

ORGANIZING YOUR OWN CLEAN UP

Organizing a clean-up is a good first step. It's a fun day out, a nice work out, meeting likeminded people and feeling a sense of accomplishment when the work is done! Here are some pointers to help you plan and do it well!

1. Location

Although every garbage site is a potential area for a clean-up, you should try to check if it is logistically convenient. A tourist or a crowded location works best, as it gets people to notice. Who knows, you might just recruit some on the spot volunteers! Do an evaluation of the area and look for a waste container to throw the waste you collect; it will help you on the clean-up day.

2. Participation

Tell your friends, family and local community about your plans of transforming the area and get them to participate. No one benefits most than the people who live in the neighborhood. You can also contact the local municipality and let them know of the clean-up, they might just help you out. If you don't have support, don't worry; just get on with the job!!!

3. Make friends with a Kabadiwala

Locate a Scrap Dealer aka a Kabadiwala, who is logistically convenient for you. Explain what you are doing and get a list of the things he buys. Try to go to the bigger ones as they take most of the items. The idea is to get him to buy most of the waste that you will collect, even if it is a low value item. Most scrap dealers buy:

- Any metal item (cans, wires, foil, etc)
- Plastic bottles
- Glass bottles
- Dry paper
- Card board
- Hard plastic items

Most scrap dealers CAN buy (they are not high value items, but some kabadis buy them at a low price):

- Broken glass
- Tetra Pak and small (light) card board boxes
- Plastic or paper cups
- Plastic or paper plates

The scrap dealer is important as based on his list you can segregate and make transport arrangements of the waste that you will collect.

4. Equipment

The basic items that you need for a clean-up are gloves & bags. Flour or sugar bags which cost approx Rs. 6 per bag will work just fine for your first few clean up sessions. The gloves we recommend cost approx Rs.50 per pair but they can be washed and re-used time and time again.

The cost will be minimal and the quantity you need depends on waste, area, people and time allocated for the clean-up. The money from the recyclables helps cover a certain amount spent on transportation, equipment or other expenses incurred such as refreshments for your volunteers.

Ask your friends to contribute or look for potential sponsors. Maybe the local businesses in the area would like to see the area clean on a long term basis and would be happy to contribute.

5. Vehicle

Depending on the volume of waste that you will be collecting and the logistics, you MIGHT need to hire a tempo (or borrow a friend's car) to dispose the waste that you collect. Keep a number handy. The municipality may also arrange for the garbage truck to come and collect it for you. For this, you will need to find out the local area supervisor and tell him about your clean up

6. Jazz it up

You can jazz up your clean up day by throwing in some additional elements like a colour code for participants, uniform T-shirts, creative slogans, hand-made banners etc. Let's make garbage cool!

8. Actual Clean up

Make sure you have set a fixed time and place for people to meet. A small brief helps to kick start the day. Get some boxes ready for the broken glasses and ask people to keep broken glass out of the other bags.

The day is finally here. Go on and get cleaning. Don't be hesitant. We should be ashamed of littering - not picking it up. Do it with a smile, you're doing something great!

Don't forget. Take lots of pictures of how the story unfolds. Before and after pictures make the right impact. Send a press release and some photos to the newspapers in your area. It's a good topic of discussion and may help you to get more volunteers next time.

9. Segregation & Recycling

Once you have done the clean up, please segregate. Maximizing on recycling is the key. Based on the list the Scrap dealer gives you collect the recyclable and non-recyclable waste separately. All the recyclables go to the kabadiwalla and the non-recyclables go to the nearest waste container. Alternatively you can try and segregate as you go along.

10. Post the clean up event

Leave your mark at the cleanup site. Plant a tree, paint a wall mural, leave a hand-made banner or place a garbage bin. You have done a good job so mark your achievement! End the event with a small get together with chai so that people get to interact with each other. Use this time to find possible solutions to KEEP the area clean in the future. Maintaining is as important as cleaning. Organize meetings to keep periodic vigil on the area.

Use the power of online social media marketing and inspire people to take action. Post the album of your clean up event and we will share it with others, so people know about your good work.

BY ORGANIZING YOUR OWN CLEAN-UP AND SENDING US THE INFO YOU AUTOMATICALLY ENTER OUR "BE A WASTE WARRIOR" COMPETITION. THE FIVE BEST CLEAN-UP EVENT ORGANISERS OF 2015 WILL WIN A FREE WASTE WARRIORS T-SHIRT.

