

## How to Organise Your Own Beach Cleanup

Organising a beach cleanup is not as difficult as you might think! Spending time cleaning a beach is a great way to learn about the issue of plastic marine pollution and take immediate action. Hong Kong has some fabulous beaches to explore and some unique habitats and marine life that are worth protecting.

### 1. Choose a date, time and location.

There are many things to consider with the timing and location of your event. The best time to get out on the beaches is after rain or an adverse weather event. Rubbish levels on beaches vary throughout the year depending on seasons (wet/dry) and currents.

*Timing:* for many people 60-90 minutes is enough for this physical activity, especially if it is a hot day.

*Check for clashes* with other events scheduled at your location for that time/day

[https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/clean\\_shorelines/index-2.html](https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/clean_shorelines/index-2.html)

#### *Choosing your Location*

Considerations:

- Choose a beach preferably that is not cleaned daily by the government contractors. This will be classed as a non-gazetted beach (gazetted beaches are managed and cleaned by the government LCSD dept.)
- All LCSD/gazetted beaches have facilities such as toilets and water fountains.

<https://www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/beach/index/beach-location-hk.html>

- How will your group travel to the beach? Is there frequent public transport? Parking for private vehicles? Is it accessible by coaches or minibuses only?
- How will your group access the beach? Is there safe access for all participants?

Site Visit – check your chosen location at a time with similar tide levels to make sure it is accessible and to make a plan for the event. Where are the nearest bins (rubbish and recycling) located? Are there any hazardous areas (unsafe beach path, slippery or rocky areas)? How many people can the beach accommodate? Where will the meeting point be?

## **2. Check the tides**

Low tide is the best time to do a beach cleanup.

Check the Hong Kong Observatory for tide levels. Choose the closest location and check the planned times. Ideally tides should be decreasing and less than 1.5m at the start of your event.

<https://www.hko.gov.hk/en/tide/prettide.htm>

## **3. Register your event & get prepared**

Let Clean Shorelines (and everyone else) know about your event.

[https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/clean\\_shorelines/form/adv%20upcoming%20event/index.php](https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/clean_shorelines/form/adv%20upcoming%20event/index.php)

To obtain gloves and rubbish bags for your event and to arrange for rubbish bag collection afterwards contact either the FEHD, LCSD or Marine Dept for your chosen location.

[https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/clean\\_shorelines/contact\\_us.html](https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/clean_shorelines/contact_us.html)

Beach cleanups can be hot and thirsty work and everyone needs to be prepared with their own water bottle with at least 1litre capacity. Plan ahead and AVOID SINGLE USE water bottles, there are many options for bulk water supply.

Obtain a comprehensive first aid kit to address any minor cuts or scrapes, bites or stings. Ensure extra sunscreen and insect repellent are included.

## **4. Make it Fun!**

Picking up rubbish is not everyone's idea of fun but there are ways to make the event more enjoyable, interesting and meaningful. Competitions are a great way to spur interest too. Who will collect the most rubbish? What was the strangest beach find? Guess the amount of bottle caps on the beach?

## **5. Share your event with Plastic Free Seas**

If you post your event to social media – don't forget to tag PlasticFreeSeas. We'd love to see your incredible efforts.