

ORGANISER'S GUIDE

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE ////////// OCEAN INITIATIVES 2013



CONTENTS

//3 OCEAN INITIATIVES: LET'S FIGHT AGAINST DISPOSABLE PLASTIC!	//3 PLASTIC, THE SCOURGE THAT RAVAGED OUR BEACHES, LAKES, RIVERS AND SEA BEDS!	//5 OCEAN INITIATIVES 2013	
//6 HOW TO ORGANISE YOUR CLEAN-UP STEP BY STEP BEFORE THE CLEAN- UP: D-30 TO D DAY	//9 ON CLEAN-UP DAY	//10 AFTER THE CLEAN-UP	//11 SUMMARY SHEET: OI MEMO
//12 ORGANISING YOUR CLEAN-UP	//19 RECYCLING AND DEVELOPMENT OF MARINE LITTER	//21 APPENDICES: COMPULSORY DOCUMENTS	

If you **REQUIERE** any **INFORMATION**, please

DO NOT HESITATE to get in touch.

Organisation

Aines ARIZMENDI

Head of Ocean Initiatives

Email: aarizmendi@surfrider.eu

+ 33 (0)5 59 01 61 50

Géraldine COHAT

Ocean Initiatives Assistant

Email: infocleanup@surfrider.eu

+ 33 (0)5 59 01 61 50

Communication

Audrey MILHORGNE

Communication Coordinator

Email: amilhorgne@surfrider.eu

+ 33 (0)5 24 67 12 11

Mélanie THIRIET

Communication Assistant

Email: infocom@surfrider.eu

+ 33 (0)5 24 67 12 42

OCEAN INITIATIVES:

LET'S FIGHT AGAINST DISPOSABLE PLASTIC!

Plastic, the scourge that ravaged our beaches, lakes, rivers and sea beds!

For 18 years, the **Ocean Initiatives** have been uniting thousands of volunteers around the world with a common aim: To fight against the increase of marine litter polluting the oceans, lakes, rivers and sea beds

In 2012, thanks to an unprecedented mobilization, with a registration of more than 1200 operations with 50,000 volunteers overall, over 2,500 m³ of litter has been gathered (that's the equivalent of 26 buses) through the annual *Ocean Initiatives* campaign.

The *Ocean Initiatives* play an essential role in the awareness of the problem of marine litter in the marine environment.

- **On an individual level**, they spread awareness to each participant and share the practices of eco-citizens and the adoption of durable consumption.
- **On a collective level**, we target institutions specifically so that they fully recognize the polluting nature of the marine

litter and make it an environmental priority.

This exceptional citizen mobilization gives great resonance to Surfrider Foundation Europe, to the claims that it submits and the missions it defends in environmental matters. For several years, the oceans have been the main dump for human activity. The exponential increase of marine litter is directly linked to our consumption habits.

In view of reports of previous editions of Ocean Initiatives, **75% of marine litter collected is composed of plastic material**. Out of the 100 million tonnes of plastic produced every year, almost 10% ends up in the ocean (source: Greenpeace).



So, Surfrider Foundation Europe decided to act against plastic and focus Ocean Initiatives 2013's environmental campaign on disposable plastic waste an international campaign, « **Rise Above Plastics** ».

The main objective of the campaign is to spread awareness to citizens and institutions of the necessity to reduce the consumption of disposable plastic, with emphasis this year on plastic bags.

This campaign will be implemented via various tools and actions that will involve all the volunteers. .

Indeed, via the « **postcard** » tool, volunteers and citizens will participate in lobbying led by Surfrider Foundation Europe aimed at European institutions and with the **sticker**, the volunteers will be invited to get active locally, to spread awareness to businesses and customers about reducing their disposable plastic bag consumption.



Ocean Initiatives 2013

Ocean Initiatives are organized throughout the year, with the organization of a long weekend of eco-citizen participation which takes place on the first weekend of spring: From Thursday, March 21st to Sunday, March 24th, 2013.

Over these four days, thanks to your involvement, hundreds of operations will be simultaneously organized on a worldwide scale, with the participation of volunteers, sports clubs, students, institutions, businesses...



Anyone can organize an Ocean Initiative. A true “turn-key” operation, the Ocean Initiatives allow you to take action yourself by cleaning and spreading awareness: Your Initiative expresses your personal involvement and commitment to the environmental cause!

Surfrider Foundation and the Ocean Initiatives team support you with logistics and training. This support is free and is not limited to members of the association. This guide includes tips to organize and develop your operation, step by step.

It also includes a description of the tools in the training kit designed by Surfrider Foundation, which will be sent to you upon registration of your operation on the website www.initiativesoceanes.org.

Every Ocean Initiative that is organized represents another step in the fight against marine litter. By acting locally against this pollution, you are contributing to the success of the event and helping the reputation of the association. **Thank you for supporting the Surfrider Ocean Initiatives and for continuing to fight with us against marine litter.**

OCEAN INITIATIVES IN 2012 :

50 000 participants

11 000 schools

44 countries

+ than 1230 clean-ups
on beaches, rivers, lakes and the seabed

HOW TO ORGANISE

YOUR CLEAN-UP STEP BY STEP

Before the clean-up: d-30 to d day

SELECT THE LOCATION (BEACH, LAKE, RIVER, WATER COURSE, SEA-BED)

Check on www.oceaninitiatives.org that a clean-up is not already planned there at the same time. Clean-ups are catalogued geographically or in a list.

If there already is a clean-up planned, do not hesitate to contact the organiser to co-ordinate the operation together. For rivers and water courses, check that it is not on private land. Check the **ease of access** and **safety** of the location, particularly the **height of river or lake banks**. You are advised to inspect the site beforehand.

