

## 5,280 Pounds of Clothing Collected at Marine Corps Marathon for Charity

*MCM Green Initiate soars with 15.7 tons in total 2018 recycling and composting*

QUANTICO, VA (Nov 13, 2018) – The 43<sup>rd</sup> Marine Corps Marathon (MCM), held on Sunday, October 28 in Arlington, VA and the nation’s capital, successfully minimized its environmental footprint with an aggressive green campaign. Event organizers and various partners collected and repurposed discarded clothing, composted food items and recycled numerous high volume items.

With ideal and cool running temperatures at the MCM this year, there was a surplus of discarded clothing and jackets left on the MCM course. In an effort to contribute to the local community and keep the streets clean, the Clothing Recycling Company, an MCM partner, collected **5,280 pounds** of clothing. Much of the clothing was distributed to various local shelters and service providers. Almost **1,600 pounds** of athletic clothing has been stored for distribution over the winter months. This year’s number is a 36 percent increase in clothing collected, as compared to the **3,870 pounds** gathered in 2017.

In 2018, the Arlington County, Department of Environmental Services, Solid Waste Bureau tracked the impressive MCM composting and recycling effort. These items were collected from water points along the MCM course, at the MCM Kids Run and in the MCM Finish Festival in Rosslyn.

- **7.47 tons** of total recycled trash and composted materials
- **5.38 tons** of mixed recyclables (includes metal, plastic, glass, food and beverage containers, paper and cardboard materials)
- New in 2018: **1.43 tons** of waxed cups
- **2/3 ton** of Fyffes banana peels

“Every October, the Arlington County Solid Waste Bureau looks forward to assisting the MCM reach their waste reduction goals by collecting recyclable and compostable materials generated at the event. Despite the long hours on event day, the comradery and sense of pride that accompanies working the MCM results in repeat staff requesting to work it year after year. We are proud to be a part of the MCM team that contributes to the event’s overall success!” shares Shani Kruljac, Operations Manager with Arlington County, Department of Environmental Services, Solid Waste Bureau.

In partnership with Fyffes North America, the MCM placed yellow composting receptacles in the MCM Finish Festival located in Rosslyn, VA to collect the **30,000** Fyffes bananas that were distributed to finishers in the hospitality area.

Marion Tabard, VP of Marketing of Fyffes North America, notes, “We initiated the composting program together with the MCM in 2014. Over the years, it has become one of the largest composting programs at a single event. We are proud of the impact of this continued partnership as it aligns strongly with our core values and on-going commitment to sustainable practices.”



# MEDIA RELEASE

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In addition, Veteran Compost collected **1,450 pounds** of orange peels from an on-course food station hosted by Wegmans. This effort left the streets of the MCM streets flawless and without a trace of trash. At the MCM Health & Fitness Expo presented by Cigna, AMVETS National Service Foundation received **200 pairs** of shoes from runners to be repurposed.

New in 2018, the Water Monster made its debut on the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge as a self-serving water station as a new way to “Beat the Bridge.” There were **16 tanks**, each holding 125 gallons of water, for a total of **2,000 gallons**. The amount equals **16,000** 16 oz. water bottles and **48,000 cups** worth of water in green savings.

The MCM is a Gold certified event, the highest level awarded by the Council for Responsible Sport for being socially and environmentally responsible as a world-class running event. The MCM has been recognized for enacting best practices becoming the largest marathon at the time to earn this distinction among environmentally-conscious sporting events. The MCM plans to continue its green efforts in 2019.

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#### **About Marine Corps Marathon:**

*The Marine Corps Marathon (MCM), known as “The People’s Marathon,” promotes physical fitness and generates community goodwill while showcasing the high standards and discipline of the United States Marine Corps. Annually ranked as one of the largest marathons in the US and the world, the MCM welcomes runners from all 50 states and more than 60 countries. The MCM is presented by Arlington County, Brooks, Cigna and Leidos. No federal or Marine Corps endorsement is implied. Connect with the Marine Corps Marathon on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [Flickr](#). #RunWithTheMarines*

#### **About Fyffes:**

*Celebrating its 130th anniversary in 2018, Fyffes is one of the largest and oldest tropical produce importers and distributors. With an infrastructure that reaches across the globe, Fyffes is truly an international player, involved in the production, procurement, shipping, ripening, distribution and marketing of bananas, pineapples, melons and more recently mushrooms. Since 1888, Fyffes has been committed to bringing the world the highest quality products, inspiring people to feel excitement about our brands and making a positive difference for our growers and farmers, our customers and the environment. Today, Fyffes is the largest importer of bananas in Europe and the No. 1 importer of off-shore melons in North America. In addition to tropical fruit, Fyffes is the third largest producer of mushrooms in North America. Discover more at [Fyffes.com](http://Fyffes.com).*