

Keep the Beaches Clean!

Target group: Everybody

Type: Action-oriented

Duration: Different days during the year

Country: Bulgaria

WASTE

- **METHOD:** During a mass clean up event (picture on the left) the children are engaged in cleaning up the beaches before the Blue Flag season starts. Besides the cleaning activities, they have to invent a way to promote responsible behaviour and encourage the beach visitors to keep the beach tidy by creating posters, acting or campaigning. On the picture on the right, students are asking the beach visitors what they prefer to find on the beach – if it is a natural seaweed and shells or human produced waste.



- **MATERIAL:** Gloves and bags. Creativity. Camera.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Teachers, beach managers, environmental educators.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Local media, municipality and school information boards.
- **TIPS:** It is very motivating if beach managers or local authorities announce some prizes.
- Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!

Waste Recycling Relay Race

Target group: Everybody

Type: Action-oriented

Duration: Anytime

Country: France

- **METHOD:** Children are divided in two groups; each of them is identified by the different colour of their tee-shirts. The groups compete in the “waste recycling relay race”. Each team player has to pick up different kinds of waste, using a hand truck. Then he runs to a “waste reception centre” where he will choose the right waste recycling disposal, for example “paper” for a book. After the first player returns to his team, the second one follows. The team who has correctly recycled all the waste wins!



- **MATERIAL:** Tee-shirts in two different colours, different types of recyclable waste (paper, wood, electronic devices, metal, food), two hand trucks and waste disposals, camera.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Environmental educators, either voluntary or hired.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The activity might be promoted via tourist offices, environmental education centres or local media.
- **TIPS:** Registration will help to organise the children by age and number of participants.
- Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!

Recycled Raft Race

Target group: Everybody

Type: Experiential/Awareness-raising

Duration: One day

Country: Northern Ireland

WASTE

- **METHOD:** In aid of Royal National Lifeboat Institution a Rag tag team of National Trust volunteers made sustainable rafts from willow sticks and plastic bottles! Registrations of teams were required before the event as well as construction of the rafts. Planning had to go into the moving of rafts onto the beach, allocation of raft spaces as well as the race route. This was a good opportunity to also highlight lifesaving provision on this Blue Flag beach. This was its 8th or 9th year in action and attracted over 300 people.... Slow going but solid as a rock!



- **MATERIAL:** Willow, string, used empty plastic bottles, paddles, buoyancy jackets.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Local authority/beach owner, environmental NGO, Ministry for Environment, National Lifesaving Organisation.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Social Network Sites, notice boards and website events and shop windows.
- **TIPS:** Registration required for teams to enter the raft race. Allocate time for preparation and zoning of beach for non-participants.

Waste Eco Quiz

Target group: Beach users, mainly children

Type: Awareness-raising

Duration: Half day

Country: Norway

- **METHOD:** A local waste recycling company visits the beach, brings a stand with information about different kinds of litter and organises a recycling competition amongst the beach visitors. The activity is divided into two parts: a quiz with questions concerning plastic waste and questions about glass and metal waste. All participants receive nice prizes, such as pencil sharpeners formed as litter bins.



- **MATERIAL:** Stand with information, waste quiz and prizes, cameras.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** The local recycling company, municipality, schools, youth clubs.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The activity might be promoted by tourist offices, environmental education centres, local media, as well as on the websites and information boards of the waste recycling company and municipality.
- **TIPS:** Invite the local schools participating in the Eco-Schools and YRE programme and summer camp visitors.
- Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!

Waste Pick up Campaign

Target group: Beach visitors

Type: Awareness-raising

Duration: A couple of hours every day

Country: Norway

WASTE

- **METHOD:** Four young people were employed by the municipality to patrol the beaches in the area, in the period from 1 July to 4 August. They walked around the beach and offered the beach users a custom-made paper bag to put their waste in, in order to recycle it when leaving the beach. The bags were also distributed by the parking wardens and in the kiosks. They were particularly nicely designed, with a special greeting from the mayor and a quote “Please fill me with waste – to make ‘Asker’ nicer”. On the other side there was a small quiz consisting of three environmental questions (with answers below) about the amounts of waste the municipality must handle every year.



- **MATERIAL:** Litter machines and people distributing the bags.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Environmental educators, either voluntary or hired.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The activity might be posted at tourist office and environmental education centres.
- **TIP:** Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!