Also check and take into account the times of high and low tide. (see *safety instructions at the end of this guide*).

CREATE YOUR CLEAN-UP ON THE WEBSITE AT WWW.OCEANINITIATIVES.ORG

Follow the instructions for registering. You have to enter a meeting time: for beach clean-up operations you are advised to organise the operation while the tide is going out.

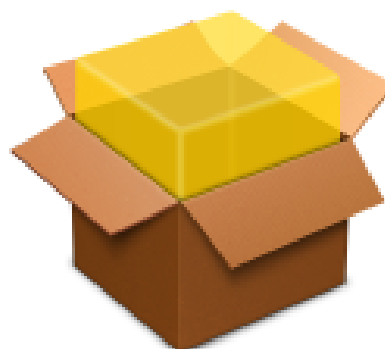
If you have to change the date, time or location of the clean-up, do not forget to update it on-line. People who have registered for your clean-up will then be informed automatically.

Once you have registered we will send you logistical and educational material to assist you to set-up and carry out your operation.

*If you are not in during the day, please give your workplace or another delivery address to ensure the package reaches you. **Delivery will be attempted three times.** The first two times a slip will be left in your letter box so the organiser can contact the delivery company to agree a delivery time. This year **organisers will not be able to collect the package from their local Post Office.** If the package is not received the third time it will be sent back to Surfrider.*

To make sure you receive the organisational material in good time **register your clean-up on the Ocean Initiatives web site one month before the date planned for it in mainland France.**

For Clean-Ups abroad and in the French Overseas Territories, register six weeks ahead



D -30 → D -15

Before the clean-up: d-30 to d day

CONTACT THE TOWN HALL OF THE CHOSEN LOCATION

Inform them of the operation, get authorization, arrange waste collection for the operation and the provision of gloves (a sample letter for your town hall is included at the end of this guide).

We recommend sending your letter at least 10 working days before the operation.

For lake and river cleanups, we recommend that you contact the relevant water police services of the department of agriculture and forestry (hydraulic services).

For logistical reasons and reduce ecological effects, the kit provided in SOME COUNTRIES (LISTED BELOW) outside or Europe do not contain refuse sacks: therefore, you will need to estimate a sufficient number of sacks for the cleanup (1 sack for every 3 participants)

LIST OF THE COUNTRIES to which sacks will not be sent

- TAHITI
- JAPAN
- NEW CALEDONIA
- THE CANARY ISLANDS
- MAROCCO
- THE UNITED STATES
- ARGENTINA
- REUNION
- MAURITIUS
- INDONESIA



GLOVES

Are not provided in the kit: if possible, ask to those participants to bring their own gloves.



Before the clean-up: d-30 to d day

INFORM PEOPLE LOCALLY ABOUT YOUR CLEAN-UP

This is to announce the clean-up and obtain media coverage during it.

Three tools are available to you:

- **Posters** : display the posters provided in the kit in public places, contact local water sports clubs (surfing, canoeing, kayaking, rowing, sailing, diving), local

associations, shops, schools, colleges etc.

- **Press kits and press releases** you can send these to the local media (available at www.oceaninitiatives.org).
- **Social networks**: you can communicate about your clean-up on the social networks.

Access the Ocean Initiatives Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/oceaninitiatives

Get as many people involved as you can!

FOR TEACHERS

Check that children's parents have signed the **document warning them of possible media coverage** of the operation (see Appendix).



© Cristina Barreau



On clean-up day

D DAY

WELCOME THE PUBLIC AND INFORM THEM ABOUT OPERATIONS

The cleanup is first and foremost an educational and fun operation, spreading consciousness of pollution issues.

DISTRIBUTE AND DISPLAY THE SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Warn the youngest volunteers that they must not pick up the most dangerous waste, and must **read the safety instructions**. Instruct the participants not to walk on the sand dunes and to **leave any wood where it is**. This will allow for solidification and conservation of the dunes. **For lakes and rivers**, instruct them not to bathe in the water.

REGISTER THE PARTICIPANTS ON THE FORM PROVIDED AND DISTRIBUTE REFUSE SACKS

The participants registered for the operation are covered by our insurance. Participants who have registered online do not need to fill in the form.

ENSURE THE SMOOTH RUNNING OF THE CLEANUP AND PARTICIPATE IN IT

For lakes and rivers, clean from upstream to downstream.

MAKE A QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE CLEANUP

Sort the waste and fill out the form (in annex or online). Write the information on the banner.

FINISH THE CLEANUP WITH SOMETHING SIMPLE

With the teaching tools, explain where the waste collected comes from, the extent and the impact of the waste on the environment as well as actions to take to reduce this pollution (more information on p.10).

You can do this at different points during the operation.

You should also thank the participants for their participation, because the mobilisation generated by the event expresses the association's demands of the institutions.

DISTRIBUTE THE POSTCARD

A postcard will be distributed to each participant. This postcard shows a citizen protesting against the distribution of disposable plastic bags in shops on a European scale and for the reduction of pollution of this kind. The citizen will send this postcard by post to the address already written on the back of the card. Surfrider will gather all the postcards and send them to the European Commission. This action will also be relayed via the Ocean Initiatives website: www.initiativesoceanes.org

TAKE A PHOTO OF THE GROUP WITH THE BANNER AFTER THE CLEAN UP OF THE SITE

Your photos will allow us to illustrate the operation in our press releases. Their presence on the website will give the event a humanitarian dimension.

After the clean-up

AFTER D DAY

MAKE SURE THE SACKS ARE COLLECTED AFTER THE CLEANUP

Let the technical services of the area know where the sacks have been left.

