



Youth Marine Debris Action Planning - Worksheet Contents

Worksheet Contents:

- 1. Youth Action Planning - Action List:** With this worksheet, youth will explore their goals for reducing potential marine debris, and will create a list of actions to support those goals.
- 2. Youth Action Planning - Implementation Plan:** With this worksheet, youth will plan all of the steps necessary to implement their actions, including budgets, permissions needed, procedures, and metrics for success.
- 3. Extension 1 - Action Plan Menu:** In this extension worksheet, youth can design a more structured and comprehensive plan for reducing marine debris in the community, drawing from examples from existing Regional Marine Debris Action Plans.
- 4. Extension 2 - Action Plans from Scratch:** In this extension worksheet, youth can design a more structured and comprehensive plan for reducing marine debris in the community entirely from scratch, focusing on locally relevant issues and their own community expertise.



Youth Marine Debris Action Plan

Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Name: _____

Marine Debris Issue: What are the big marine debris issues in your community? (Example: *Our school community uses lots of plastic that may become marine debris.*)

Context: What will the scope of your actions be? (EX: *We will focus on the cafeteria.*)

Evidence: How do you know that these actions are necessary? (EX: *We conducted a waste assessment, and found lots of plastics in our school trash.*)

Goals: What are the biggest goals we hope to achieve with our actions? What will it look like if we are successful? (EX: *Our goal is to reduce the amount of plastic our school throws away.*)

Actions: What actions do people need to take in order to achieve this goal? (EX: *We need to research alternative products, and we need to convince the cafeteria to use them.*)



Planning: Based on your brainstorming discussion, you will identify specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) actions you (or someone else) could take to accomplish your goals. Here is an example:

SMART Action:	Measurement:	Volunteer:
Set up monthly assessments to track the waste people throw away in the cafeteria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Results of each assessment• Number of monthly assessments completed	Richard Spinrad
Provide cafeteria administration with resources to identify and promote alternative (compostable, reusable, etc.) products to single-use plastics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of interactions with cafeteria staff to share alternatives• Number of alternatives adopted	Jenny Surfrider

You can include as many actions as you would like, but they should be SMART to help ensure success for your plan. Not every team member needs to support every action suggested, but try and work together to find a plan that resonates with everyone. You can use the table on the next page to stay organized.

Taking Action:

Once your table has been completed with your goals, strategies, and actions, review them as a group. Individuals or teams can volunteer for actions that they would like to take on. Volunteers should then consider how to implement the action, either individually or as a part of a team. Think about a timeline, budget, any permissions or special permits you might need, and how to get the community involved in your work. Use these details to complete the **implementation plan**. You should now have a clear path forward to achieving success in your goals!

Reporting & Reflecting:

An important part of reaching goals is measuring your progress. Come back together as a group to discuss how things are going. If your team runs into problems, ask for help from the rest of the group. If your work is a success, share it! At the end of your project period, celebrate success by sharing gratitudes, shout-outs, or even a festive gathering.



Youth Marine Debris Action Planning - Implementation Plan

Name: _____

Date: _____

Project Name: _____

Goals: What will your action accomplish? (Example: *Our goal is to prevent plastic straws from becoming litter on the beach.*)

Budget: How much will your project cost? (You may need to create an extra table to calculate these costs. Start brainstorming here, and make another table if needed.)

Item	Justification (Why do you need this?)	Cost
Total:		

Community Involvement - Immediate: Who do you need to bring in **from the beginning of your project?** (Example: *We need volunteers to measure straw litter, and artists to make "Skip the Straw" signs.*)

Community Involvement - Long-Term: Who will need to be involved **eventually?** (Example: *We need businesses to post "Skip the Straw" signs.*)



Permits/Approvals Required: What special permissions will you need to do your work?
(Example: *We need to ask the business owner for permission to put up "Skip the Straw" signs.*)

Procedure, Team Duties, & Timeline: What are the steps needed to complete your work? Who is responsible for them? When will they happen?

