

Issue: Litter Prevention

Procedure:

- ◆Pre-Survey
- ◆Discuss litter
- ◆Discover sources
- ◆Study litter problems
- ◆Review clean-up steps
- ◆Conduct a litter clean-up on your schoolgrounds, in your neighborhood, or at a nearby park or business area
- ◆Post-Survey

Materials:

Trash Bags, gloves, survey, worksheets

Activity:

Students select an area to be cleaned up after studying litter and its socio-economic ramifications.

Standards:

Students should know that:

- ◆**Primary:** People are more likely to believe your ideas if you can give good reasons for them.
- ◆**Intermediate:** Many skills can be practiced until they become automatic. If the right skills are practiced, performance may improve.
- ◆**Middle School:** Some matters cannot be examined usefully in a scientific way. Among them are matters that by their nature cannot be tested objectively and those that are essentially matters of morality. Science can sometimes be used to inform ethical decisions by identifying the likely consequences of particular actions, but cannot be used to establish that some action is either moral or immoral.
- ◆**Upper:** Human beings are part of the earth's ecosystems. Human activities can, deliberately or inadvertently, alter the equilibrium in ecosystems.

What is litter?

(Waste, Trash, Garbage, Refuse, Rubbish, Debris, Rubble)

What do all these items have in common? (*They are all part of our municipal solid waste [MSW] stream, otherwise known as garbage and trash, and when not deposited in a proper place, they become litter.*) Keep America Beautiful, a national organization that has publicized litter prevention for more than forty years, describes litter as **1)** waste that is made by humans and discarded in inappropriate places and **2)** improperly stored waste that escapes from its container. Simply put, litter is trash that is left in all the wrong places. Sometimes litter is accidental and sometimes it is deliberate. Litter consists of paper, metal, plastic, glass, rubber, wood, food, clothing, abandoned items, yard wastes, cigarette butts, and product containers or wrappers. With the increase in disposable products and convenience foods and packaging in the last 30 years, litter has become a universal problem.

Why do people litter?

Litter results from a lack of concern and pride in our surroundings. Litter is the symptom; mishandling of our solid waste is the behavior; and attitude is the problem. Litter occurs when people:

1. **Feel no sense of personal ownership.**
2. **Believe someone else will clean up after them.**
3. **See that trash and litter have already accumulated.**
4. **Discover there are not enough trash receptacles.**
5. **Think that disposal costs are too high.**
6. **Believe that litter laws are weakly enforced.**

Litterbugs create deliberate litter. People who study litterbugs have found that deliberate litterbugs say things like:

- “It’s okay because that litter was already there.”
- “I don’t live here, so who cares?”
- “No big deal - I only threw out a little gum wrapper.”
- “There’s no trash can. What am I supposed to do?”
- “People get paid to pick this litter up.”
- “I didn’t litter; the wind just blew it there.”

Brainstorm with your class to think of other possible comments that litterbugs might make. How would the students respond

to a litterbug? When trash is left in the wrong place on purpose, it is more than deliberate litter; it is illegal dumping. Illegal means it is against the law. Illegal dumping is ugly; it lowers our quality of life; and it can be dangerous and hazardous to our health and welfare.

Where does litter come from?

Litter can be found on the ground, the floor, the sidewalk, in yards, ditches, streets, under a bridge, in a park, beside the road, in trees and shrub branches, floating or blowing by. Litter is an eyesore and serves as an invitation to add more litter and other trash to it. Research has shown that litter comes from the following sources:

1. **Households** - Loose trash can lids, torn plastic bags, overflowing garbage cans
2. **Commercial Dumpsters** - Uncovered or overfilled containers
3. **Construction Sites** - Building debris and worker litter
4. **Uncovered Vehicles** - Trucks inadequately covered with tarps
5. **Loading/Unloading Docks** - Business and industrial areas
6. **Motorists** - Bikers, truck and car drivers, motorcyclists, deliberate dumpers
7. **Pedestrians** - Walkers, runners, picnickers, parades, sporting and other events
8. **Boaters and Water Recreation** - Boaters, fishermen, campers

Ask the class which categories represent the public and which are commercial? Which are stationary sources and which are moving violations? The biggest litterbugs come from cars and walkers.