SEND IN THE REPORT, PHOTOS AND REGISTRATIONS THE WEEK AFTER THE OPERATION

You can fill in the report and upload your photos on www.oceaninitiatives.org (where you set up your own account).

The registration forms should be sent by post or email to Aines Arizmendi (aarizmendi@surfrider.eu)

LIST THE MEDIA COVERAGE AND GET THE PRESS ARTICLES PUBLISHED ABOUT THE OPERATION

Don't forget to include **the source and date of the article**. These should be sent to Audrey Milhorgne (amilhorgne@surfrider.eu). Thank you.



Summary sheet: OI Mémo

BEFORE THE CLEAN-UP

→ CHOICE OF LOCATION

- Safety and accessibility
- Make sure there isn't already a cleanup planned for the location (online)
- Check the heights of the banks of lakes and rivers and that there's no rain forecasted
- Tidal times for beaches

→ TEACHERS

Authorisation should be signed by students' parents informing them of possible media coverage of the event

→ REGISTER ON

www.oceaninitiatives.org

→ CONTACT THE CITY HALL

Send the letter provided to the authorities as soon as possible

→ ANNOUNCE IN THE LOCAL

Leaflets, press release available on www.oceaninitiatives.org, social networks (Surfrider Cleanups on Facebook, Twitter)

DURING THE CLEAN-UP

→ WELCOME THE PUBLIC

- Distribute the **safety guidelines**
- Get the participants to sign the **registration form**

→ CLEANUP AND QUANTIFICATION OF MARINE LITTER

Write the information on the banner.

→ DISTRIBUTE THE POSTCARD

→ END THE OPERATION

End the operation with the teaching materials, explaining the problem of marine litter to the participants and why their participation helps the fight against this type of pollution

→ TAKE PHOTOS

Take photos of the group with the SFE banner

AFTER THE CLEAN-UP

→ SEND US BACK

- The **report**, filling it out on www.oceaninitiatives.org (in the « my account » portal)
- The **photos of the event**, uploading them on the **website** www.oceaninitiatives.org (in the « my account » portal)
- The **registration forms**
- The **press articles** published about the operation

→ MAKE SURE

Make sure the sacks are collected after the cleanup

ORGANISING YOUR CLEAN-UP

In the kit you receive, you will find logistic tools as well as training material which will help you promote your cleanup.

The educational banner

This is made up of four parts: A banner to showcase your operation and three educational visual aids. The educational visual aids can be cut up; you can use the eyelets to display the material and thereby bring your Ocean Initiative tools to life. Likewise, if you do not use your banner after your event, why not share it around locally so that the message continues to spread (sports club, society, school...)



VISUAL 1: MARINE LITTER

This poster shows the life cycle of marine litter. The central scheme is there to facilitate this understanding.

Marine litter found on the shores comes from much further away than we think. For example, 80% comes from inland and is transported to our oceans by streams.

When in the ocean, the waste will either come together on the surface ("plastic soup") or sink to the sea bed, or a little part of it will wash up on the shore.



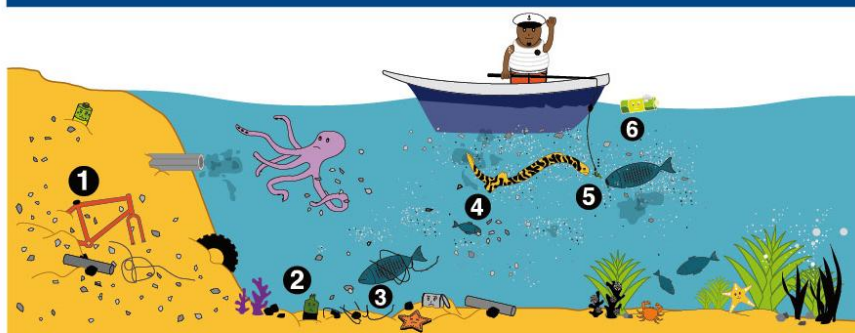
Each year, 6.5 million tonnes of waste - 206 kilos per second – are poured into the oceans. The majority of the waste will stay there forever. The best solution to combat this pollution is to prevent the production of the waste and to encourage eco-responsible attitudes to avoid it ending up in nature.

VISUEAL 2: THE IMPACTS OF MARINE LITTER

This part illustrates and explains the effects of marine litter on the coast and the ocean.

In the artwork, you can see 6 examples of nuisance which are explained beside the picture:
Visual nuisances, physical danger, hindrance to marine life, ingestion by living creatures, entry into the food chain and circulation of invasive species.

IMPACTS OF MARINE LITTER



1. VISUAL NUISANCE

Aquatic waste degrades the landscape. They require beaches to be cleaned mechanically, which is costly for local authorities, destroys natural tidal deposits and promotes erosion.

2. PHYSICAL DANGER

Aquatic waste is a hazard to Man who can be injured by sharp or toxic objects.

3. DANGEROUS TO MARINE LIFE

The main victims of waste are marine flora and fauna. The build up of pollutants on the sea bed suffocated the bed by blocking exchanges between the water and sediment. Many animals can get tangled up in different types of waste such as fishing nets or drink pack rings.

4. INGESTION BY LIVING CREATURES

Many marine species cannot tell the difference between plastic and their normal prey: for instance, turtles can swallow plastic bags by confusing them with jelly fish.

5. ENTRY INTO THE FOOD CHAIN

The particular problem with plastic is that it is not biodegradable. Under the action of the waves, currents and sun it breaks up into tiny particles called micro-plastic. It is then impossible to recover the waste from the marine environment. In some parts of the world there is 6 times as much plastic as marine plankton, which is the basis of the food chain.

