



River, Lake, Bay & Beach Clean-up

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What can you do?

- Organize a Clean-up event to remove plastic and other trash from riversides, a lake or bay. Organize a 'Beach clean-up' or a 'Clean-up in the forest' action.
 - The Clean-up can take place as a single event at a date you select, or at a special occasion, or you can plan the action periodically.
- Adopt (part of) a River, Lake, Bay or Beach and clean it regularly, e.g. each month.
- Or organize an event, invite non-Rotarians and young people.
- Focus is on publicity and awareness. It all starts with awareness with the general public, refusing to use single-use plastics, reducing plastics and keeping plastic out of our environment.
- At specific days we invite all Rotary and Rotaract Clubs to organize local Clean-up or other awareness events, so we can use each other's pictures and create worldwide publicity and awareness. More information in [our Action program](#).

How to start?

- Investigate who in your club wants to participate. Maybe for a special occasion like the EndPlasticSoup day on the 1st Saturday of June, or as an add-on to another Rotary event.
- Look for other organizations, companies, sport clubs or volunteers with whom you can set up a collaboration. Check with your local city council and community.
- Check whether children want to participate or make an event 'combination' e.g. invite sick or elderly people to give them a special day on the water.
- When cleaning on the water: Check who has a boat, knows people with a boat, or rent a boat.
- Ensure publicity before, during and after including pictures and an announcement of the result, e.g. number of plastic pieces collected (with children) or number of bags, or special objects collected.

Materials

- In several countries there are (government) organizations where you can order materials for free or reduced prices, e.g. in NL when reporting your action at supportervanschoon.nl, or at your local authorities you can get free bags, gloves, flyers etc.
- Order good pricking pods and ensure you have gloves and wear a safety jacket, in NL via: <https://www.clean2day.nl/webshop/hulpmaterialen/afvalgrijpers/detail/60/afvalgrijper-imtras.html>
 - Pricking pods: about 10 euro incl. VAT
- Order a fishing net in NL via: <https://webshop.supportervanschoon.nl/webshop/SNSSCHEPNETB>
 - Fishing net: 12.50 euro incl. VAT
- Possibly you can share materials with other volunteers, schools or sport clubs.
- Take care of Safety:
 - Hygiene: wear gloves, wash your hands, and obey national (Covid-19) rules: it looks like being outside is save, but better save than sorry.
 - Wear yellow safety jackets when walking outside and wear Life-jackets when on the water!



Other tips

- Most of the time you do not need a license to clean the environment, however local laws might be applicable, esp. safety is a topic to consider, e.g. along highways or at crowded places with lots of traffic, or when using a boat.
- Early morning might be a good time. Ensure visibility by wearing a yellow safety jacket with Rotary logo to be recognized.
- When you organize frequent events register your event Trashless.earth: here you can also find creative ideas to use like the 'Trashure Map', a treasure map with different routes to retrieve garbage from the forests etc. or 'Trashless dating' with the date of your dreams: <https://www.trashless.earth/special/trash-map/?fbclid=IwAR2nkxaH5sLYmnumGdSWxqyNKu2IZVcHyh1m3Au62uvaUSTJfs6PJLS04f>
- Use Social Media to create publicity and invite more volunteers. Possibly people with an interest for Rotary Supporting the environment, or who can contribute to the EndPlasticSoup initiative.
- Ensure communication to the community authorities, when children are participating ensure timely communication to parents.
- Make sure clean-up actions are communicated to all participants 'at their own risk' and check volunteers are insured during the clean-up action.
- Rotary and Rotaract Clubs all over the world have gained experiences with Clean-ups, e.g.
 - Cleaning Rivers - <https://cleaningtheriversoftheworld.org>
 - Adopt a River programme with UN in Kenya: <https://rotarynewsonline.org/rotary-unesco-implement-africas-largest-river-restoration-project/>
 - More information on our website [EndPlasticSoup.org](https://www.esrag.org) and on Rotary ESRAG <https://www.esrag.org>
- In several countries there are national and local initiatives, it might be a great idea to collaborate, as there is no competition between NGOs and organizations in our EndPlasticSoup actions! e.g.:
 - The Netherlands: Schone Rivieren ('clean rivers'), an initiative of the IVN Natuureducatie, Plastic Soup Foundation and Stichting Noordzee. The objective is to keep the Dutch rivers plastic free in 2030. Since 2013 clean-up actions are ongoing along the rivers Maas and Waal In parallel source detection is taken place for the garbage found: 'citizen science', hundreds of volunteers have been trained to researchers. They monitor twice per year their own area of a riverside. See: <https://schonerivieren.org/>
You can adopt your own riverside area and involve schools or sport clubs to raise awareness.