What happens in Indianapolis?

Indianapolis is one Indiana city that is cracking down on illegally-dumped trash and litter. Nearly one million dollars are spent each year sweeping our city streets of litter. In 1993, it cost the city approximately \$112,000 to locate and get rid of 2,700 tons of illegally-dumped trash, including cigarette butts and fast food containers. Fines can range up to \$2,500. Half of our illegally dumped trash comes from motorists and pedestrians. The other half comes from uncovered garbage cans and untied garbage bags, overfilled commercial dumpsters, construction and demolition debris, uncovered trucks, and improper disposal of roofing shingles, major appliances, mattresses, tires, and tree branches. Deliberate litter accounts for more than half of roadside trash, much of it fast-food packaging.

Once discovered, the Department of Public Works must clean it up and dispose of it properly. The expense of these clean-ups comes out of taxpayers' dollars. The Indianapolis Police Department and the Health & Hospital Corporation can cite people for littering. The fine is \$45 and must be paid within seven days. The fine increases to \$50 after seven days, and can go up to \$100 a day.

(According to a study made by the Wall Street Journal several years ago, litter declines 50 percent when it rains, but doubles when the temperature goes from 50 to 75 degrees. The study also states that 70 percent of all litterers are under the age of 35, and 75 percent are male.)

Statistics show that 50% of all our litter comes from these two sources with the balance the result of the other six categories. Ask the students to give an example of litter from each source. Organize a litter walk to discover the types and sources of litter in your school neighborhood. Use Chart A to help document your discoveries. **The real solution to the litter problem is preventing it. Picking up litter is a temporary solution.** Divide the class into groups to do a little detective work. Ask them to discover:

- a) where litter exists,
- b) what the litter is,
- c) what is the source of this litter, and
- d) what are some ways to solve the litter problem?

What kinds of people litter?

- ◆ Sport Litterbugs
- ◆ Bad-aim Litterbugs
- ◆ Movie Litterbugs
- ◆ Smoking Litterbugs
- ◆ Traveling Litterbugs
- ◆ Picnic Litterbugs
- ◆ Fishing Litterbugs
- ◆ _____ Litterbugs

Where is litter found?

Litter can accumulate almost anywhere. People who litter are called litterbugs. They have a bad habit that harms our environment. Divide the class into teams and ask each to portray a litterbug. Let the other students guess which litterbug the role players are. What are some other possible bad litterbug habits? Work to replace this behavior with good habits. *(It takes 20-31 days to create a new habit.)*

Litter can be found on streets, street medians, driveways, roads, road medians, sidewalks, alleys, parking lots, school grounds, vacant lots, parks, beaches, playgrounds, waterways, work areas, storage areas, fast food outlets, shopping centers, convenience stores, supermarkets, service stations, motels and hotels, hospitals, churches, schools, and college campuses. Can your students think of other locations?

Introduce the concept of LITTER PREVENTION and ask the students what they think it means *(activities designed to inform and educate people about litter and to encourage them not to litter)*. **Education is the crucial factor in preventing litter and changing individuals' behavior.**

Why is litter bad?

Litter is harmful to people, animals, the economy, and the environment. Far more than just unsightly and annoying, however, it is a symptom of uncaring behavior and disrespect for the community. Many experts in the fields of urban planning, government, and sociology see a strong relationship between a badly littered neighborhood and a crime-ridden one. People see the disinterest, and it causes a chain reaction; littering, graffiti, and illegal dumping then become acceptable behavior. With no one taking ownership or pride in the neighborhood, neglect and apathy set in and help fuel further deterioration, often leading to other social ills. This result is described as the **Broken Window Theory**. With declining government spending available, it is vital that all citizens step forward to take responsibility in keeping our communities clean.

