

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)



13 May 2021

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



Ocean and waterway trash ranks as one of the most serious pollution problems choking our planet. Far more than an eyesore, a rising tide of marine debris threatens human health, wildlife, communities 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 are part of the solution. The International Coastal Cleanup is the world's largest volunteer effort on behalf of ocean and waterway health.

HERE IS HOW IT WORKS:



SITE INFORMATION:

Cleaning Site Name: _____

Address or Postcode: _____

City: _____

Country: _____

Nearest Coastal or Landmark: _____

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS WORKING ON THIS CLEANUP:

Adults: _____

Juniors (under 17): _____

MOST UNUSUAL ITEM COLLECTED: _____

TYPE OF CLEANUP:

Land: Underwater: Watercraft:



Building Community Solutions to Marine Litter

Case Study: Tijuana River Watershed

Project Overview

Every year about 8 million metric tons of plastic waste enters the ocean from land. The lion's share of this is considered single-use plastic, but even the reusable, long-lasting plastic water bottles, shopping bags, or single-use food containers do not last forever. They do an excellent job of containing liquids, but they don't stop a plastic's long journey into the ocean.

In 2017, the Clean Water Act Enforcement Compliance (CE) program began to hold municipal water utilities accountable for plastic litter in the Tijuana River and San Felipe Bay watersheds, two ecologically rich, seasonally important transboundary areas.

Working with a lot of organizations, the CE Consortium built partnerships, management and regulatory frameworks with local, state, and federal agencies to design and implement a program and create the knowledge and tools to address local marine litter issues. In doing so, the CE Consortium built knowledge and capacity to strengthen local municipal water utilities' capabilities in their region.

By building a regional network of municipal water utilities, the CE Consortium and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are currently preparing to work on marine litter in the Tijuana River and San Felipe Bay watersheds, two ecologically rich, seasonally important transboundary areas.

Local Solutions to a Global Problem

Stopping litter from entering the ocean involves many levels of government and diverse stakeholders, and can be most effectively addressed through collaborative action, especially when it comes to transboundary areas. This regional approach has been an effective way to address marine litter and can be replicated in all concentrations of North America.

Every year, about 8 million metric tons of plastic waste enters the ocean from land. We need to engage locally with communities to reduce land-based litter and stop it from reaching waterways and the ocean.

Communities Impacted by the Project:

- San Francisco
- Los Angeles
- San Diego
- San Jose
- San Antonio
- San Bernardino
- San Jose
- San Antonio
- San Bernardino

Case Study: Tijuana River Watershed

Why this area?

The Tijuana River watershed is a seasonally important transboundary area. It is one of the most ecologically rich and seasonally important transboundary areas in North America.

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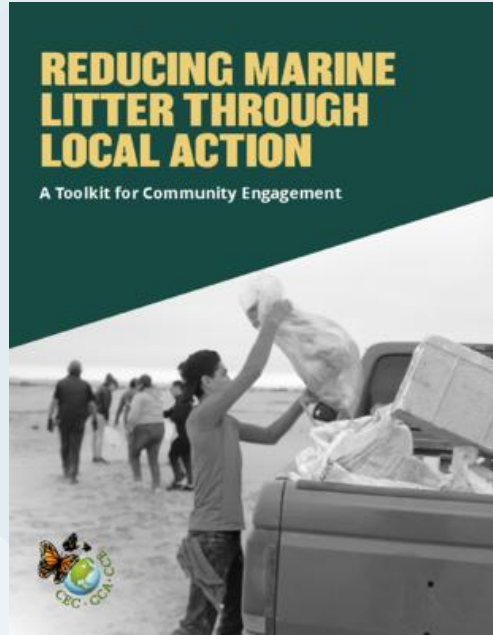


Community Solutions for Reducing Marine Litter

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







cec.org

