



Clean-up

Plastic bottles, cigarette butts, batteries and scrap pose many dangers to the environment. Therefore, let's round up your team and do your waters some good: a clean-up! Here are a few things to consider:

I. Clean-up:

1. Specify a location

- look for a spot you want to clear of garbage
- clarify whether it's OK to hold a fund-raising event at the selected location according to the local authorities (obtain permission, best is to inquire at the city or town hall)
- Set a meeting point near the garbage collection area

2. Ensure proper disposal

- determine who disposes of what and at what cost
- set a collection point for trash bags (making sure that those responsible for disposal can clear away the garbage to be disposed of without vehicles or people endangering or destroying parts of the landscape)

3. Pack away things

- take tear-resistant gloves with you (protection against glass, metal and other sharp objects)
- pack enough garbage bags
- provide garbage grippers and/or nets (possibly ask in the city for pricing)
- take bandages and disinfectants
- water/juice/cookies

II. Clean-up 2.0: Garbage research

A clean-up lends itself wonderfully to performing data collection that can be used right away for a little research project. In this case you should pack the following:

- Form for data acquisition (here you may download a form for monitoring at the beach, which can also be applied to large areas on a river bank – in German):

http://www.nabu.de/meeresschutz/OSPAR_Muellerfassung.pdf

- Pens + clipboard
- Scale (for weighing the waste pieces)
- GPS (to determine the traverse/waste collection section or path)

Then you should briefly explain the instructions to all the participants about how things will go and ask for their patience to take time to accurately formulate the entries, as this can take some effort (you have to identify certain waste parts only, determine size and weight), especially while exposed to a strong sea breeze.

More information can be found here (in German):

<http://www.nabu.de/themen/meere/plastik/projekt/sammeln/>

III. First Clean-up, then Upcycling:

Those who notice all the filled garbage bags after the collection campaign, might start to think: Why do we produce so much waste? Where does it come from? And how can we avoid waste? Here are two beautiful ideas for action:

- a) With a little creativity and ingenuity, an art exhibition that encourages visitors to think could be set up with the full garbage bags. On this site (in German) <http://www.nabu-greifswald.de/kreisverband-greifswald/projekt-umwelt-ohne-m%C3%BCll/> you can see pictures of such an exhibition. Or you can build a garbage monster that reminds people to cut back on their rubbish, or at least think carefully about the garbage they produce and hence try to reduce it.
- b) If you want to help to ensure that so much garbage is no longer produced, then consider an upcycling project: print faded T-shirts anew, sew a bag from an outgrown hoodie or build a colourful bookshelf out of old wooden boxes. If you enter "upcycling" into a search engine, you get an incredible number of ideas and instructions for it.

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