Why pick up litter?

- ◆ Litter removal and prevention improves the communities in which people live.
- ◆ Litter removal costs money. It uses tax dollars that could be better spent elsewhere.
- ◆ Litter has a negative effect on the local economy: tourists stay away or don't stay as long and may not return; businesses relocate or avoid dirty cities where there is low community pride. As a result, tourist dollars and business taxes can be lost.
- ◆ Litter destroys the natural beauty of any community, no matter how beautiful the landscape may be.
- ◆ Litter represents a potential hazard to local wildlife.
- ◆ Litter is everyone's problem.

How can we help make Indianapolis beautiful?

Every person in Indianapolis can impact the quality of life in our community. By doing simple little tasks, everyone can make our city a cleaner, healthier, and more attractive place to live. There are many things that your students can do to help make their community cleaner. The most successful way to prevent litter in Indianapolis communities is to have an ongoing, organized program that involves schools, businesses, civic groups, local government, and private citizens. One of the biggest programs is the Great American Cleanup launched in 1999, which takes place in more than 100 cities across the United States during the months of March, April, and May each year. In 2002 the Cigarette Litter Initiative was begun to fight cigarette butt litter. Visit www.kab.org to read more about this program.

In 1997, 9,000 Indy volunteers picked up 250,000 pounds (125 tons) of trash in our city through the Glad Bag-a-thon program. Non-bagged litter such as junked cars, appliances, brush, tires, etc. filled 20 packer trucks and 49 forty-cubic-yard dumpsters. 23,960 pounds of newspaper were recycled, and 1,608 pounds of used clothing were collected and donated to Goodwill.

In 1998, 11,045 volunteers worked throughout the three months to collect over 360,000 pounds (180 tons) of bagged trash and 496,000 pounds (248 tons) of non-bagged litter. In 1999, the program was expanded even further. Under a new name, the Great American Clean-up involved more than two million people across the United States in 2003. The program runs from March through May each year.

In the fall of 2000, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful and WRTV6 partnered to conduct the largest clean-up ever in Indy's history. More than 24,000 volunteers gathered in 2003 in an effort to keep our city free of litter in this ongoing program. They removed 3.7 million pounds. Use the following tips to rid your city of all the litter:

How do you make Indianapolis litter-free?

- ♦ **Set an example by not littering. Take care of your own trash by disposing of it properly.**
- ♦ **Tell your friends and neighbors that littering is illegal and involves a fine.**
- ♦ **Involve your family as volunteers in a clean-up in your neighborhood.**
- ♦ **Remember that most people will not litter in a place that is clean and pretty. Plant flowers to discourage litterers.**
- ♦ **Report litterers to the responsible party (Principal at school, Supervisor at work, or Legal Notification.)**
- ♦ **Pick up at least two pieces of litter every day and dispose of properly.**
- ♦ **Make sure your trash at home is sealed securely in a trash bag or container when you put it out for the garbage collector. Don't place it in open containers or boxes.**
- ♦ **Keep a litter bag in your parents' car.**
- ♦ **Tie loose papers in a bundle to keep the wind from blowing and scattering them.**
- ♦ **Adopt a spot that collects litter and maintain it on a regular basis.**
- ♦ **Send letters to businesses and ask them to check their dumpsters daily to make sure the side and top doors close securely.**

How does litter move?

- ♦ The wind blows it.
- ♦ Traffic moves it.
- ♦ Water carries it.
- ♦ Animals scatter it.

- ♦Develop a program at your school honoring individuals or businesses for their litter prevention efforts.
- ♦Become involved in the local Great American Cleanup, sponsored by Firestone, Georgia Pacific, Pepsi, Lysol, AT & T Wireless, MTD “Yard Man” Products, Waste Management, Ruffies, Motrin IB, Wrigley, Coca-Cola, Kroger, and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful each mid April through mid October.
- ♦Write construction companies or hauling companies to ask them to make sure their trucks are covered when transporting materials. Have enough trash containers, and encourage snow fencing to keep the wind from blowing debris to other areas.