6. TRANSPORT OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Algae, crustaceans and micro-organisms attach themselves to marine waste and are transported from one environment to another, disrupting local ecosystems.

VISUAL 3: THE REDUCTION OF MARINE LITTER

This poster shows the solutions that everyone can take to reduce the production of marine litter. Three types of behaviour are outlined: Reducing production of waste at the source, recycling waste, and reusing where possible.

Recycling is a necessary alternative with an environmental cost: The best kind of marine litter is the waste you don't produce at all! Reducing the production of waste at the source is still the best solution.

In the framework of the "Rise above Plastics" programme, Surfrider aims to encourage manufacturers to adopt production methods that are more eco-friendly (less waste in production, reduction of packaging, in particular single-use packaging, use of less toxic products). However it is equally important for consumers to change their buying habits, opting for the products that use less packaging and are more durable.

The average American produces about 726 kg of a waste a year*

* (Environmental Protection Agency)

LESS WASTE, YES, IT IS POSSIBLE!

It is possible and easy if we follow simple steps in our everyday life. By following three basic principles (reduce, reuse, recycle), we will produce less waste. In this way we will avoid incinerating, burying... or dumping more waste.

► REDUCE

The best is not to produce any waste. In this way, raw materials can be spared (wood, metals, crude oil, water...) and costs associated with its treatment can be avoided.

A few examples:

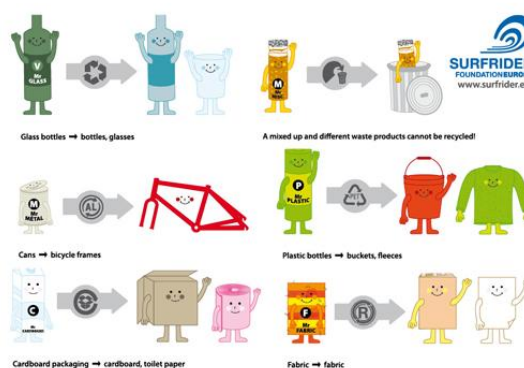
1. Use a shopping bag or a solid basket for your shopping and turn down plastic bags.
2. Avoid products that have an excessive amount of wrapping, individual portions or mini-doses. Choose large-size packs, refill products or buy loose.
3. Choose quality equipment which will last longer, that can also be easily dismantled and repaired if broken.
4. Avoid disposable or single use products (razors, wipes, paper handkerchiefs, cameras, cardboard plates, bottles of water...).

► RE-USE

It is not because it is old, worn or unused that an object has to be thrown away. Its lifetime can be extended by repairing it or giving it away.

A few examples:

1. Reuse materials: the reverse sides of printed paper as note-pads, plastic bags as waste sacks, very worn-out clothes as dust cloths, shoe-boxes for storage, using ink cartridges that can be recharged...
2. Buy and sell second-hand on Internet or in second-hand shops.
3. Share, hire or borrow from friends and neighbours rather than buying something that isn't often used.
4. Give away rather than throw away things you don't need any more to friends or associations (clothes, books, everyday objects, furniture, computer equipment...).



► RECYCLE

This is making new objects out of our waste products, which then become raw materials. To give a second life to our rubbish, it must, first, be sorted out in order to be recycled. Nevertheless, recycling has an environmental and financial cost: the best solution is still to reduce our rubbish production.

Refuse sacks

This year refuse sacks are the subject of a new educational visual aiming to reduce the consumption of single-use plastic. The visual has two examples of eco-friendly actions put into practice by volunteers: The use of reusable bags along with a boycott of single-use plastic bags and the use of glass bottles or flasks instead of plastic bottles.



OCEAN INITIATIVES
www.oceaninitiatives.org

NO NO NO

PLASTIC BAG **PLASTIC BOTTLE**

Rise above plastics
REDUCE PLASTIC USE

YES YES YES

ECO BAG **GLASS BOTTLE**

WITH THE COOPERATION OF:

100% BIODEGRADABLE AND COMPOSTABLE BAG. MADE FROM GMO FREE MATERIAL AND PRINTED WITH WATER BASED INK.
Collected marine litter from your Ocean Initiative Clean-up does not need to be sorted because it can not be recycled using the normal waste management process, due to the effects of water, sun, salt, and sand.

Postcard

The aim of the postcard is to encourage volunteers to participate in lobbying led by Surfrider Foundation Europe in various events around Europe for the banning of distribution of single-use plastic bags in shops.

This postcard, already partly filled out, when completed by the volunteer, should be sent to Surfrider Foundation Europe. Surfrider will then use all the cards received in their lobbying.



A postcard will be distributed to each participant of Ocean Initiatives.


Those who have not participated in a cleanup operation will be able to contribute to the postcard lobbying campaign via the Ocean Initiatives website.

To whom it may concern,

Today, I participated in the 18th edition of Surfrider Foundation Europe's Ocean Initiatives. I never imagined there could be so much trash in the ocean! Did you know that all of our trash eventually ends up in the oceans and that 75% of all trash pieces are made of plastic?


Therefore, I am involved in reducing my plastic footprint. Please join cause by committing yourself to the banning of single-use plastic bag distribution in all stores!

FIRST NAME-NAME **SIGNATURE**



Surfrider Foundation Europe is a non profit organization, dedicated to defending, saving, improving and managing in a sustainable manner the ocean, coastline, waves and the people who enjoy them.

SURFRIDER
FOUNDATION EUROPE
Mundo-B, Rue d'Edimbourg 26
1050 BRUSSELS (BELGIUM)



LET'S REDUCE OUR PLASTIC FOOTPRINT
RISE ABOVE PLASTICS

By sending this postcard, you are contributing to a lobbying action which is part of the «RISE ABOVE PLASTICS campaign». SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE will collect all of the postcards and deliver them to the European Commission. The campaign will also be promoted through the www.oceaninitiatives.org website. To stay abreast of the evolution of the campaign and the Ocean Initiatives, **WRITE DOWN YOUR EMAIL IN CAPS:**

.....

