

Change Choices Good, Better, Best

Clean-Up Campaigns



Stepping Up to Sustainability

Stepping Up to Sustainability – how can we live more sustainably and make positive lifestyle choices?

In 2011, WESSA launched the 'Stepping Up to Sustainability' concept. With the support of various partners, USAID and other funders, eleven 'Sustainability Commons' have been established across South Africa.

Each of these 'Sustainability Commons' practices sustainable living by:

- reducing, sorting and managing waste better,
- installing renewable technologies,
- conserving and teaching about water management, as well as,
- providing experiential courses on biodiversity.

The goal is simple - to put into practice the lifestyle choices we all need to make! These innovative concepts are set to expand as we all 'step up to sustainability' and seek to change our environmental footprints into environmental handprints of practice for a more sustainable future!



Clean-Up Campaigns

In South Africa, the Constitution guarantees every person the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being. The Constitution further states that the government must act reasonably in order to protect the environment by preventing pollution, as well as promoting conservation and sustainable development.

South Africa's first National Clean-Up Week was launched in 1999.

During this week, South Africans are urged to do something towards cleaning their local community. Examples of clean-ups include litter picking, the clearing of illegal dumping and competitions on a clean-up theme. An important part of a clean-up is to include a component to ensure that the benefits of the clean-up are sustained. This may take the form of an education campaign or ensuring that local facilities for waste disposal and recycling are in order.

This 'Change Choice' pamphlet was developed by Thomas Mathiba, Mbiganyi Merc Major and Landiwe Msomi during a workshop at the 2012 EEASA 30th Annual Conference and Workshop held in Grahamstown.



Did you know?

A paper bag takes one month to decompose, while a disposable nappy takes 550 years!!

Did you know?

Littered cigarette filters contain toxic chemicals that "leak" into the air and water.

Good Change Choices

Clean-Up Campaigns



Pick up litter around the school or in the community. Whether there is one person, your family, the whole class or the entire community, picking up litter is a good place to start!



Place bins in appropriate places.

Choose places in and around the school and community where people are likely to need to dispose of waste – near supermarkets, in the playground. You can also invite learners and community members to brightly decorate the bins.



Find out more. Attend environmental workshops or lectures and do Internet searches to see how successful clean-up campaigns are conducted.



Put up posters in schools, community halls and local libraries.

Design simple clear posters encouraging people to keep their community beautiful, either through recycling, picking up litter or considering what they are purchasing and where it will end up (in the landfill site!)

Better Change Choices

Clean-Up Campaigns



Encourage friends, family and colleagues to think before they throw something away. Where possible, re-use a product several times. If you cannot use it again, find someone who can. If products cannot be re-used, then recycle them.



Sort litter. Glass, paper, plastic and tins can all be recycled so either fill individual bags with only one item (such as glass) or sort out the bags once you have cleaned up a section of road, river or open area.



Run a competition. Whether it is a poster competition or innovative designs from recycled materials, get learners and community members to join in the fun and see how creative they can be.



Visit the local landfill site. Find out how your local landfill site is currently being run and how you can work with the municipality.

Best Change Choices

Clean-Up Campaigns



Run a workshop. Raise awareness in your community by holding an event promoting solid waste management.



Get everyone involved. Whether you are working in a school or are a concerned community member, get 'buy-in' from everyone.



From Trash to Cash. Contact local recycling companies to see whether they can fetch your collected cans, glass, paper and cardboard.



Conduct research. Develop an action plan that may start with a clean-up campaign but escalates into a complete waste management programme.



WESSA Share-Net

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For **environmental resources** to support better lifestyle choices, contact WESSA Share-Net, 033-330 3931 ext 2124 or 2144; e-mail us at sharenet@wessa.co.za or visit our website www.wessa.org.za



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Main funding agent of the WESSA
'Stepping Up to Sustainability'
project.

Did you know?

About half the refuse we throw away each day can be turned into compost, thus reducing waste, recycling valuable resources and enriching the soil.

Practice the
lifestyle choices
we all have to make!!