste removed**	**People reached**	**Community partnerships**
Since 2020	Reported cumulative estimate	Estimated education reach	Organization-wide

Reported cumulative activity since 2020; figures are based on internal program records and should be read with the measurement notes later in this report.

Our mission

Our mission is to create cleaner, healthier communities by empowering residents to take action against litter, illegal dumping, and environmental pollution. Through community-led cleanups, environmental education, neighborhood partnerships, and sustainable waste solutions, Block by Block Community works to reduce waste, restore public spaces, and inspire lasting environmental change. We believe meaningful change starts at the block level, and every community deserves a clean, safe, and healthy place to call home.

Recent impact in action | 2025–2026

OCTOBER 2026 | THREE-CITY CLEAN-OFF

The Philadelphia, Chicago, and Los Angeles Clean-Off brought local teams together to collect a previously reported total of approximately 4,329 bags of waste (about 16 estimated tons) across all three cities. These are campaign-wide figures, not Philadelphia-only totals.

2026 | ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

“Know What to Throw” and other resident and student workshops share practical information about waste disposal, recycling, litter prevention, and neighborhood environmental responsibility.

2026 | LITTER & DUMPING INDEX
Residents, students, and block captains document dumping locations through observations, photographs, and 311 request tracking to inform targeted cleanup and prevention work.

OUR FOUR ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

Programs that turn community action into environmental outcomes

The following solutions reflect the program categories submitted in Block by Block Community’s 1% for the Planet Impact Partnership Assessment. Three have active activities; the fourth is a planned initiative, not yet collecting food scraps.

1

Community-Led Litter & Illegal Dumping Cleanups

Volunteer cleanups remove litter and discarded waste from streets, parks, sidewalks, vacant lots, and shared spaces. Activities also include leaf blowing, weed trimming, and neighborhood beautification. Block by Block coordinates with the City of Philadelphia and local Clean & Green teams for waste pickup and removal. Results are documented through locations, volunteer counts, bag totals, and estimated tonnage.
Status: Active

2

Environmental Education & Community Outreach

Through “Know What to Throw,” resident workshops, student activities, printed materials, and community outreach, the organization shares practical guidance on waste disposal, recycling, litter prevention, and pollution reduction. Approximately 2,000 people have been reached through educational activities (estimated cumulative reach).
Status: Active

3

Illegal Dumping Prevention & Neighborhood Monitoring

The Neighborhood Litter & Dumping Index involves students, residents, and block captains in observing conditions at recurring dumping sites. Participants document litter, take site photographs, and monitor 311 service requests, producing neighborhood information that can guide future prevention and cleanup work.

Status: Active / expanding

4

Community Composting & Food Waste Diversion

A proposed food-scrap collection and composting program is being developed with Sanctuary Farm, Bennett Compost, and Glitter. The initiative has not yet received implementation funding or begun collection. Future measures will include participating households and pounds of food scraps diverted.

Status: Planning only; 0 pounds collected to date

OPERATIONS, ACCOUNTABILITY & DOCUMENTATION

How the work is delivered and measured

Operational approach

Block by Block Community mobilizes volunteers and partners to identify priority locations, organize neighborhood cleanup activities, and coordinate collection of gathered waste. Neighborhood maintenance complements direct litter removal. Educational workshops and student/resident monitoring support longer-term prevention. The organization works with local municipal and community partners, including City of Philadelphia and Clean & Green teams, to facilitate appropriate waste pickup and disposal.

Impact measurement methods

Cleanup activity	Cleanup dates, locations, volunteers, bags collected, photographs, and estimated material removed.
Waste weight	Tonnage reported from organizational collection records and estimates. Where weight is derived from bag counts rather than scales, it is an estimate; historical bag-to-weight conversions used approximately 1,850 bags = 7 tons.
Education reach	Approximate counts of people participating in workshops, school activities, and outreach; numbers may include estimates rather than unique individuals.
Litter index	Site observations, before/after photographs where available, hotspot notes, student/resident participation, and associated 311 requests.
Composting	No food scraps have been collected to date. Planned metrics will be tracked only once the program becomes operational.

Partnerships and institutional support

Community residents, students, neighborhood organizations, block captains, municipal waste teams, and environmental partners support delivery. The William Penn Foundation has provided institutional grant support for Block by Block Community's environmental work. The organization also works with Sanctuary Farm, Bennett Compost, and Glitter on a proposed food-waste diversion initiative.

Public institutional funding reference: William Penn Foundation - Awarded Grants (search for "Block by Block").

Reporting information

Legal organization: Block by Block Community | Public name: Block by Block Philly
Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA | Founded: 2020 | Tax-exempt recognition: 2021
Reporting scope: Cumulative organizational activity since 2020 and illustrative recent activities in 2025–2026.

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Data note: Figures in this report are organization-reported and not represented as independently audited. Campaign totals from multi-city initiatives are labeled separately. Program costs, grant awards, and projections are not presented as verified environmental outcomes. Supporting records and dated activity documentation are maintained by the organization.