The sticker

This year the Ocean Initiatives sticker encourages everyone to reduce their use of single-use plastic bags.

500 billion (1 billion = 1,000 million) plastic bags are produced every year and some of them end up in the ocean. Their effects on the environment are devastating. We encourage all participants to put the sticker on the checkout of their local businesses: This is where the stickers will have their maximum effect on consumers.

The idea is to encourage consumers not to use single-use plastic bags, but reusable bags instead and also to encourage staff in local shops not to offer single-use plastic bags to their customers.



An organizer's t-shirt

A t-shirt referencing the "Rise above plastics" campaign is distributed to operation organizers. It will allow you to be seen and recognised by all participants of your Ocean Initiative.



Ocean Initiatives posters



OCEAN INITIATIVES FROM MARCH 21ST TO 24TH, 2013.
DATE/PLACE:

oceaninitiatives.org



The posters give visibility to your operation, by getting more people to come and by spreading public awareness thanks to the visual.

They will help you promote your operation in the locality.

We suggest putting them up 15 days before the Ocean Initiative, with the place and time of your cleanup written on the designated space.



© AGphotographer

GLOVES

Gloves are not provided in the kit: ask your participants to bring their own.

RECYCLING

AND DEVELOPMENT OF MARINE LITTER

Marine litter collected by Ocean Initiatives should be put directly into the sacks provided in the kit and thrown in the bins for non-recyclable waste.

EXPLANATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARINE LITTER

The development of marine litter is difficult because the majority of the waste that ends up on our coasts or floats on the surface is soiled and damaged by the sea as well as by salt, algae, sand etc... They cannot therefore get into adequate recovery areas.

EXCEPTIONS

Wood: At present, in the majority of cases, only wood (large wood) is recovered. Sorted wood (longer than 0.5m long and a diameter wider than 0.10 m) is treated by grinding before being recovered in the composting stage of sewage plants, either in the wood sector or in other stages.

Glass: Glass is quite easily recyclable. This depends on the area, however. In fact, certain recovery waste processors do not accept glass that has been damaged by sand or algae.

AS REGARDS PLASTIC WASTE

For the past few years, a certain number of parties involved (fishers, institutions, plastic producers, companies etc.) have been acting to try to bring about a solution to the problem of marine litter. Some waste recovery initiatives concerned with processing or recycling have emerged.

Examples :

- In Honolulu in 2005 a NOAA programme encouraged the recovery of aquatic debris by professional fishermen after a survey showed that around 20% of them often abandoned or found nets in the sea (81% agreed to recover these nets and bring them back to shore). Two NGOs formed an initiative to bring nets back to shore, cut them up and use them in an incinerator to produce electricity. In two years (2006-2008) this private-public partnership recovered and disposed of more than 25.61 tonnes of monofilament net.
More programmes for recycling fishing nets found in the sea and on the shore are currently being developed.
- Vacs from the sea: Electrolux has started the initiative of collecting plastic in the sea and ocean and using it to produce vacuum cleaners. These vacuum cleaners are, for now, intended for public relations and are not for sale. The VACS FROM THE SEA project has a dual objective: Firstly, Electrolux intends to spread awareness to people about the immense problem of plastic pollution. Secondly, the Swedish company hopes to bring attention to the **lack of recycled plastic** – necessary for the manufacture of durable domestic appliances.
<http://www.enerzine.com/604/10155+electrolux-lance-loperation--vac-from-the-sea+.html>

- Waste Free Ocean (WFO) : Plastic industry project (EUPC). Via its model of fishing for litter (<http://www.fishingforlitter.org/FishingforLitter.aspx>), the WFO project promotes the collecting and recycling of floating waste. The waste collected by the fishers is sent to sorting centres on site where it is then taken away. Where possible, the waste is sent to local recycling companies where it will be transformed into raw material. If the level of contamination is too high and the waste cannot be recycled, it is converted to energy instead. <http://www.wastefreeoceans.eu/>

The recovery of marine litter is still marginal due to the lack of sorting plants, lack of information and also the lack of political will.

Therefore it is essential to develop actions to fight against the production of waste if we wish to diminish the amount of waste washed up on our beaches.

The steps for prevention in relation to the stages of the product lifecycle before the waste by an operator or by the community are: from the extraction of raw material to its reuse. The aim is to develop these actions in order to reduce the production of waste at the source. The production of waste can be

reduced by:

- Reduction at the source: Focussing on the actions of the companies from the extraction of raw material to its distribution;
- Responsible consumption of the product: Homemakers, communities and businesses are free to make choices for responsible consumption, thereby reducing the quantity of waste;
- Responsible management of waste by the user.

APPENDICES:

COMPULSORY DOCUMENTS

At the end of this Guide, you will find all the necessary documents to organize your cleanup:

1) SAMPLE LETTER

To send to the town hall (don't forget to sign the letter and include the location!) You will see this on the next page. [You can also download the Word version](#) to adapt it to your operation, by clicking here.

2) LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

This document is very important because it allows us to insure the participants in case of an accident if they are not already registered online prior to the event. Think before you photocopy.

3) EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF AN OCEAN INITIATIVE

This table shows the different stages of the development of a cleanup operation on the day as well as the tools needed to promote your Ocean Initiative.

