

# Organizing a Spring Clean-Up



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## Where to start

Many communities in Alaska hold annual spring clean-ups to control litter around the community and at the dump/landfill. Spring clean-ups can be a great way to maintain a clean and controlled dump/landfill area and get the community involved and aware about solid waste issues.



If you'd like to organize a spring clean-up in your community, a great place to start is to:

- 1) **read over this document**
- 2) **call a few communities** that have organized successful clean-up events themselves (listed at the bottom of this document).

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## Things to gather

Before you set the date of your clean-up you might want to make some initial calls and talk to people about gathering the following items:

### Trash bags




Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling (ALPAR) has provided communities with **free** bright yellow litter bags each year since 1983 for spring clean-up events. As a general rule, the number of bags allocated to each community is about 1 bag per person. One organization per community should order the bags. For example, if the City and IRA in your community are going to hold separate clean-up days, have one organization order bags for the whole community and then share the bags between the organizations. Or better yet, have the two organizations join efforts for one **BIG** clean-up day!



The bags from ALPAR are free, however, there is a charge of \$8 per box to help with the parcel post postage.

To contact ALPAR call 644-7968 or email [alpar@gci.net](mailto:alpar@gci.net) Visit their website at [www.alparalaska.com](http://www.alparalaska.com)

ALPAR sends order forms to communities in February. If you order too late or if you need more trash bags, ask if your local store could donate some for your clean-up event. We think it never hurts to ask when you are trying to do something good for your community!

 **ALPAR** offers small seed money **grants** for the ALPAR Youth Litter Patrols in communities. Communities must show that they are involved with other litter prevention and clean-up activities to receive the grant. Applications are due March 1<sup>st</sup>. Contact Mary Fisher at ALPAR at 644-7968 for more information about this grant.

### Gloves

Everyone who is picking up trash on the clean-up day should wear some sort of protective wear on their hands to avoid direct contact with the trash.



For picking up general wind-scattered litter such as paper, plastic, aluminum cans, etc., thin latex gloves should be just fine. These are the type of gloves that come in boxes with many pairs and are quite inexpensive. Most clinics will have boxes of latex gloves. Try going to your local clinic, your school, or even your washeteria to see if they could donate latex gloves for your clean-up day.

For picking up other kinds of trash such as **hazardous wastes** (batteries, oil containers, other chemical containers), **honeybucket bags**, **animal carcasses** etc., **thick rubber gloves and other protective gear are necessary** (such as goggles, tyvek overalls, masks, etc.). Special training such as HAZWOPER training may also be needed. The general public should NOT pick up these types of waste! This should be left to trained solid waste staff.



To read about protective gear for handling special and hazardous wastes, and to find out where to purchase protective gear, see our webpage on safety gear

[http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/Safety\\_gear.pdf](http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/Safety_gear.pdf)

Also, see our webpage on HAZWOPER training <http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/HAZWOPER.pdf>

### Hand sanitizer

Hand sanitizer is a good thing to have for people to use after they have collected trash. Hand sanitizer is an alcohol-based lotion or gel that kills germs when you rub it on your hands. Many stores sell hand sanitizers these days. If your local store stocks it, ask if they could donate a bottle for the clean-up day. Make sure the kids wash their hands at lunch, and when they're done.

## How to get people to participate

### Get the word out!

Once you decide on a date for the clean-up event, start telling people you know about it. Put up **flyers** anywhere you can in the community such as the post office, IRA office, local stores, the washeteria, etc. Make announcements on **CB or VHF systems**. You can also put notices about the event in any newspapers or **newsletters** that go out.



### Involve kids

Kids of all ages are great to bring into a clean-up day. The more hands the better! Kids can be split up into groups with adult supervisors when going out to pick up litter. Getting kids involved is a great way to educate them about the importance of a clean environment.

### Make it fun- have a party!

What better way to get people out to the clean-up event than to offer food and drinks! Play some music! Ask your local stores for any possible **donations of food, drinks, snacks** etc. and have a **BBQ** and a party at the end of the clean-up!



