



IMPACT REPORT 2025

FROM OUR CEO



As we reflect on 2025, I am incredibly proud of what has been achieved by our volunteers and communities. The Final Straw Foundation exists because of the time, care and commitment of people who choose to take action for our seas, and this year has been a powerful reminder of what volunteer-led action can achieve.

Throughout the year, volunteers have continued to give their time in all weathers — cleaning beaches, monitoring water quality,, sewing Borrow Bags and leading community activity across the south coast. Their commitment has not only reduced pollution but strengthened local pride, connection and shared responsibility for our marine environment.

A particularly special milestone in 2025 was the restoration of 10,000 native oysters to local waters. This achievement was made possible through the dedication of volunteers working alongside partners to support the restoration and long-term environmental recovery of The Solent. The oysters represent more than habitat restoration; they symbolise collective effort, patience and hope for healthier seas and improved water quality for future generations.

Sadly, the year ended with two container spills that resulted in a significant increase in plastic pollution along our coastline. The response from the community was both inspiring and deeply moving. Volunteers came together quickly and selflessly, giving their time and energy to help protect their local beaches and wildlife. This collective response demonstrated the strength, compassion and resilience of our community at a challenging moment.

Thank you to every volunteer who has given their time, skills and energy this year. Your contribution is the heart of Final Straw Foundation and the reason our work continues to make a difference.

Bianca Carr
CEO, Final Straw Foundation

OUR CORE OBJECTIVES

**THE PROTECTION AND
RESTORATION OF THE
SOLENT AND ITS
ECOSYSTEMS.**

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**EMPOWERING AND
SUPPORTING COMMUNITY
AND VOLUNTEER-LED
ACTION.**

.....

**DELIVERING EDUCATION
THAT INSPIRES
STEWARDSHIP, AND
LONG-TERM BEHAVIOUR
CHANGE.**

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‘I was excited to get involved in the River Ems clean up as it runs directly behind my house through Brook Meadow. It was an opportunity to contribute to the on-going efforts to restore the River Ems and to learn more about the project and the river itself.

I donned some waders and we launched gently into the river, close to the main road, heading gradually upstream to the shallower, gravelly bed near the bridge. At first it was deep and silty, easily stirred up - making it hard to spot litter, but soon got into the rhythm finding glass and plastic bottles, cans, plastic wrappers and dog balls. Interestingly, we found fishing equipment, toothbrushes and a couple of rubber ducks! As usual, it was so satisfying to clean up the area, but it was also fascinating hearing about the flora and fauna found along this small river, including water voles!

The camaraderie was wonderful and we swapped stories along the way, pausing to enjoy a wedge of Helen’s delicious lemon drizzle cake.

This is only the start of the project to help restore one of these rare chalk streams (there are only some 300 in the world) and it is wonderful to be part of this, especially with The Final Straw Foundation’

Odette, Volunteer

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PROTECTION: BEACH CLEANS

In 2025, the Final Straw Foundation continued its mission to protect our coastlines, inspire future generations, and challenge unsustainable habits. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, engaged students, and community support, we have made a real difference across our coastline between Southampton and Worthing.

Did you know that the amount we removed from our beaches last year weighed equivalent to an adult male hippo!

2,276

BEACH CLEAN VOLUNTEERS

6,627

HOURS OF VOLUNTEER TIME

3,183

KG OF RUBBISH REMOVED

RESTORATION: OYSTERS

In 2025, the Final Straw Foundation launched our first restoration project; project Oysters! This was no mean feat and was led by Hannah our Campaigns officer. This involved relocating, and scrubbing European Flat Oysters, engineering baskets and co-ordinating over 200 amazing volunteers.

The 10,000 oysters are now safely located in their new homes across 4 secure sites along the Hampshire coastline.

211

VOLUNTEERS

1,055

VOLUNTEER HOURS

10,000

EUROPEAN FLAT OYSTERS

"2025 was an incredible year for restoration at the Final Straw Foundation. Project Oyster brought our fantastic community of volunteers and businesses together for hands-on conservation action. This was an invaluable experience for many, offering an opportunity to make restoration waves and learn more about our precious local marine ecosystems.

The time generously donated by over 200 volunteers was a massive contributor to the success of the project and a testament to the importance of community. Thanks to all the hard work, up to 2 million litres of water a day are being naturally filtered in the Solent, and millions of brood stock larvae are being released to repopulate the waters with native oysters."

Hannah, Campaign Lead



COMMUNITY ACTION: Borrow Bags



Our Borrow Bags Scheme works by re-purposing pre-loved fabric, saving it from landfill. Volunteers sew reusable fabric bags to be given out in place of plastic bags, reducing both fabric and plastic waste.

Sewing a Sustainable Future

690kg of pre-loved fabric sewn into 8635 reusable bags, handcrafted by 498 sewing volunteers. Our borrow bag communities are based across 16 locations in the UK.