4) CHART OF SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE'S ECO-EVENTS

5) SAFETY GUIDELINES (BEACHES OR LAKES AND RIVERS)

6) REPORT SHEET

7) ARTICLE « INVASION OF BIOCARRIERS »

8) FOR TEACHERS: AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF IMAGES

This document allows us to publish photos or videos where minors appear. It is very important to return this to us.



....., the 2013

Subject: OCEAN INITIATIVES 2013

Dear Mayor,

By this letter, we request authorization to conduct a cleanup operation on the area of _____, on the _____ at _____ as part of the “Ocean Initiatives” campaign organised by the group SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE.

Surfrider Foundation Europe is a not-for-profit organization, whose aim is “the defence, safeguarding, development and management of the ocean, coast, tide and the people who enjoy it”.

Each year the group organizes the “Ocean Initiatives”, an eco-friendly campaign to spread awareness of the issue of marine litter through the organization of cleanup operations of beaches, lakes, rivers and sea beds on a world-wide scale.

This is an ideal occasion for us to spread awareness to the public about eco-friendly behaviour to adopt.

In order to assure its smooth running, **we request your support to conduct this operation on your territory, by providing a dumpster.**

As organizer of the cleanup, I will be in touch over the coming days to settle the other details.

Furthermore, we would like to bring to your attention the matter of spreading awareness about this cleanup operation. You will be aware that villages situated on the coast are the first victims of this type of pollution. Also, it is good for our association to mobilize the general public on the ground so that they are aware that this volume of marine litter is always in the environment. **The objective is not to say that the beaches in your town are dirty, but rather to say that this pollution is unfortunately still present.** We also request that you help the operation by not cleaning the beaches before the cleanup so that the public may be allowed to see the extent of the problem.

Thank you for your attention Mayor, yours sincerely,

Signature

REMEMBER TO PHOTOCOPY THIS DOCUMENT



EVENT ORGANIZER (Full name):

TELEPHONE:

EVENT DATE:

EVENT NAME:

PLACE:

POST CODE:

COUNTRY:

Name	First name	Email	Address	Surfrider Information*

* If you wish to receive updates on the group's activity, please put an X in the last box.

We would like to remind you that all participants that are registered online will automatically benefit from the group's insurance.

Any participants who are not members of the group recognize that the SURFRIDER CLEANUPS organizers are not subject to civil liability and are not responsible for damage to participants or their property or benefit from the experience. Surfrider Foundation Europe declines any responsibility in case of loss or theft. All parties associated with Surfrider Foundation Europe and the registered participants, in acknowledgement of the safety guidelines, are covered by the group's insurance for the duration of the event.

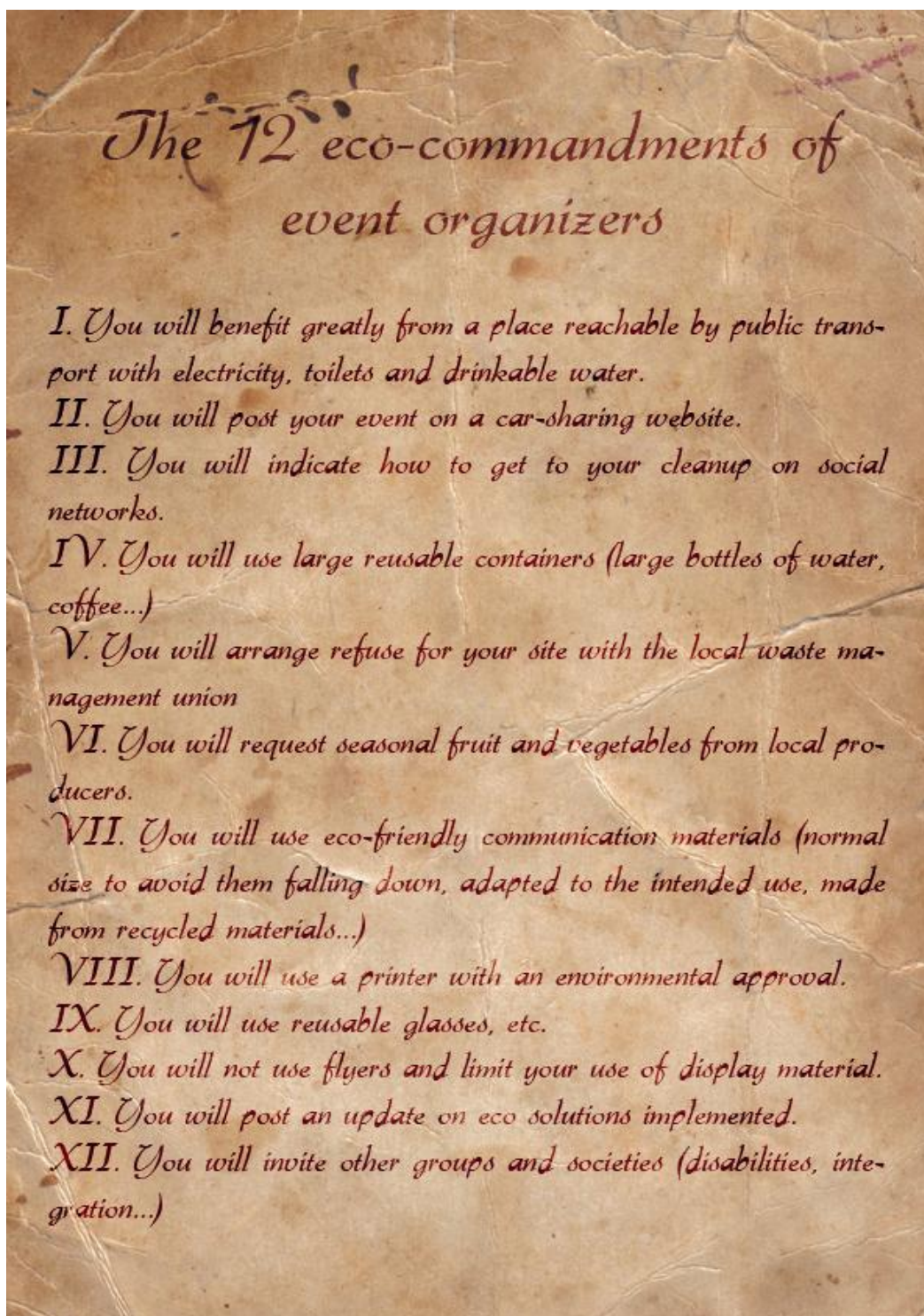
* If you wish to receive updates on the group's activity, please put an X in the last box.