### Offer prizes

You could even hold a raffle contest and offer small prizes or gift certificates at the party. One community that we talked to was able to get prizes and gift certificates donated by local businesses. They passed out one raffle ticket for every bag of trash that people collected - so the more trash picked up, the better your chances of winning a prize!

### Pay clean-up staff

If you have the funding to do so, you are almost guaranteed a good turnout of litter pickers if you offer to pay them. One community combined City and IRA funding pools and were able to pay people \$2.50/full trash bag of litter collected. Another community paid 20 people that signed up for the clean-up an hourly rate for 1 week of litter pick-up. Other communities mustered up the funds to pay people \$1/trash bag.



Source: Chenega Bay Clean-up

## How to pay for the clean-up day?

- Many communities have been able to hold clean-up days for **free** by using community **volunteers** and getting **donations** from ALPAR and local businesses (for trash bags, gloves, snacks, etc.).



*A note about donations: Be sure to ask as many businesses in your community for donations as you can. One community got a construction camp to donate money and trash bags to a spring clean-up because the construction camp is responsible for producing a lot of solid waste in the community.*

- ☀️ Some communities use **IGAP** or **City** funds to pay for spring clean-up events.
- ☀️ **ALPAR** offers **grants** from \$350 and up to fund Youth Litter Patrols in communities. Communities must show that they are involved with other litter prevention and clean-up activities to receive the grant. Applications are due March 1<sup>st</sup>. Contact ALPAR at 274-3266 for more information about this grant.
- ☀️ You may also be able to apply for some other small money grants. See our webpage on grants. [www.zendergroup.org/funding.html](http://www.zendergroup.org/funding.html)

## How to keep your community litter-free

Now that your community is clean and litter-free after picking up all that trash, how can you KEEP it litter-free? When appropriate, talk about litter being a public nuisance and against state law and encourage youth and adults to follow the rules and please not litter.

Encourage good behavior with school projects designed to encourage keeping the community litter free. Teach why littering is hurtful to the environment, animals, birds, fish and other people.

Ask public safety officers to issue tickets or warnings to those caught littering. Provide adequate public trash cans that are serviced regularly to discourage litter.

### Develop litter laws or ordinances

The **Native Village and City of White Mountain** passed a litter law which established a \$300 fine if caught littering in public. White Mountain also passed a dog ordinance which states that no dogs under 3 months are allowed to run loose in the community (puppies love to scatter trash!).

If you would like to contact White Mountain to ask about how they developed their litter laws, call Nora Brown at 638 3411.



The **Louden Tribal Council** passed a resolution prohibiting their three local stores from using plastic shopping bags (those pesky white bags end up everywhere! ). To promote community acceptance of the ban, Loudon used a 1999 EPA grant to purchase \$2,000 worth of canvas shopping bags for people to use instead of the plastic ones. To see a copy of their Resolution go to <http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/ordinances/louden.pdf> If you would like to contact Loudon to ask about how they developed their plastic bag ban call Cindy Pilot, Director, Loudon Tribal Council Environmental Department, at 907 656-1711.



For more sample ordinances (for plastic bag bans and other waste related topics) see <http://www.zendergroup.org/ordinances.htm>



For more information about banning plastic bags in your community, see [http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/Plastic\\_bag\\_ban.pdf](http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/Plastic_bag_ban.pdf)

### Cover trash

Dogs aren't the only animals that can scatter trash. Birds and Mother Nature's own WIND can pick up and carry trash long distances. At home, storing your trash in some sort of container will help prevent unwanted scavengers. At the dump or landfill, covering waste with dirt, a plastic cover, old carpet or clothes, or anything else you may have, can reduce litter scatter.

