

# Keep Our Surroundings Litter-Free

## Introduction

Littering is a massive problem that hurts the environment, wild animals, and the places we live. In this project, we wanted to find out exactly how bad the litter problem is in our area and help students learn to take better care of our community.

## Aim

The main goals of our project were:

- To learn about the different types of rubbish people throw away.
- To see how litter damages nature.
- To learn how to recycle properly and not waste things.
- To understand how to be good citizens and look after our area.

## Method / Activities

Last week, our school and people in the local community did a big clean-up. They picked up litter all around the village and on the roads coming into town. All the rubbish they found was brought into the school so we could look at it.

As a group, we:

- **Sorted the rubbish** into different piles: clean recycling, compost, dirty recycling, and general waste.
- **Weighed every single pile** using scales to see how much there was.
- **Wrote down all the weights** so we could compare them.
- **Talked about what we found** and how our community handles waste.

## Results and Discussion

In total, we collected a whopping **18 kg of litter**. When we sorted through it all, we found out that a lot of rubbish could have been recycled if people were just a bit more careful.

Here are our results:

- **Clean Recycling:** 1.5 kg
- **Dirty Recycling:** 3.5 kg (*this could have been recycled, but it was too wet and muddy to use*)
- **General Waste & Compost:** 13 kg (*some of this was in such a terrible state that it was impossible to separate at all*)

It was sad to see that 3.5 kg of recycling was completely ruined just because it was left in the dirt for too long. It showed us that knowing how to separate your rubbish properly is really important.

After looking at the numbers, we talked about:

- Picking up litter the second you spot it.
- Looking after our own rubbish and not leaving it for others to clean up.
- How bad old litter is for the environment when it sits outside for a long time.

## Student Suggestions

We had a look at the things our village already has to help with rubbish, like the litter-picking stations, public bins, and the local recycling centre.

We realized that the village already has great gear for cleaning up, so we don't need to buy new things. The real problem is just getting people to actually use them properly! We think the best idea is to find ways to remind everyone to use the bins that are already there. We are working on developing a video reminding people to use the litter pickers and bins.

## Awareness and Citizenship

We tested ourselves on where all the litter-picking stations and bins are in the village so we always know where to find them. It showed us that it's actually really easy to throw things out properly because there are plenty of places to do it.

This project taught us a lot about **good citizenship**. This means that everyone has to do their part to keep our home clean. We also think that when visitors come to the area, they need to respect the place and either use the bins or take their rubbish home with them.

We also talked about nature's wellbeing. If we don't look after the environment, animals get hurt. For example, birds might pick up bits of plastic or dirty paper to make nests, which can make them really sick.

## Conclusion

This project really opened our eyes to how bad littering is for our world. But it also showed us that small things make a big difference, like recycling the right way and picking up stray rubbish.

If everyone in the community works together and acts like good citizens, we can make our area much cleaner, safer, and nicer to live in!