Educational development of an Ocean Initiative

STEPS	TASK	ESTIMATED TIME	SUPPORT
1	Presentation of the group (people/group/activity) and action	15 minutes	Leaflet available online at www.oceaninitiatives.org
2	Reading and display of the safety guidelines	10 minutes	Organizer's guide p.22-23
3	Information on marine litter What types of waste the participants will be collecting, where they come from, etc.	10 minutes	Educational banner: Visual 1: «marine litter». Organizer's guide, p. 11
4	Distribution of sacks (1 sack per 3 people)	5 minutes	Educational refuse sacks
5	Collection instructions (The collection is done by going to the meeting point)	5 minutes	Ocean Initiatives organizer's sheet
6	Collection	40 minutes	Organizer's guide
7	Display of the educational banner Effects of marine litter How to reduce this waste?	15 minutes	Educational banner: Visual 2 and 3: «Effects and reduction of marine litter» + organizer's guide
8	Photo of the group with the banner: Remember to upload this to the website	5 minutes	www.oceaninitiatives.org
9	Thank the participants	5 minutes	Postcard (Kit)
TOTAL DURATION OF THE CLEAN-UP:			1h40

Chart of Surfrider Foundation Europe's eco-events

ATTENTION! If you are organizing pilot projects or events in the framework of Ocean Initiatives, please do not forget the group's eco-event chart.



Read before cleaning up a lake or river

Safety Instructions



WEAR GLOVES



**KEEP YOUR SHOES ON DURING THE
CLEAN-UP OPERATION**



**DO NOT TOUCH HAZARDOUS WASTE
(SHARP,
POINTED ITEMS) OR SUSPECT WASTE
(BARRELS, BOTTLES OF CHEMICALS,
SYRINGES, ETC.)**



**CHILDREN MUST BE
ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT**



**DO NOT WALK IN THE SAND DUNES OR
PICK UP ANY WOOD THERE (THE WOOD
ALLOWS THE DUNES TO STAY IN GOOD
CONDITION)**



**AVOID USING MOTOR VEHICLES TO MOVE
AROUND ON THE BEACH**

Read before cleaning up a lake or river

Safety Instruccions



WEAR GLOVES



KEEP YOUR SHOES ON DURING THE CLEAN-UP OPERATION



DO NOT TOUCH HAZARDOUS WASTE (SHARP, POINTED ITEMS) OR SUSPECT WASTE (BARRELS, BOTTLES OF CHEMICALS, SYRINGES, ETC.)



CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT



DO NOT TRY TO PICK UP WASTE THAT IS IN/ON THE WATER



DO NOT SWIM IN THE WATER



BE CAREFUL ON THE BANKS WHICH CAN SOMETIMES BE SLIPPERY



CAUTION: A STREAM OR RIVER DOWNSTREAM OF AN HYDRO-ELECTRIC DAM ALWAYS REPRESENTS A POTENTIAL RISK DUE TO THE WATER RELEASES REQUIRED FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICITY



FOR YOUR SAFETY, ABIDE BY THE YELLOW SIGNS



IF YOU OBSERVE A SITUATION WHICH PUTS PEOPLE IN DANGER, DIAL 18 (OR 112 FROM MOBILE PHONES) TO CONTACT THE EMERGENCY SERVICES

SURFRIDER CLEAN-UPS REPORT 2013

To fill out on the website ("my account" portal) or send by post

ORGANIZER OF THE EVENT (Full Name):

EMAIL:

DATE OF CLEAN-UP:

PLACE:..... POST CODE:COUNTRY:.....

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: OF WHICH WERE CHILDREN:.....

LENGTH OF BEACH/BANK CLEANED:

☐ Less than 100 m ☐ 100 - 200 m ☐ 200 - 500 m ☐ 500m +

NUMBER OF SACKS FILLED:

PERCENTAGE OF PLASTIC FROM TOTAL REFUSE COLLECTED?%

DID YOU NOTICE AND EXCESS OF ONE TYPE OF WASTE IN PARTICULAR? (you may select more than one) :

<input type="checkbox"/> Plastic bags	<input type="checkbox"/> Plastic bottles (and lids)	<input type="checkbox"/> Glass
<input type="checkbox"/> Cotton wool	<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing material	<input type="checkbox"/> Cans
<input type="checkbox"/> Cigarette butts	<input type="checkbox"/> Hygiene or medical products	<input type="checkbox"/> Polystyrene
<input type="checkbox"/> Food packaging	<input type="checkbox"/> Small pieces of plastic	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (p) :

.....

DO YOU VISIT THIS BEACH OFTEN?

☐ Yes ☐ No

IF YES, DO YOU KNOW IF IT IS CLEANED BY:

☐ The community ☐ Groups or societies ☐ Others:

TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE, IS THERE NORMALLY A LARGE AMOUNT OF WASTE ON THIS BEACH?

