



# Community Designation Resource Guide

## Litter Assessment & Cleanups

This guide provides information about two of 15 Clean California Community Designation criteria – 10 of which are needed to earn the designation. A visual Community Litter Assessment, also referred to as a visual Community Litter Survey, is a systematic process to evaluate and quantify litter in a specific area (neighborhood, city, or region) or “hotspot.” The visual Community Litter Assessment involves observing, documenting, and analyzing litter conditions as a baseline and then ongoing monitoring/evaluation against an annual work plan and goal setting.

Once a visual Community Litter Assessment is conducted and analyzed, programs should consider organizing Community cleanups. It is recommended to conduct at least four (4) community cleanups each year – ideally one per quarter.

### LITTER ASSESSMENTS

Keep California Beautiful recommends the following six components to a litter assessment:

1. Select a Team Leader and 2-3 team members.
2. Get familiar with the assessment locations.
3. Schedule the Litter Assessment.
4. Train the team.
5. Conduct Litter Assessment.
6. Compile and submit results.

#### Additional resources to help guide a community litter assessment.

- [Keep Louisiana Beautiful Litter Assessment Guide](#)
- [Visual Litter Survey](#)
- [Keep California Beautiful K-12 Litter Data Card](#)

### ORGANIZING COMMUNITY CLEANUPS

Community cleanups are a great way to engage the neighborhood and make a positive impact. Here are some practical tips to get started.

- 1. Choose a Location and Time:**
  - a) Select a “hotspot” area in need of maintenance based on results of litter assessment, such as a park or beach.
  - b) Ensure it is accessible by public transit or bicycle.
  - c) Opt for a time with plenty of daylight and comfortable temperatures.





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### 2. Assemble a Team and Develop and Action Plan:

- a) Invite local government representatives, civic organizations, clubs, and media to serve on a cleanup planning committee.
- b) Enlist a diverse coalition that can help the event run smoothly.
- c) Establish cleanup boundaries and set realistic goals for designated areas.
- d) Assign someone to obtain any necessary permits. If any part of the area is on private property, permission must be granted by the landowner, preferably in writing.

### 3. Logistics for Event Day:

- a) Arrange for accessible restrooms.
- b) Offer refreshments (water, snacks) to volunteers. (Ask local organizations for donations).
- c) Disseminate appropriate equipment to volunteers for cleanup.
- d) Coordinate trash disposal with local waste management facilities.

### 4. Promote the Event:

- a) Create a print and online digital flyer with event details (location, start/end times, rain or shine).
- b) Encourage participants to bring gloves, pickers, and trash bags.
- c) Reach out to family, friends, neighbors, and local institutions to expand participation.

### 5. Evaluate Impact and Report Results:

- a) Ensure volunteers track the number of bags collected to be included in the final report.

Additional resources are available at <https://keepcabeautiful.org/>.

