New tools to help communities prevent Marine Litter in North America

Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)
Comisión para la Cooperación Ambiental (CCA)
Commission de coopération environnementale (CCE)

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About the CEC

• An intergovernmental organization established in 1994 as part of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation

• As of 2020, maintained by the Environmental Cooperation Agreement

• Facilitate cooperation to conserve, protect and enhance the North American environment in support of sustainable development

• We conduct research, provide tools and training, and provide a unique space for decision-makers and the public to engage on environmental issues in North America
The CEC and Marine Litter

✓ reducing land-based marine litter through local action

Our Approach

✓ empowering local actors to prevent marine litter at the source
✓ targeting inland and coastal communities
✓ focusing on visible litter
✓ implementing low-cost / low-tech solutions
Volunteer Ocean Trash Data Form

Oceans and marine litter rank as one of the most pressing environmental problems facing our planet. For more than an century, trash artists in marine debris threaten human health, wildlife, ecosystems, and economies around the world. The ocean faces many challenges, but trash should not be one of them. Ocean trash is entirely preventable, and data you collect is an important part of the solution. The International Coastal Cleanup is the world’s largest volunteer effort on behalf of ocean and marine health.

Here's how it works:

1. **Describe the local marine litter portrait**

2. **Identify and engage local marine litter stakeholders**

3. **Convene stakeholders to identify solutions to the local marine litter problem**

4. **Design and implement low-cost and low-technology solutions to the local marine litter problem**

5. **Share and replicate successes in marine litter reduction**
Project Overview

Every year, about 12 million metric tons of plastic waste enter the ocean. This isn’t just dirty water; it’s literally floating plastic with connections to reduce land-based litter and stop it from entering waterways and the ocean.

Did you know that up to 80% of all marine litter originates on land?
Community Solutions for Reducing Marine Litter

Addressing litter before it reaches the ocean

- Focusing on land-based marine litter through the development of engagement and communications tools to support local efforts:
  - toolkit for local community engagement and action
  - a set of ready-to-use public awareness campaign materials to help shift individual behavior around waste and littering