How do you organize a litter clean-up?

Hold a litter clean-up in your school neighborhood. Be sure to talk about the project ahead of time. Decide if the clean-up will be a classwide or schoolwide clean-up. See Chart D to learn how to organize a safe clean-up. Take time to discuss the safety precautions before conducting your clean-up. The bottom line is safety first. Record the results of your clean-up on Chart B.

What are some safety tips?

- ♦ Wear gloves and thick-soled shoes, no sandals.
- ♦ Wear long pants and a long-sleeved shirt.
- ♦ Wear safety vests for roadside clean-ups.
- ♦ Don't overdo - stop and take a rest break.
- ♦ Don't overstuff bags; never pick up sharp objects.
- ♦ Wash hands after clean-up.
- ♦ Be watchful of vehicles in streets and/or in alleys.
- ♦ When working with students, make sure there is an adult present at all times and that safety instructions have been given.
- ♦ Under no circumstances should anyone ever touch or pick up a needle or syringe.
- ♦ **NEVER** place yourself in an unsafe situation.
- ♦ Do not let children/students/youth volunteers stray away from the group.
- ♦ Safety is the most important consideration. If you have any questions regarding the safety of picking up an item or not...**DON'T!**

What else can our class do?

1. As a class, vote on a site to keep clean. Adopt the area and keep it clean to discourage others from littering. Place a sign that designates your school as having adopted a site. Take before and after photos to document your actions. See Chart C to learn how long it takes before litter disappears.
2. Hold a Trash Barrel Paint-In. Decorate barrels to be used as attractive trash containers. Award winners in different categories for their artwork. You might even loan or rent your barrels to various civic groups who are holding festivals. Be sure to line them with a trash bag.
3. Design a trash button logo or a litter quitter logo. Place on tee-shirts and sell them as a fund raiser for your school.
4. Have students come up with a list of ways they can prevent litter. Then develop a speaker's bureau to give talks to other classrooms about the importance of eliminating litter in a community.
5. Write and perform a litter prevention skit, or create a slogan for your school to adopt that will help

educate others about the need for litter prevention. Work the word search found in Chart G to become familiar with the vocabulary you might use in your skit.

6. Participate in the Great American Clean-up in Indianapolis each spring in March, April, and May and the fall in September and October.
7. Conduct the pre- and post-survey on the values that your students hold regarding litter. See Chart E. Compare the two surveys to see if there are any changes in your students' attitude toward litter following the study of litter problems and a school or neighborhood clean-up.
8. Examine the expenses associated with littering by working the story problems found in Chart F.

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1. Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc., 1998, 2002, 2004
 2. Keep America Beautiful, 1998
 3. First Brands Corporation, 1998
 4. Brunson, Ph.D., Liesette, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1998

Teachers' Answer Keys

Litter Search Answer Key

C	I	P	B	D	G	F	H	I	L	L	E	G	A	L	Y	N	A	L	C
E	J	C	M	O	L	I	T	T	E	R	D	P	I	H	L	S	P	I	S
K	B	S	F	N	A	N	B	L	P	W	N	Q	N	M	C	X	U	R	T
L	D	A	C	B	D	E	A	R	T	H	V	D	D	A	Y	R	S	F	S
A	V	D	E	J	B	S	S	E	M	C	P	E	I	N	O	L	A	W	E
W	I	S	P	B	A	G	S	A	Z	Q	N	O	A	K	U	I	P	M	V
P	L	R	T	T	G	A	R	B	A	G	E	C	N	G	B	T	G	Z	O
E	R	E	C	I	A	S	X	Y	L	M	Z	B	A	C	I	T	A	E	L
Q	S	E	A	D	T	R	A	S	H	J	L	P	P	A	P	E	R	D	G
R	E	T	V	P	H	S	Z	M	I	K	U	N	O	Y	S	R	B	U	T
A	Z	N	C	E	O	V	S	L	E	N	A	D	L	P	E	B	A	C	D
W	T	U	X	R	N	L	O	T	A	C	J	K	I	B	O	U	G	A	I
X	O	L	L	C	B	T	N	E	H	N	E	T	S	A	K	G	E	T	L
D	E	O	I	L	R	R	L	S	U	B	N	S	E	L	C	Y	C	E	R
E	A	V	R	Q	E	C	A	U	T	I	O	N	Y	V	B	X	L	S	M
B	E	S	P	B	N	R	Y	I	O	P	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y
R	M	W	A	S	T	E	F	C	J	F	B	T	E	A	M	W	O	R	K
I	L	D	P	J	Y	C	M	Q	Z	B	E	I	S	K	C	U	R	T	P
S	Y	T	S	N	A	I	R	T	S	E	D	E	P	L	R	N	V	E	J
K	Q	I	D	U	M	P	L	C	M	S	T	S	I	R	O	T	O	M	B

