

Lurking litter

Even if you don't live near the ocean, you can protect our waterways.

A lot of rubbish in the ocean actually travels from inland too! And there is an abundance of wildlife that relies on waterways - from canals and ponds, to lakes and rivers. Even those pesky seagulls!

Your challenge is to go to a local waterway (or any area that matters to you) and do a litter pick.

What you need:



Rubbish bags



Litter picker
(if possible)



Water



Protective gloves



Task:

Take note of what are the most common pieces of litter. 'Sea' if any are from a business in your community.

You could invite your friends to help and turn it into a game - for example, who can pick the most litter in 20 minutes or in a certain zone?

Follow-up:

If you find a lot of litter comes from the same source, write a letter to the business to encourage them to do something differently.

Some example solutions you could suggest are:

- Installing a bin outside their premises
- Changing the types of packaging they use
- Offer refills & reusable food packaging
- Create some posters to encourage their customers to put their litter in the bin.

Stay safe!

Make sure you stay safe. Stick to paths and don't put yourself in danger trying to stretch too far to reach into nooks and in places you cannot easily access.

Why not suggest your school gets involved?

Can you spot any microplastics?

You can often get bags from your local council to do your litterpick and then notify them where the bags are for pick up.