Litter Recycling Game

Target group: Beach visitors (children)

Type: Action-oriented

Duration: 30 minutes

Country: Scotland

- **METHOD:** Between a start and finish line drawn in the sand clean litter is strategically placed, light items such as empty crisp bags can be filled with sand to stop them blowing away. Bags or bins clearly labelled with the type of waste it receives (plastic, paper, cans or general waste) are placed at the finish line. The aim of the game is to encourage children to put their waste in the right place, to recycle where possible or to place unwanted items in bins at the beach. Children in teams of up to five are lined up at the start line. A litter picker (this acts as a relay baton) is placed a few metres in front of each team. After the shout to 'Go' is given, the participants run to the litter picker, pick it up, and then find a piece of litter to grab, carry it carefully to the finish line and place it in the correct bin or bag. They then run to the start line and hand the litter picker baton over to the next team member. This continues until all the litter is in the correct bin or bag.



- **MATERIAL:** Clean litter, black bags or bins, litter pickers, stickers for prizes, bright yellow vests to identify participants (optional), and cameras.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Eco-Schools, waste departments of local councils, hotel kid clubs.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Schools and information boards.
- **TIPS:** Younger children often need help learning to work the litter pickers. If playing with a large number of people, make the children run back to the start line round the edge of the littered area so that they don't bump into each other.
- Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!

InWASTEgate

Target group: 10-20-year-olds (adaptable)

Type: Experiential

Duration: 2 hours to one day

Country: Serbia

- **METHOD:** The activity consists of a theoretical lecture on waste management (basic for younger, advanced for older students) and practical “learning by doing” when the, participants are divided into three groups: “in charge”, “investigators”, and “interested public”. The “in charge” group collects all garbage produced that day in the classrooms, school kitchen or canteen (and everywhere else, if it is a summer camp) and then puts it on a huge paper mat in the yard. They sort the waste into different groups and loudly announce different categories. Afterwards the “investigators” examine the types of waste produced, determine the behaviour of the group according to the waste generated and investigate how they can improve their waste management. In the meanwhile, the “interested public” is watching the process and taking notes. Later on, they discuss their observations and share their observations about student’s behaviour regarding the waste they produce (e.g. “Do we behave responsibly?”). It is important that a teacher or camp supervisor posts the findings on the board so they can be followed or/and discussed later.



- **MATERIAL:** Gloves, paper mats; different coloured tee-shirts/badges for each group, camera.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Waste management companies, researchers, schools, youth clubs.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The activity might be promoted by schools or local media.
- **TIPS:** A group of “journalists” can be created to report on the topic. The workshop can be adapted as thematic activity for existing summer camp.
- Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!

Fishing Line Bins

Target group: Beach users

Type: Action-oriented

Duration: All year round

Country: South Africa

- **METHOD:** Fishing is not allowed on Blue Flag Beaches. However, a lot of fishing occurs near these beaches. Discarded fishing line is very detrimental to the environment, particularly for marine and coastal animals, especially birds. These bins – originally designed in Florida, USA – are placed adjacent to or near the Blue Flag sites to encourage firstly anglers to dispose of their used fishing lines properly; and secondly to assist other beach-users dispose of this material. An informational poster accompanies these bins.



- **MATERIAL:** Fishing Line Bin; accompanying poster; discarded fishing line, camera.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Conservation trust, plastic producing company (to make and donate the bins), local national operator.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Local media, tourism offices, fishing clubs, marinas.
- **TIPS:** It is important to monitor these bins, as you don't want them overflowing. The end product can be gathered and turned into art, a big recycled ball for instance.
- Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!

Youth Beach Guard

Target group: Beach users

Type: Awareness-raising

Duration: 7 days – throughout the season

Country: Turkey

WASTE

- **METHOD:** An attractive information stand is built in the middle of the beach. Volunteers wearing uniforms which identify them (tee-shirts, hats) walk in groups and encourage positive behaviour on the beach, such as using recycling bins and ashtrays. One group asks the beach users to fill in questionnaires; another evaluates the cleanliness of the beach twice per day for one week or a whole season, including everyday use of the beach. Games for children and voluntary beach cleaning are also organised. Children are given red and green cardboards and asked to raise the red ones when they see someone littering and the green when seeing somebody picking up litter. Participants of these activities might be given a small gift.



- **MATERIAL:** Tee-shirts, hats, beach ashtrays, gloves, beach stand, project brochures, red and green cardboard, questionnaires, banners, gifts for volunteers (ice cream, balloons etc.), camera.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Municipality, environmental educators, local volunteers.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The activity is announced on the municipality and national organisation's websites. A press conference could also be organised at the end of the project.
- **TIPS:** Engage university students as volunteers. Ask the local municipality or organiser to cover your volunteer and project costs.
- Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!

Notes

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK 2013

The second edition (2013) of this book includes activities from most countries in the Blue Flag network from different parts of the world - Europe, Northern and Southern America, Asia, Africa and southwest Pacific.

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