Task	Team Member	Timeframe

Metrics and Deliverables: How will you measure success? What will your final product be? How will you share your learning? (Example: *We will compare the number of straws collected from the beach cleanup before and after we install the signs. We will post these numbers on social media, and write a thank-you letter to the business owners.*)



Youth Marine Debris Action Planning - Extension 1: Action Planning Menu

Goals: Select *one set* of the following **overall priorities** (Debris Type, Mitigation Approaches, Other Sources, or Other Solutions) for your action plan. These should be achievable and relevant to your community.

Debris Types	Consumer Debris: <i>This includes single-use plastics and most land-based debris (learn more).</i>	Abandoned, Lost, or Derelict Fishing Gear (learn more)	Microplastics & Microfibers (learn more)	Abandoned and Derelict Vessels (learn more)
Mitigation Approaches	Prevention : <i>Keeping debris out of the marine environment.</i>	Removal / Cleanup : <i>Removing debris from the ocean or shoreline.</i>	Research & Monitoring : <i>Better understanding marine debris through science.</i>	Coordination: <i>Working with others to address the issue. (Example)</i>
Other Sources/ Impacts	Ocean-based Debris : <i>Communities like Hawai'i and others may want to address issues related to garbage patches or boating.</i>	Land-based Debris / Consumer Debris: <i>Inland communities may want to focus particularly on watershed and upstream issues.</i>	Disaster Debris & Emergency Response : <i>Storm-prone areas like the Gulf of Mexico may be particularly concerned with debris caused by disasters.</i>	Wildlife & Habitat Impacts : <i>Communities near sensitive habitats may want to directly address impacts on wildlife by marine debris.</i>
Other Solutions	Education & Outreach	Emergency Response	Policy & Management	

Strategies: Select *one set* of methods of addressing marine debris challenges (Cross-Cutting, Audience-Focused, Debris Types, or Policy-Based) to be used under each goal. Try to avoid overlap with your goals, which will make it hard to create clear organization. These should be achievable and relevant for your community, and you should be able to visualize several SMART actions for each one.

Cross-Cutting Methods	Education & Outreach	Research, Assessment, & Monitoring	Removal	Policy & Management	Disposal & Infrastructure
Audience-Focused	Work with Businesses	Work with Marinas	Work with Fishers	Work with Students	Work with the Public
Debris Types	Consumer Debris	Abandoned, Lost, or Derelict Fishing Gear	Microplastics & Microfibers	Abandoned and Derelict Vessels	Ocean-based Debris
Policy-Based	Coordinate with State & Local Agencies	Enhance Existing Laws & Policies	Promote New Laws & Policies		



For example, you may choose to structure your Action Plan as follows:

Goal 1: Consumer Debris	Strategy 1: Education & Outreach on Consumer Debris
	Strategy 2: Research, Assessment, & Monitoring on Consumer Debris
	Strategy 3: Removal of Consumer Debris
	Strategy 4: Policy & Management of Consumer Debris
	Strategy 5: Disposal & Infrastructure of Consumer Debris
Goal 2: Abandoned, Lost, or Derelict Fishing Gear	Strategy 1: Education & Outreach on Fishing Gear
	Strategy 2: Research, Assessment, & Monitoring on Fishing Gear
	Strategy 3: Removal of Fishing Gear
	Strategy 4: Policy & Management of Fishing Gear
	Strategy 5: Disposal & Infrastructure of Fishing Gear
Goal 3: Microplastics & Microfibers	Strategy 1: Education & Outreach on Microplastics and Microfibers
	Strategy 2: Research, Assessment, & Monitoring on Microplastics and Microfibers
	Strategy 3: Removal of Microplastics and Microfibers
	Strategy 4: Policy & Management of Microplastics and Microfibers
	Strategy 5: Disposal & Infrastructure of Microplastics and Microfibers



Youth Marine Debris Action Planning - Extensions: Create a Full Action Plan

Name: _____

Date: _____

Goal: _____

Strategy 1:

SMART Action:	Measurement:	Volunteer:

Strategy 2:

SMART Action:	Measurement:	Volunteer:



Strategy 3:

SMART Action:	Measurement:	Volunteer:

Strategy 4:

SMART Action:	Measurement:	Volunteer:

Strategy 5:

SMART Action:	Measurement:	Volunteer: