

WHAT'S IN YOUR CLEANUP BAG?

We want to celebrate your cleanup successes. So while you are picking up litter whether on your own or in a group, we want to know what you are finding and where you are finding it. We want to hear your stories about the weirdest trash and the wildest location. We also want to hear your stories of the most common trash and how it affects your beautiful neighborhood. Take photos of your catch and photos of yourself and your team. Post them to your favorite social media with #itsinthebag or #itsinthebagAL. Or you can email them to us to be posted on our social media, website and year-end report.



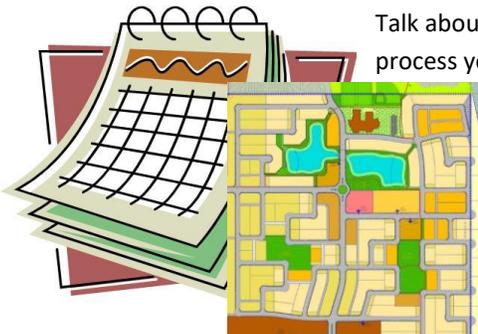
STEP ONE: TELL US AND SHOW US WHAT YOU ARE PICKING UP

There are so many reasons to track the trash. For example you may need special equipment for some cleanups, more or fewer volunteers, and sometimes you can find info pointing to the possible sources of your trash. Tracking the types of trash helps you plan for future cleanups and make your case for support from funders, sponsors and volunteers.

You can track as you walk along, but on occasion you'll want to dump the contents of your cleanup bags out onto a tarpaulin just as this group in South Australia has done. Next sort the trash into some broad categories such as cigarette butts, plastic drink bottles, Styrofoam drink cups, whatever categories make sense for your trash. Then make a rough count of the pieces, the date and location to include in your cleanup team records. Photos are essential for documentation.



STEP TWO: TELL US WHERE AND HOW OFTEN YOU ARE PICKING IT UP



Talk about how and where you're making a difference. Earlier in your planning process you took your map and marked the areas blue, green, yellow and red. Blue areas have no trash. Red areas are super trashy. Your team is doing their part to turn the map and your territory from yellow and red to blue and green. Add a calendar to your tools to track how long the areas stay clean. Tracking your cleanup history helps you plan for the future as you use the info how often a team will need to cleanup.

STEP THREE: SHARE THE INFO WITH OTHERS

Get in the habit of reporting your progress with your cleanup team because you can turn your reports into funding, sponsor and volunteer appeals. But let's get off to an easy start with social media. Post your photos on Facebook and Instagram with #itsinthebagAL and send them to shorecombers@bellsouth.net. We'll be putting out a report in November and want to include your success stories.

We may not see the end of litter in our lifetimes, but we are seeing more and more caring citizens every day.

Got more questions?

BJ Smith, Shorecombers LLC, shorecombers@bellsouth.net, Cell and Text (251) 455-185