



GREENSAIL

HOW TO ORGANIZE A BEACH CLEAN UP

The most common action taken to fight marine litter is performing a beach clean up. Here is how you can easily organize one in your local community:

BEFORE THE CLEAN UP

- Pick a location and visit the site in advance
- Check if the location is a protected area and if you need permission to be there
- Determine where to set up a check-in station
- Determine where the bags of trash will be left at the end of the clean up
- Determine what specific areas your volunteers will clean
- Encourage your friends, family members and colleagues to get involved
- Find a donor to sponsor lunch after the clean up or remind volunteers to bring their own lunch
- Create a work or Facebook event and spread the word via email and social media
- Determine what kind of materials and supplies you will need (i.e. reusable gloves, bags, sign in sheet, water, food, first aid kit, wipes/sanitizer)
- Ask local businesses / organizations for donation of materials needed (i.e. bags, gloves etc.)
- Make safety checklist (rocky areas, high speed roads, power lines, poisonous plants, sharp items, long pants/closed toed shoes etc)
- Plan ahead to reduce any waste at your event (no plastic packaging/cutlery, donate leftover food, find reusable water solutions etc.)
- Recommend taking public transport, cycling or walking to volunteers
- Check local waste separation options
- Create a sign up and trash collection list

DURING THE CLEAN UP

- Arrive early to set up, post signs and check labeled trash drop off locations
- Prepare sign up list, pencils and data collection list
- Set up break and lunch time
- Perform a debrief before the clean up
- During the debriefing instruct volunteers about the clean up objectives, plan and safety instructions
- Check on the progress of the clean up during the action
- Ensure the waste is appropriately handled
- Ensure children always have adult supervision
- Document the clean up (photos, notes, conclusion, data collection)
- Ensure all trash is left in the designated drop off locations and that no materials are left behind after the clean up
- Find a place for lunch

AFTER THE CLEAN UP

- Thank all participants
- Process the data collected
- Share your results (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Email, Newsletters etc.)
- Thank your donors if any
- Celebrate your accomplishment





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