Story Problems Answer Key

1. \$24,384.00
2. \$61,144.00
3. \$286,140.00
4. a) \$456,000.00 b) \$742,140.00
5. a) 1,850 tons b) 185,000 bags (rounded off)
6. \$3125.00
7. 18,226.6 or 3788 pounds per day
8. 152 pounds per volunteer
9. a) 3.8 million pounds b) 1,900 tons c) 190,000 bags
10. a) 70,400,000 bags b) 63 pounds c) Indianapolis picked up 89 pounds more.
This is good because volunteers worked harder and picked up more litter, but bad because it means Indianapolis had more litter.

How Long Does It Last? Answer Key

Answers: #1) 2-4 weeks, #2) 1-5 months, #3) 3-14 months, #4) 1 year, #5) 13 years, #6) 100 years, #7) 200-500 years, #8) 450 years, #9) unknown

Chart B

Name: _____ Clean-up Time Length: _____

Where did we pick up litter?

Date	Clean-Up Site	Number of Bags Collected	Number of Volunteers

Date	Clean-Up Site	Number of Bags Collected	Number of Volunteers

Date	Clean-Up Site	Number of Bags Collected	Number of Volunteers

Date	Clean-Up Site	Number of Bags Collected	Number of Volunteers

Date	Clean-Up Site	Number of Bags Collected	Number of Volunteers

Date	Clean-Up Site	Number of Bags Collected	Number of Volunteers

Date	Clean-Up Site	Number of Bags Collected	Number of Volunteers

How long does it last?

Guess the time required before the item listed below actually decays or biodegrades in an exposed environment:

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|-------|
| 1. | Greeting Card | _____ |
| 2. | Cotton Shirt | _____ |
| 3. | Rope | _____ |
| 4. | Wool Sweater | _____ |
| 5. | Painted Bird House | _____ |
| 6. | Tin Cat Food Can | _____ |
| 7. | Aluminum Pop Can | _____ |
| 8. | Plastic Detergent Bottle | _____ |
| 9. | Glass Ketchup Bottle | _____ |
| 10. | _____ (Add your own item.) | _____ |
| 11. | _____ | _____ |
| 12. | _____ | _____ |
| 13. | _____ | _____ |
| 14. | _____ | _____ |
| 15. | _____ | _____ |

How do you organize a Litter Clean-up?

Before the Clean-up Day

- Decide upon a clean-up site that will work for your school. Make sure it is a safe location and avoid busy traffic areas. Decide what to do with the recyclables the students pick up, prior to the clean-up.**
- Tell the principal and parents about the proposed clean-up date and obtain signed permission slips. If you are taking your class into the surrounding neighborhood, be sure to take health information and emergency numbers.**
- Ask parents to help as chaperones/clean-up volunteers. Select a clean-up chairman and assign students to teams with an adult in charge of each.**
- Invite local dignitaries and school personnel to your clean-up. Try to obtain a special proclamation from the city. Develop a theme or contest to build awareness.**
- Invite the media. Make sure your one page notice includes who, what, where, when, and why, plus a contact name and number. Call several days before the clean-up date and again on the actual date.**
- Organize your supplies. Include gloves, garbage bags, pencils and information sheets, camera, cellular phone for emergencies, first aid kit and appropriate medication, cups, water or other drinks, safety vests, and supplies such as hats, sunscreen, and sunglasses. Line up refreshments for your volunteers.**
- Plan a rain date for your clean-up.**

