Water– Mid-Campaign Newsletter

PHOTOS OF HIGHLIGHTS SO FAR

In this section, insert photos and captions of some of the entries you have received from members of your team.

 your team.

UPCOMING EVENT

Title: Complete a Shoreline Cleanup

In this time of physical distancing, the Partners in Project Green team has created a Shoreline Cleanup Guide which aims to encourage individuals to host their own cleanups, either on your own or with members of your household. The Shoreline Cleanup Guide provides you with safety tips, guidance around the equipment needed to complete a successful cleanup, and how to dispose of the items you collect. You can also track your impact by [**downloading the Clean Swell app**](https://partnersinprojectgreen.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CleanSwellApp-Guide-PPC2020_FOR-WEB.pdf) and use the group name **PPCONDEMAND.**  Details can be found [here](https://partnersinprojectgreen.com/shoreline-cleanup-people-power-challenge-on-demand/).

TAKE ACTION

To earn points, send pictures of yourself completing the following activities to **[insert champion name and contact details].**Each activity is worth 50 points, and can be completed multiple times.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity**  | **Description**  | **Photo proof**  |
| **Check your downspout**   | It may seem like a small thing but making sure that your downspout from your eavestrough is directed into either a rain barrel or a lawn/garden is important. Directing your downspout to a rain barrel or yard can reduce the chance of flooding and puts less stress on our stormwater infrastructure.    | Photo of your downspout being directed into a water barrel or into your lawn/garden.   |
| **Make natural home cleaning products**   | Make your own natural home cleaning products! This will help save you money and avoid the use of harsh chemicals. This helps your health and stops chemicals from going down the drain and into our waterways. Examples include using vinegar and/or baking soda to help keep your home clean.   | Photo of the natural cleaning products being used in your home.   |
| **Wash your clothing using a microfiber filter system**   | Most synthetic fabrics contain plastic.  Every time these items are washed, tiny plastic microfibers make their way into our water systems, and eventually into our lakes, rivers and oceans.  There are now many options to help capture these microfibers and stop them from entering our waterways.  Explore which option works best for you and start using it today!   | Photo of your chosen microfiber filter.   |
| **Plant native flowers**   | A native plant is one that grew here prior to European colonization. These plants have survived for thousands of years and are well adapted to the local weather conditions, meaning they are perfectly suited to the amount of rainfall in the region. This means less supplemental watering is required, saving resources and leaving you with more time to stop and see the black eyed Susans.   | Photo of the native plants in your garden.   |
| **Install low flow faucet aerators**   | Install a faucet aerator to reduce the amount of water being used at home.   | Photo of you installing the aerator.   |
| **Reduce single use plastics in your grocery shopping**   | Many single use plastics end up as litter, and litter ends up in our waterways.  Do your part to reduce the problem of plastic waste by choosing fruits and vegetables that are plastic free, bringing reusable grocery and produce bags, and buying items in bulk to reduce plastic packaging.   | Photo of your plastic free grocery haul.   |
| **Use leftover pasta water on your plants**   | Pasta water provides extra nutrients that can help plants grow. Next time you boil pasta, save the water and use it in your garden! You can also save the water you use to rinse off fruits and vegetables and use that to water your plants.   | Photo of you draining your pasta water another photo of you watering your plants with it.   |
| **Conduct your own 20 minute makeover cleanup**   | Many plastic items end up in our waterways. Set aside 20 minutes and head outside with a garbage bag and protective gear to pick up litter in your local neighborhood.   | Photo of you and/or your family/neighbours collecting litter found in your neighbourhood while adhering to public health guidelines.    |
| **Create a family eco-pledge board**   | Like a sustainability board you might find at your workplace, set up an area of your home where you can display your family's commitment to leading more eco-conscious lives. Be open to the different actions individuals want to commit to and encourage dialogue and brainstorming.   | Photo of your eco-pledge board. If you'd like to be in the photo, even better!   |

EXPLORING THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In each newsletter, we will be focusing on one or more of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and bringing you videos, articles, and news stories to help increase awareness around these critical global goals.

Title: SDG #14: Life Below Water

Subtitle: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Although over 3 billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihood, decades of irresponsible exploitation has led to the degradation of our oceans.

About 89% of plastic litter found on the ocean floor are single-use plastics such as plastic bags. According to the United Nations, every year an estimated 5 to 12 million metric tonnes of plastic enters the ocean, costing approximately $13 billion per year in clean-up costs and financial losses in fisheries and other industries.

Cooperation between governments is needed on an international scale to protect our oceans through policies and regulations. Businesses can also commit to working towards this goal by tracking the life cycle of their products and understanding how they are disposed of as well, as raising awareness among their customers on effective ways to properly dispose of their waste.

**Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lMIggbFaXc8**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SDGS:**[**https://partnersinprojectgreen.com/sustainable-development-goals/**](https://partnersinprojectgreen.com/sustainable-development-goals/)

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

* [**Understanding Stormwater Management: An Introduction to Stormwater Management Planning and Design**](https://www.ontario.ca/page/understanding-stormwater-management-introduction-stormwater-management-planning-and-design) - Government of Ontario
* [**Watersheds 101**](https://conservationontario.ca/conservation-authorities/watersheds-101) - Conservation Ontario
* [**Freshwater**](https://wwf.ca/habitat/freshwater/) - WWF Canada
* [**Personal Water Footprint Calculator**](https://waterfootprint.org/en/resources/interactive-tools/personal-water-footprint-calculator/?fbclid=IwAR0Q1gwU0zE694tXZl2VMgomC7yqMTKsUKcsBKKrvR6JPqpmyU1eP6bUqf0) - Water Footprint Network
* [**Water Canada Magazine**](https://www.watercanada.net/)
* [**Eight Water Facts About Canada**](https://www.canadiangeographic.ca/article/eight-facts-about-water-canada) - Canadian Geographic