### Use fencing to prevent litter scatter

Fencing secured into the ground or even **movable temporary fencing** provides windbreaks and helps prevent litter scatter. For more information about fencing including where you can purchase it, see <http://www.zendergroup.org/docs/fencing.pdf>



Temporary/moveable fencing

### Put up signs



Creating "Please Don't Litter" signs or simple flyers and posting them at your local store, post office, washeteria, etc. people not to litter.

You can also get the word out about littering in your local newsletters. Igiugig put out this great flyer in their local newsletter titled "No more litterbugs!" <http://www.igiugig.com/downloads/publications/newsletters/2003/IGG-0607-0603.pdf>

### Talk to schools

One of the best ways to get the word out about littering, is to go into the classrooms and educate school kids. Let them know how important it is for the environment not to litter and get them involved in the clean-up days.



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### Other communities that have organized spring clean-ups

Below are a few people we talked to that have recently organized spring clean-up events in their communities. Feel free to give them a call! They were all very friendly and can share their stories about how to organize a spring clean-up.

#### White Mountain

Jay Adams 638 2111

#### Port Graham

Violet Yeaton 284 2227

#### Chenega Bay

Kate McLaughin 573 5476

#### Gambell

Gerald 985 5346

**Buckland**

Shannon Melton 494 2160

**Igiugig** - See the newsletter for information on their clean-up day<http://www.igiugig.com/downloads/publications/newsletters/2003/IGG-0607-0603.pdf>

Cannon Lee533-3211

**Togiak**

Brian Abraham 493-2041

**2013 Spring Clean Up - Success Story in Togiak****By Brian Abraham, Togiak IGAP Coordinator Tokiak**

Togiak had another successful spring clean-up from end of May to the beginning of June. The village participants collected close to 2,000 ALPAR bags plus had the opportunity to fly aluminum cans via Grant Air to be shipped to Anchorage for recycling. Businesses donated raffle prizes and youth ages and under received \$1.00 a bag for their efforts. Old drums, heavy metal, snow machines, etc. were hauled to the dumpsite by City of Togiak employees and garbage was collected within the village when it was not brought to the senior center to be counted. The parental involvement picking trash was tremendous and the weather cooperated, giving us warm sunny days for a dramatic change of scenery throughout Togiak.



This year's community clean-up was a success due to our partners. BBEDC Arctic Tern grant contributed to pay out \$1.00 a bag and provided youth employment for the event. The Pebble Project donated to purchasing raffle prizes. Togiak Fisheries donated caps, beanie hats, sweaters and a hooded jacket. BBNC helped out sending a coat and a jacket. BBNA gifted a t-shirt. City of Togiak contributed a sweater, t-shirts plus one month free service for water & sewer and garbage. BBAHC-Project Zero donated 2 jackets and tote bags. BBEDC offered caps, picnic blankets, coffee mug, reflectors, hooded sweater, rulers, flashlights, backpacks, and name tags. Brian Abraham donated 2 ivory bracelets. Togiak Natives Limited gifted 5 jackets, 20 gallons of heating fuel and gasoline. Togiak Trading contributed a George Foreman grill, griller and a vacuum/mop. A.C. Company gave 4 bicycles for the raffle prize give away.

Thanks to Alaska Island Air, we were able to ship electronic waste (E-waste) to Dillingham for proper disposal under Curyung Tribal Council, Billy Maines. Joe Johnston Jr., garbage collector for the City of Togiak, did an outstanding job making sure litter bags were counted and effectively made a big difference helping the spring clean-up project. The Environmental Program recognized Darlene Nicholai for picking litter across the slough and leaving comforts of home, and was awarded \$100 for all her efforts. The most bags were picked by Merlina Arkanakyak and friends totaling over 180 bags, and was given a chainsaw purchased from Togiak Trading.

The Togiak Environmental Program is proud to have parents, kids and village members participate in this annual spring cleaning event. The village is now cleaner and safer because of those who donated their time, effort and donations. THANK YOU!!!

**-Brian Abraham, IGAP Coordinator, Togiak 907 493-2041**