690

KGS FABRIC
REPURPOSED AND
DIRECTED AWAY FROM
LANDFILL

1240

REUSABLE
FABRIC BAGS
SEWN

113

SEWING VOLUNTEERS

124,000

ESTIMATED SINGLE-USE
PLASTIC BAGS REPLACED

COMMUNITY ACTION: Water Quality

Raw sewage is being dumped into our seas, surface run-off containing chemicals and microplastics are in addition to this. All of this reduces the quality of water, reduces the biodiversity and poses a public health risk. We wanted to build a picture and so launched this project in June. 2025.

Citizen Science

Our water quality project is based at 2 locations, where volunteers have been taking samples. We are testing for nitrates, phosphates, E.coli and total coliforms.

32

CORE VOLUNTEERS

2

SITES: HAYLING AND
EMSWORTH

352

WATER SAMPLES TESTED

380

VOLUNTEER HOURS

EDUCATION:

Empowering the next generation

Our Education Programmes went from strength to strength. 2025 saw us continue to build on our previous successes, reaching children from educational groups across the region.

We delivered 27 assemblies, 93 workshops, and 10 beach cleans, reaching 4,499 pupils across 59 schools. We raise awareness of issues but also deliver hope for the future, inspiring children to become lifelong environmental advocates.

4,499

**STUDENTS REACHED THROUGH
ASSEMBLIES, WORKSHOPS &
SCHOOL BEACH CLEANS**

130

**NUMBER OF ASSEMBLIES,
WORKSHOPS &
SCHOOL BEACH CLEANS
DELIVERED**

19,652

**TOTAL STUDENTS REACHED
THROUGH OUR EDUCATION
PROGRAMMES SINCE 2022**

WILD BEACH SCHOOL

I feel incredibly lucky to be in this role as educational outreach officer - my favourite place to teach is on the beach. Seeing children connect with the coast, explore and discover the flora and fauna is incredibly uplifting. No day is ever the same and I love being able to share my passion for ocean conservancy with our young visitors.

Kate Martin, Educational Outreach Officer

We welcomed 1,113 primary-aged children from 16 schools to our Wild Beach School sessions on Hayling Island and Hill Head. These hands-on experiences teach children about weather, tides, marine life, and plastic pollution through games, reflection, exploration, and team activities.

33.6% of participants identified as pupil premium, ensuring that our environmental programmes reaches all children, fostering an inclusive approach to conservation.



1,113

PRIMARY-AGED
CHILDREN

16

DIFFERENT SCHOOLS
FROM ACROSS
THE SOLENT REGION

3,174

PUPILS HAVE ATTENDED
SINCE 2022

Circular Economy

In 2025, we continued using our education station at events. This trailer can host a variety of activities and learning sessions centered around the themes of re-purposing and recycling plastics. Equipped with a plastics grinder and injection machine, we were able to recycle plastics gathered from beach clean-ups and community projects. We then repurposed this plastic into new products!



830

kg plastic directed away
from landfill

1675

PRODUCTS RE-PURPOSED
(COASTERS, KEYRINGS, PLANT
POTS, SUNGLASSES)

210

VOLUNTEER HOURS

A photograph of a man and a woman standing on a bridge in London, holding protest signs. The man is wearing a blue jacket and holding a sign that says "KEEP THE SEA PLASTIC FREE" with a wave graphic. The woman is wearing a dark hoodie and holding a sign that says "NO MORE" with a poop emoji graphic. In the background, the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben are visible across the River Thames.

COLLABORATING FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

Throughout 2025, we partnered with **over 50** businesses, NGOs, local government teams, educational institutions, and other organisations. By working together, we amplify our impact, avoid duplication, and strengthen our reach. These partnerships have enabled us to engage more communities, share resources, and build a network of passionate individuals dedicated to protecting our environment. Collaboration is at the heart of what we do. Together, we are stronger, more effective, and constantly inspired by those we meet along the way.

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It's a pleasure to be working with Final Straw Foundation on our fight for clean water. Their passion for the environment and local knowledge is fantastic.

Libby Alexander, SOSCA

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A group of swans is gathered on a paved path with yellow double lines. In the foreground, a young brown swan stands facing the camera with its beak slightly open. Behind it, several other swans, including adults and juveniles, are visible, some standing and others partially obscured. The background shows a calm body of water under a clear blue sky. A large yellow quotation mark is positioned to the left of the text box.

This year's achievements are a testament to the power of community action. With every volunteer, every student, and every conversation, we are pushing towards a future where plastic pollution is a thing of the past. Thank you for being part of this journey. Let's keep making waves for a cleaner planet!

THE FINAL STRAW FOUNDATION TEAM

website: finalstrawfoundation.org
socials: @finalstrawfoundation