GREEN SAIL

Organising a Beach Clean-Up

YOUR GUIDE TO CLEANING UP OUR COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Click to watch our clean-up video

Key Steps

1. Organising
Gather volunteers and assign roles such as team leaders, equipment managers, and data recorders. Choose your location.

2. Risk assessment
Conduct a thorough assessment of the beach environment, noting hazards and plan accordingly - see page 2 for details.
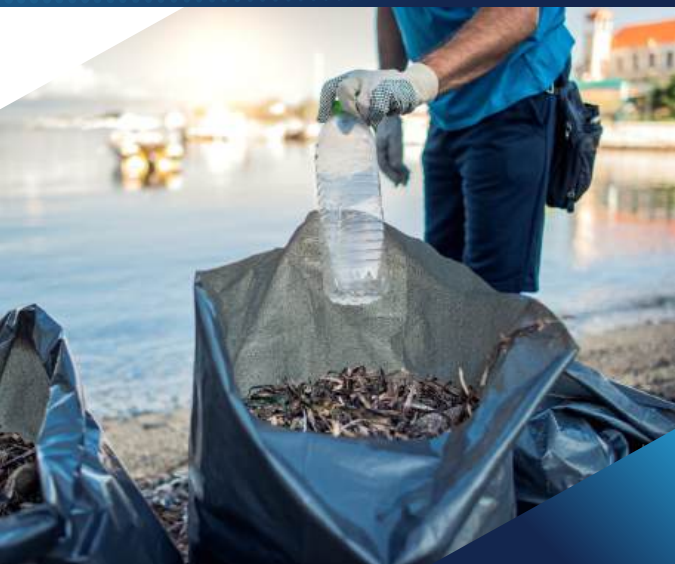
3. Execution
Conduct the beach clean by focusing on designated areas, ensuring all collected waste is properly sorted and disposed of. Read more on page 3.

4. Promotion
Promote the event through social media and local news outlets to raise awareness about the importance of sustainability. Read more on page 3.

The Importance of Beach Clean-Ups

Beach clean-ups are important because they provide tangible environmental benefits and serve as clear examples of how communities can raise awareness about:

- ✓ Responsible waste disposal & recycling
- ✓ Environmental protection
- ✓ Marine life conservation
- ✓ Reducing waste

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2. Complete a Risk Assessment

Green Sail is committed to health & safety standards and values. Below you will find a list of **hazards** along with detailed instructions and **control measures** for ambassadors, partners, volunteers and followers on how to keep safe during your clean-up.

Physical Hazards at Site

Litter collection should be avoided in areas where there is a significant risk to participants. Unsuitable locations include:

- Places with unguarded access to deep or fast-flowing water
- Highways or roadside areas lacking barriers from traffic
- Areas with steep, slippery, or unstable terrain, such as those with holes or excavations

Sharp Objects

Participants involved in litter collection must adhere to procedures and instructions:

- Needles should never be touched or picked up (contact appropriate services in such cases)
- Participants must wear sturdy footwear (no open-toed shoes), trousers and carry protective gloves
- Use litter pickers and avoid picking up litter with their hands

Hygiene and Bio Hazards

Control measures for participants include:

- Wear appropriate outdoor clothing that fully covers the skin
- Wash hands and forearms before eating, drinking, smoking, or using the toilet
- Cover any cuts, even minor ones, with surgical tape or waterproof plasters

Natural Hazards

Participants are advised to:

- Wear appropriate and sensible outdoor clothing and footwear
- Keep hands, arms and legs covered
- Wash hands and forearms before eating, drinking, smoking or going to the toilet

Weather

Participants are advised to wear sensible outdoor clothing, including trousers and warm clothing where appropriate.

Slips and Falls

Participants need to wear strong footwear (no open footwear is allowed) and pick up litter.

Vehicle Movements

Litter picking should not be undertaken on highways or within close, unguarded proximity to roads and areas where there are moving vehicles.

Participants are advised to wear appropriate fluorescent high-visibility vests if near any road.

Lack of Awareness

Age significantly affects the ability to recognise risks, so young participants should always have adequate supervision. There should be at least one responsible adult for every ten participants, and children under 16 must not work in any area without direct adult supervision.

3. Execute Your Clean-Up

01
Set up a base area with supplies, brief volunteers, and provide safety instructions.

02
Systematically cover designated areas, ensuring all rubbish is collected efficiently.

03
Sort collected waste into recyclables and non-recyclables, and recycle at local facilities.

04
Gather volunteers for a debrief to celebrate. Ensure all equipment is accounted for.

4. Promote your Clean-Up

01
Promote the event on social media to highlight your sustainability efforts.

02
Encourage participants to tag Green Sail (see our socials below) or #greensail, so we can promote your work.

Don't forget to tag us on social media & we'll re-post your beach clean-up!

green_sail   Green Sail   GreenSailOrg