

# GREAT CANADIAN SHORELINE CLEANUP

In 1994, employees and volunteers at the Vancouver Aquarium decided to clean up a beach in Stanley Park to protect the city's shorelines. From that first cleanup, the program expanded across British Columbia and by 1997, 400 volunteers were participating in the Great BC Beach Cleanup at 20 sites.

The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup became a national conservation initiative in 2002 and cleanups started appearing in every province and territory.

By 2003, more than 20,000 volunteers were taking part. Public support grew as Canadians became more aware of the harmful effects of shoreline litter on ecosystems, wildlife and people.

In 2010, the Vancouver Aquarium began delivering the program with WWF-Canada, a strong partnership that continues today. You can do your part to help too!

You can join or lead a clean-up in BC here: <http://shorelinecleanup.ca/cleanups/getinvolved>

You can also create a clean-up anywhere in the world! It is easy! Here is what you need to do:

- Set a day and a location
- Invite friends, family and members of the community to get involved. Spread the word through social media, recyclable flyers, and community meetings, or in person!
- Bring with you protective gloves, garbage bags, recycling bags, a proper needle disposal box, and bag or box that is safe to store biological waste.
- Ensure there is adult supervision for young children participating
- Have fun! You are helping the oceans!

**CONGRATULATIONS! You are ready to run a shoreline clean up!**

**After you're done, follow these next steps to further help keep our oceans clean!**

## 1. Share your cleanup results

You collected valuable data during your cleanup. Now share it!

- Tell your friends and family about your cleanup
- Share your cleanup results and photos on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram
- Send your photos and data to your local newspaper
- Take your data card to your municipality and discuss what you found

## **2. Reduce your plastic use**

Single use plastics, such as bottles, grocery bags and food wrappers are found on shorelines across Canada. Prevent them from making their way into our aquatic ecosystems by reducing your plastic use, and then make a switch to plastic free alternatives.

## **3. Start a recycling program at your school or workplace**

Have easy access to a recycling drop off for batteries, light bulbs, cell phones, and other electronics, makes recycling easier. Create your own drop-off center or space in your school or office to ensure these items go to the proper recycling facilities, and stay off our shorelines.

## **4. Bring the Shoreline Cleanup into the classroom**

Are you an elementary school teacher? Continue the learning experience with our free curriculum guides.

## **5. Butt out**

Cigarette butts are the most common type of litter across the globe. Butts can leach harmful toxins into the environment and animals can mistake them for food. If you smoke outside, use a portable ashtray or a small container that can hold your cigarette butts until you can dispose of them properly.

## **6. Choose eco-friendly products**

What goes down our drains can make its way to our ecosystems. Some toothpastes, soaps and facial cleansers can even contain microbeads, tiny plastic beads that cannot be completely filtered out by wastewater treatment plants. Choosing environmentally friendly cleaning products and detergents can help keep our waters free of harmful chemicals. Check product ingredients before purchasing or learn to make your own products.

## **7. Plan a follow-up cleanup event**

Monthly cleanups are a great way to ensure that shorelines and waterways stay clean year-round. Organize a follow-up cleanup event at the same site or pick a brand new site. Bring a friend who has never taken part.