Clean-up Day

- Leave a complete list of students involved, a map of area to be cleaned, and emergency numbers with the school office.
- Ask a parent to set up a first aid and drink station somewhere on the route.
- Assign parent volunteers to teams of students. Brief the parents on appropriate classroom rules.
- Explain to the students they are to stay together in a team (partners work best), and they must heed their parent team leader.
- Each team member should have a job:
 - ♦ one to hold the garbage bag (for those students who were instructed by their parents not to pick up any litter).
 - ♦ one to hold a recyclable bag if class has decided to recycle.
 - ♦ one to log each piece of litter picked up on Chart A.
 - ♦ one or two to pick up litter. Students can change jobs as they choose.
- Arrange for trash and recyclable pick-ups, either along the route or at the end of the clean-up.
- Make sure everyone knows, including volunteers, when to head back to school.
- Present every participant with a certificate at the end of the clean-up. Send out thank you letters to all volunteers.
- Calculate the results:
 - ♦ Amount of litter removed (by weight & by number of ten 40 gal.trash bags)
 - ♦ Amount of recyclables removed
 - ♦ Number of participants
 - ♦ Number of total hours donated to the clean-up
 - ♦ Total data collection sheets
 - ♦ Cost savings to school or community
 - ♦ Most unusual item found
 - ♦ Most interesting stories
- Poll students to see if there are any behavioral or attitudinal changes. Write appropriate stories or essays about their experiences. Think about printing results in

What did we find out about litter?

1. What is litter? Where does it come from?
2. Who do you think litters the most? Why?
3. Would you feel bad about littering in an area where there is already a lot of litter lying around? Explain your answer.
4. Would you feel bad about littering in an area where there is no trash lying around? Explain.
5. What would you do if you saw someone you knew litter?
6. What kinds of problems does litter cause in your community or does it?
7. Have you ever picked up litter you found? Why?
8. Why do you think people litter?
9. What do you believe is the most common kind of litter?
10. What does a littered area say about your community?

Chart F

Litter Story Problems – What does it say?

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. In 1990, Indianapolis implemented their “War Against Illegal Dumping.” The city issued 127 tickets. The average fine per ticket was \$192.00. How much money was collected from the fines?

2. In 1991, the City collected \$25,168.00 in fines and in 1992, \$11,592.00 were collected in fines. For the three years of the “War Against Illegal Dumping,” how much money did the City collect in fines?

3. In the past, the Indianapolis Department of Public Works used approximately 19,000 man hours each year to clean up litter and illegal dumping. If manual labor costs \$15.06 an hour, how much does it cost Indianapolis each year to pay workers to clean up other peoples’ litter, assuming one man hour equals one hour worked?

4. The equipment for a clean-up runs \$24.00/hour. a) How much does it cost the Indianapolis taxpayers to pay for this equipment assuming one man hour equals one hour of equipment use? b) What is the total cost of labor and equipment to clean up litter in Indianapolis each year?

5. In 2003, the Great American Clean Up program picked up 3,700,000 pounds of litter. a) How many tons is that? b) If each 33 gallon trash bag holds 20 pounds of bagged litter, how many trash bags were used in the Great American Clean Up?

Name: _____

6. Marion County taxpayers pay over one million dollars a year to clean up litter and trash dumped on public property. For each ton of litter collected from the G.A.C. clean-up, the tipping fee at the Waste-to-Energy Facility is \$25.00 per ton of trash collected and burned. How much did it cost to take the litter to the WTE facility?