☐ Yes ☐ No

DOES THIS BEACH HAVE ANY SPECIFIC FEATURES (close to dwellings, a commercial or leisure area, infrastructures for parking or carpark, etc...)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, which?.....

ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY EVENT IN THE AREA THAT COULD CAUSE A HIGHER PRESENCE OF WASTE (community or private festivals, beach parties, etc...)?

.....

IN YOUR OPINION WHERE DOES THE WASTE YOU HAVE COLLECTED COME FROM?

☐ Fishing, agricultural activity ☐ Water treatment plants ☐ Maritime transport
☐ Abandoned on the beach ☐ Towns upstream ☐ Other (Please specify) :

DID YOU FIND ANY LARGE OR UNUSUAL WASTE (cars, telephone boxes...)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

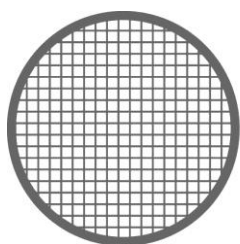
If yes, please upload photos to the [OCEAN INITIATIVES team](#)

BIOCARRIERS CAMPAIGN

DURING THE COURSE OF YOUR OCEAN INITIATIVE, DID YOU FIND AND COLLECT BIOCARRIERS (see the descriptive page)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

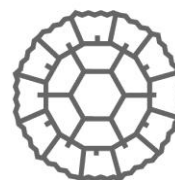
PLEASE INDICATE WHICH FORM(S) YOU FOUND BY SELECTING THE APPROPRIATE PICTURE(S) BELOW.


☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

COULD YOU SPECIFY THE QUANTITY OF BIOCARRIERS COLLECTED PER M²

☐ Aproxx1 ☐ Between 2 and 9 ☐ more than 10

TOTAL NUMBER COLLECTED



From 1 to 10



20 et 50



more than 50

Please send all photos to this address françois.verdet@surfrider64.com

NOTES AND MEDIA COVERAGE:

.....

.....

.....

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

INVASION OF BIOCARRIERS



What is it?

Spotted on the beaches of the Basque-Landes coast since 2007, [these plastic wheels have since been an enigma](#). Finally identified by the Corsican section of Surfrider Foundation Europe, [we now know that these are “biocarriers” used in the treatment of used water in treatment plants](#), in the agri-food industry (wines and drinks, preserves, meat...), fish farming and on certain cruise ships.

How does this happen?

In the water purification plants, the used water goes through several purification treatments: Screening (passing through grills to catch the large residue), settling (let sit so that the heavy material falls to the bottom). In the final stage, waste-eating bacteria is added to the water. [At the start of the 2000s, researchers at a Norwegian university found that through introducing a support to the water, the bacteria settle on it, and become more efficient.](#)

[These biocarriers therefore support bacteria](#), bringing large quantities (50% of the volume of the water, perhaps hundreds of thousands, or even millions) in the basins of the water purification plants. With the flow of water or introduction of air, they move around in a disorderly manner and thus increase the efficiency of bacteria.

How do they end up on the beaches?

According to current knowledge, there are two possible sources of pollution:

1. Pollution accidents

Several have been referenced over the past few years in Europe and on the North American continent:

[In autumn 2009, in the Basque Country](#), millions of small pieces escaped from pulp and paper industry companies. They join the ocean in Orreaga, and are caught by local surfers and water management. The

press publishes several articles on the matter and the mayor of San Sebastian publicly deplores the pollution. Despite strong suspicions, the “offending companies” have not been officially identified.

[On 11th February 2010, in Corbeil-Essonnes \(Parisian region\)](#), several million biocarriers escaped from the water purification plant and joined the Seine. They are spotted by houseboat dwellers who alert the Paris River Police. Two months later, they are washed up on Honfleur beach. The Parisian biocarriers had joined the ocean once again!

[In February 2010, in Galicia \(Spain\)](#), eel fishers caught large quantities of biocarriers in their nets in the river Miño on the border between Spain and Portugal. The pollution lasts several days. The local police investigate but do not find the source.

[On 30th March 2010, in Connecticut \(USA\)](#), Groton plant lost a million biocarriers.

[On 6th March 2011, Hooksett](#) water purification plant in New Hampshire (USA) lost between 4 and 8 million wheels in the Merrimack river.

[At the start of March 2011, the Mamaroneck purification plant \(USA\)](#) in the region of New York lost a large quantity of biocarriers.

[In May 2011 in Canada](#), thousands of plastic wheels are collected by walkers on the banks of Saint-Laurent.

2. Regular leaks

[Overflow basins not enclosed](#) in heavy rain, or addition of bio-carriers in non-adapted reservoirs (no catchment grill on the surface or at overflow level, or clogging of grill...)

[DIY by people putting fish in ponds.](#)

//PLEASE HAVE THIS DOCUMENT SIGNED//

Please have copies of this document signed by the parents of all minors participating in the operation, and send them back to us at Surfrider Foundation Europe's Headquarters before the event. In the event that certain parents refuse, it is very important not to photograph or film the child(ren) concerned

Release waiver

Disclaimer – Photo / Video

I hereby authorise Surfrider Foundation Europe to use the images of my child, taken during the organisation's activities with a camera, video camera or digital camera, solely for purposes relating to the promotion of its various activities and publications, and I hereby forego any right to compensation or possession for any use of this material.

Child's name:

Name of parent/legal guardian:

Date and signature:

Disclaimer – Photo / Video

I hereby authorise Surfrider Foundation Europe to use the images of my child, taken during the organisation's activities with a camera, video camera or digital camera, solely for purposes relating to the promotion of its various activities and publications, and I hereby forego any right to compensation or possession for any use of this material.

Child's name:

Name of parent/legal guardian:

Date and signature: