

LITTER ANALYSIS

The Clean Europe Network defines **litter** as ‘waste of small size in publicly accessible areas that has been improperly discarded in the environment, whether willfully or by negligence’.

Trapping or poisoning animals, killing aquatic life through choking or by impacting water quality and spreading of diseases are among the harmful impacts of litter.

Doing a **litter survey** is the best way to get your school and/or community to tackle litter as it will provide you with real evidence on what type of litter is most abundant, allow you to find the best solutions to stop litter accumulating and kick start any action to change attitudes and behavior around waste.



Photo by Jon Tyson on Unsplash

Materials

- Litter Survey (based on Keep Scotland Beautiful litter survey)
- Gloves
- Litter pickers
- Identification badges/stickers/vests
- Pens/pencils
- Tape measure to measure the transect (100m area) and something like chalk or sticks to mark the area
- *If you have it: a mobile phone with camera to take pictures of the litter.*

Litter Survey

Survey date and time:

Weather conditions:

Name of Location:

Type of location:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local neighborhood | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodlands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Roadside/layby/carpark |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School grounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Beach/coast |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Riverside/Canal | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Width of area surveyed (transect):

Litter count

Rubber	Tally/Total
<i>Example</i>	//// 4
Balloons/ribbons	
Boots	
Tyres and engine belts	
Other (please specify)	

Wood	Tally/Total
Crates/pallets	
Wooden chip forks/lolly sticks	
Other (please specify)	

Metal	Tally/Total
Aerosol/spray cans	
Appliances (eg. fridge/microwave)	
BBQs	
Drinks can	
Food can	
Caps/lids	
Fishing weights/hooks/lures	
Foil wrappers	
Paint tins	
Shopping trolley	
Wire/mesh/barbed wire	
Other (please specify)	

Cloth	Tally/Total
Clothing/shoes/towels	
Furnishings	
Sacking	
Other (please specify)	

Glass/Ceramic	Tally/Total
Construction materials (eg. bricks, cement, tiles)	
Drinks bottles/containers: glass	
Glass or ceramic fragments	
Light bulbs/tubes	
Other (please specify)	

Plastic/polystyrene	Tally/Total
4/6 pack rings	
Bags (bin bags/shopping bags...)	
Bottles	
Cigarette butt	
Cigarette lighter/box wrapping, tobacco pouch	
Cups	
Packets (eg. crisps/sweets)	
Pens/pen lids	
Plastic/polystyrene pieces	
Plastic caps/lids	
Jerry can/oil containers/drums	
Fishing line, fishing net and pieces	
Party poppers/fireworks	
Plastic cutlery/trays/straws/stirrers/food container	
Plastic sheeting/industrial packaging	
Shoes/sandals	
Shotgun cartridges	
String/cord/rope	
Toys/dummies	
Other (please specify)	

Dog faeces	Tally/Total
Bagged	
Left unbagged	

Miscellaneous	Tally/Total
Bagful rubbish: black bin bag	
Bagful rubbish: shopping bag	
Other (please specify)	

Extra litter items	Tally/Total

Additional notes and observations:

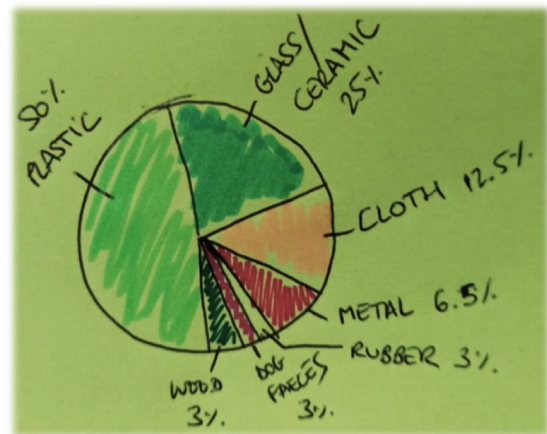
Duration of the Activity

Around 1 hour. This activity can be done in groups of 2-3 people (1 or 2 picking the litter and 1 filling up the survey). This survey could also be part of one of the activities of the eco-committee.

Results and Conclusions

Let's now analyse the litter! You can make a pie/bar chart or similar to visually represent the abundance of the different types of litter and display it in one of the school walls.

- What is the most abundant type of litter?
- Why do you think this type of litter is the most abundant?
- Discuss about the best solutions to stop litter dumping in your area



DISCUSS THE RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS WITH YOUR CLASSMATES AND PLEASE REMEMBER TO ENTER THEM ON THE LITTER_ANALYSIS GOOGLE SHEET AT THE END.