7. If the 2003 litter clean-up lasted from April 5th until October 25th, what was the average amount of litter picked up each day? Round off your answer to the nearest tenth.

8. If 24,293 volunteers picked up litter in 2003, what is the average amount of litter each volunteer picked up? Round off your answer.

9. a) If the G.A.C. project meets their goal of 25,000 Indianapolis volunteers in 2004, how much trash might they potentially pick up? b) How many tons would that be? c) How many bags would they use?

10. In 2003, 2,240,000 volunteers in 14,000 cities across the United States picked up 148 million pounds of litter. a) How many bags did they use? b) How much trash on an average, did they pick up? c) Did Indianapolis volunteers pick up more or less litter than their national counterparts? How much? d) Is this good or bad? Explain.

Chart G

Name: _____ Date: _____

How about a litter Search?

C I P B D G F H I L L E G A L Y N A L C
E J C M O L I T T E R D P I H L S P I S
K B S F N A N B L P W N Q N M C X U R T
L D A C B D E A R T H V D D A Y R S F S
A V D E J B S S E M C P E I N O L A W E
W I S P B A G S A Z Q N O A K U I P M V
P L R T T G A R B A G E C N G B T G Z O
E R E C I A S X Y L M Z B A C I T A E L
Q S E A D T R A S H J L P P A P E R D G
R E T V P H S Z M I K U N O Y S R B U T
A Z N C E O V S L E N A D L P E B A C D
W T U X R N L O T A C J K I B O U G A I
X O L L C B T N E H N E T S A K G E T L
D E O I L R R L S U B N S E L C Y C E R
E A V R Q E C A U T I O N Y V B X L S M
B E S P B N R Y I O P C O M M U N I T Y
R M W A S T E F C J F B T E A M W O R K
I L D P J Y C M Q Z B E I S K C U R X P
S Y T S N A I R T S E D E P L R N V E J
K Q I D U M P L C M S T S I R O T O M B

trash can
Glad BagAThon
clean-up
garbage can
community
walk

caution
trash
paper
pedestrians
educate
recycle

litter
waste
motorists
March
May
debris

volunteers
fines
tips
Earth--Day
teamwork
April

litterbug
Indianapolis
prevent
garbage
trucks
wrappers

KIB
bags
gloves
tons
dump
illegal

What are some Service Learning Opportunities?

Adopt one of the 30 “Indianapolis Recycles” green bins in Marion County and keep it free of the litter that tends to accumulate at these sites. Plan to make weekly or semi-weekly visits. Call Keep Indianapolis Beautiful at (317) 264-7555 to learn the location of the 30 bins or check out KIB’s web page for the sites:

www.kibi.org

Create a litter-free event at your school. Provide publicity leading up to the event. Have disposal containers placed strategically to collect all trash and litter. Or offer to manage a fair or sporting event in your community to make it a litter-free function.

Adopt a stream, pond, river, wetlands, park, median, vacant lot, business corner, or wooded lot in your neighborhood. Keep it free of litter; plant native plants and trees; take photos to educate others about your spot. You may want to involve other partners to help you in your project.

Conduct a community-wide yard sale to allow residents to get rid of their trash before it becomes litter. Offer your services to a church, neighborhood association, or youth group. Use the funds earned to provide permanent trash containers or to beautify the area.

Conduct a workshop for younger students or older adults to educate them about the socio-economic problems associated with littering. Partner with a half-way house or mission for the homeless to conduct a clean-up of their area.

Work with the local fast food restaurants in your area to develop a campaign that educates patrons not to litter by tossing their fast food containers, etc., on the grounds or parking lots as they exit the store.

Conduct a poll that spotlights the chief litterers in your community and then design an anti-litter campaign that targets that group.

Work with businesses to provide education and a receptacle for their employees’ cigarette butts. Try to eliminate the habit of discarding butts on the public thoroughfares. Publish photos and documentation from the clean-up in the neighborhood paper.

**the neighborhood
paper. Publish photos
and documentation from
the clean-up.**