

MINIMIZING WASTE - SUPPORT PACKAGE

Schoolyard and Roadside Cleanup



Litter takes many years to break down, and many particles from litter end up in water bodies. Waste releases pollutants into the air, water, and soil and can harm wildlife and human health. This means that unmanaged waste will negatively impact the environment far into the future. A schoolyard or roadside cleanup event is an excellent opportunity for students to learn about the impacts of litter on the environment and how everyone plays a role to make a difference in their community. When you start a cleanup effort you will be joining thousands of fellow Nova Scotians who are restoring the health and beauty of our province.

A schoolyard or roadside cleanup can be a school-wide event, or can be done by a student group or class. It can also be turned into a regular event, happening multiple times throughout the school year, or at the same time every year. Here are some suggested special dates:

- [Clean Foundation: Great Nova Scotia Pick Me Up](#)
- [Earth Day](#)
- [National Volunteer Week](#)
- [Pitch-In Canada Week](#)
- [Canada Environment Week](#)
- [World Environment Day](#)
- [Clean Up The World Weekend](#)
- [Waste Reduction Week](#)
- [Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup](#)



Students at Green School Dr. John C. Wickwire Academy participated in the Great Nova Scotia Pick Me Up.

Action Plan

Step 1- Make a plan. Work with administration, operations, staff, and students to create an organizing team. Choose a date for your event. Make sure you get any necessary permission forms signed so that students are permitted to pick up trash. Get enough gloves and garbage bags for everyone who will participate. You can often get free resources if you register for the [Great Nova Scotia Pick Me Up](#). Contact your local Member of Parliament, Member of the Legislative Assembly, or police officers for support. They may even want to help or join you! Consider where you will put all the waste once it is collected. You may need special permission to put the garbage in a dumpster that does not belong to the school. Your custodial staff may be supportive by helping supply bags and gloves. This is a great opportunity to work together! You may want to add another great idea to your initiative like the [WasteLess Wednesday](#) or [WasteLess Assessment](#) Support Packages. Check out our free resources to learn more.

Step 2- Communicate. Let your school and community know when and where this cleanup will take place and invite them to join your efforts. Students could make posters or school announcements to advertise and get support for the event. This [Litter Cleanup Guide](#) has resources for communicating with local media. Are you interested in having a waste educator visit your school? When you're learning about waste, it helps to know what goes where! Contact your municipality to find a [Waste Educator](#) and learning tools from Divert NS. This would be a great time to find out what's being wasted in your community, and you can take action to reduce waste!





Students at Green School New Glasgow Academy cleaning up their schoolyard.

Step 3- Have fun! You could make it a competition, create a [scavenger hunt](#), make [trash art](#) and have prizes for different categories. Weigh the bags at the end of your cleanup so students know how much trash they've cleaned up. Communicate the results with your school during morning announcements the next day. Remember to take lots of pictures and share them with your Green Schools NS Engagement Officer. We will help celebrate your success, and inspire others to take action!



Students at South Queen's Middle School planned out specific routes and locations for their roadside cleanup.

Resources

[Green Schools NS Earth Week Activities](#)

[Green Schools NS Carbon Footprint Pledge](#)

[Green Schools NS Pinterest Minimizing Waste](#)

[Green Schools NS Litterless Lunch Slideshow](#)

[Green School Story: Greenfield Elementary Roadside Cleanup](#)

[Green School Story: Dr JC Wickwire Great Nova Scotia Pick Me Up](#)

[Green School Video: Dr JC Wickwire Roadside Clean Up](#)

[Green School Story: Auburn Drive High School Great Nova Scotia Pick Me Up](#)

[Green School Story: South Queens Middle School town cleanup](#)

[Ontario EcoSchools Cleanup Kit](#)

[Pitch In Canada Safety Tips](#)

[Divert NS](#)

[Blue Dream Project](#)

[Greenest School In Canada](#)