

# Beat litter in your area

It may be helpful to make a sketch map of the area to be tackled during pre-visit. Note where the skip or litter collection points should be. If expecting a large number of people you may also want to identify a 'lost and found' point and a first-aid point. Mark on the map the location of any toilets, the nearest public phone and any other useful amenities such as cycle or car parks, bus stops or train station. You might also note places where you could shelter from the rain if the weather turns against you.

## On the day

Make sure everything is arranged to ensure your clean up runs smoothly on the day

- Where, what time to meet and finishing times
- Ensure you have proper litter picking equipment such as litter pickers, gloves, black bags etc. Fluorescent arm bands or clothing should be worn if working in poor light or anywhere near traffic.
- Think about using safe containers if you are likely to be picking up a lot of broken glass or sharp metal, as these items can break through refuse sacks and cause injury.
- Have a first aid kit and anti-bacterial wipes in case of any injury. If you come across hypodermic needles or drug related litter, DO NOT TOUCH THESE YOURSELF.
- The result—note the outcomes of your event. You could also record your progress by taking before, during and after photographs of your clean up. This information can be used to record and report back on your event.

## Publicity

Clean ups can be excellent community events and great local stories. Let your local media know what you are doing - the news desk of your local newspaper, radio or television station - you can get the contact name from Yellow Pages or Directory Enquiries.

Let them know at least one week before the event so that they can put the date in their diary. For weekly local papers check the print deadlines and offer to provide follow up information.

It's also a good idea to contact them the day before to remind them of your event.

**Have a safe and successful event!**

[www.HHEnvironmental.co.uk](http://www.HHEnvironmental.co.uk)

# Community Volunteer Guide





# Litter and the Law

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) brought in tough new measures to reduce litter problems in Britain, making littering a more serious offence. It is the responsibility of local authorities, government departments, statutory undertakers (e.g. Network Rail), most schools, colleges and universities, to keep their area of public land litter free. Failure to follow the EPA's code of practice for littering can result in a caution, a fixed penalty notice, or court action.

## Litter, did you know?

- The local authorities, police and citizens have the right to take legal action to get any public place cleaned.
- Dropping or leaving litter is a criminal offence, with a maximum fine of £2,500.
- The police and local authority can caution or prosecute anyone deemed to be littering.
- Local authorities can use 'Litter Wardens' to issue fixed penalty notices to any member of the public seen to be dropping litter. A fixed penalty notice is between £75 - £100.
- Businesses who are deemed to be the source of littering in an area (e.g. wrappers from a fast food premises) can be issued with a 'Street Litter Control Notice', by local authority. The notice makes the litter in and around the premises the responsibility of that business. Failure to comply results in a fine, plus daily fine until the problem is resolved.
- Throwing litter from a car onto public land is also an offence. The police or local authority can obtain the drivers identity from the DVLA and prosecute them.

## What can you do?

Clean up campaigns are usually started because local people have identified a need in their area; such as developing a piece of waste land, developing or upgrading a playgroup or even trying to influence any planning decisions that will affect the area.

There are many things that established groups/business can do that an individual or an informal collection of individuals would find more difficult.

The benefits include:-

- recognition as a legitimate group within your local community
- encouraging others to join in developing self-help
- bringing together a range of skills, ideas and resources
- increasing awareness of what your group aims to do
- enabling direct action to be taken



# Local Environmental action Beat litter in your area

For many people, litter is the most important issue on the local environmental agenda. Clean ups are a great way to bring communities together. Young and old alike can roll up their sleeves together to show that they care about their neighbourhood and want to keep it looking beautiful.

## Planning your local event

Decide where you would like to clean up—you may want to choose a local land-mark, a well-known area such as a woodland or park. Try to think of ways to make your event as appealing and fun as possible. Choose a central, well-known spot which is familiar to everyone, and choose a start time which suits all.

## Community involvement

Try to get as many groups as possible involved: contact your local schools, uniformed organisations (e.g. Scouts, Brownies etc.) local church and youth groups. Even if people don't actually want to or can't pick up litter, they can still be involved in the organising.

## Health and safety

It is important that your clean up event be as safe as possible. Once you have chosen your area to clean up, visit the site and carry out a full risk assessment (attached). Check for possible risks that could cause harm to you or any volunteers taking part. Beware of Dangerous items: unidentified cans or canisters, oil drums, insecticides, hazardous substances, broken glass, syringes etc.; Natural hazards: areas of water, steep or slippery slopes / banks, derelict buildings, busy roads, electric fences etc.

It is also important to decide on arrangements for removing the rubbish collected during your clean up all which can be taken back to store for disposal.. However, the Council can assist your clean up by collecting the rubbish for you.

Please check our website for more information or how to plan a successful clean up. You can also share your stories on our Facebook and Twitter pages!



litterpickersuk



@litterpickers

Helping Hand Environmental  
Bromyard Road,  
Ledbury,  
Herefordshire  
HR8 1NS

Tel: 01531 635678  
sales@helpinghand.co.uk  
www.HHEnvironmental.co.uk