

Local Action: Plastic Clean-up



Source: © Plastic Soup Foundation

How much plastic and trash can you remove from your local environment?

That will be the challenge for this week.

Plastic pollution is one of the most visible types of pollution in our world, and it receives significant amounts of attention, both from the media as well as from researchers around the world. Plastic is produced in staggering amounts... over 350 billion kg of plastic products are produced every year, which is the equivalent of 1.6 million Boeing 747 airplanes, or the combined mass of 600 skyscrapers. Put a different way, if all this plastic produced was clingfilm it would be enough to wrap the entire world. Of this, only 9% is recycled, and about 8 billion kg of plastics enters our oceans every year.

Exercise: mapping and cleaning up plastics

This week you will clean-up trash around you. You will work on this for 60 minutes. Please do the following:

- Either by yourself or in a small group go and collect trash around your place
- Every student should download and install the following app: *Litterati* for [Android](#) or [Apple](#)
 - Click on **I'm NEW**
 - Next, make also sure to register by following the instructions on the app (you can sign-in using Facebook).
- **Find something to collect the trash in...** a garbage bag, an old plastic shopping bag, etc.
- Either buy a cheap grabber yourself (and use it to continue to clean up your area), get some good gloves, or only take the picture and upload your result...
- Go out and collect garbage for 60 minutes (or longer... after all, it's your planet!). Make sure to use the app by:
 - Taking a photo of each piece and upload the photo **(yes... it takes a bit of time...)**

- It doesn't only have to be plastic, other items can be included as well, including cigarette butts (is that plastic??), paper, rubber bands, etc).
 - Tag the photo (enter what you have found). For example, cigarette butt, PET bottle, rubber band etc.).
 - Also keep track of the number of items you collected yourself
 - Keep track of the total number of trash items
 - Take some *action* pics of you doing the collection to post in MS Teams
 - More info on how to use the app on <https://www.litterati.org/>.
 - **NOTE: Always be careful when handling trash, use gloves, and steer away from anything with sharp edges (glass etc.).**
- Once done, do the following:
 - Take a picture of your (hopefully) full garbage bag, and share this with your classmates (for example on your online class environment)