

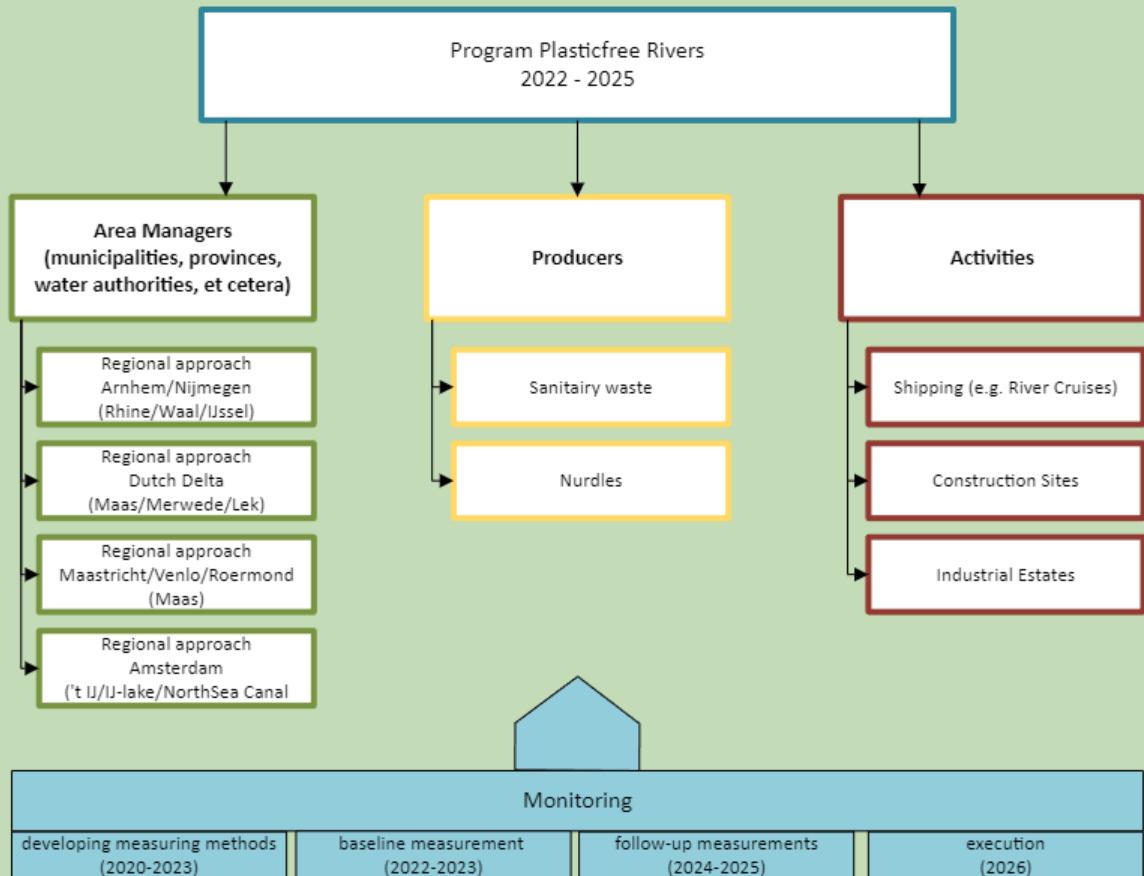


Ministerie van Infrastructuur
en Waterstaat



Plasticfree rivers

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plasticfree rivers
16 June 2025



Plastic-free rivers program along three lines:

- Approach with area managers
- Producer approach
- Approach for specific activities (companies and public services)



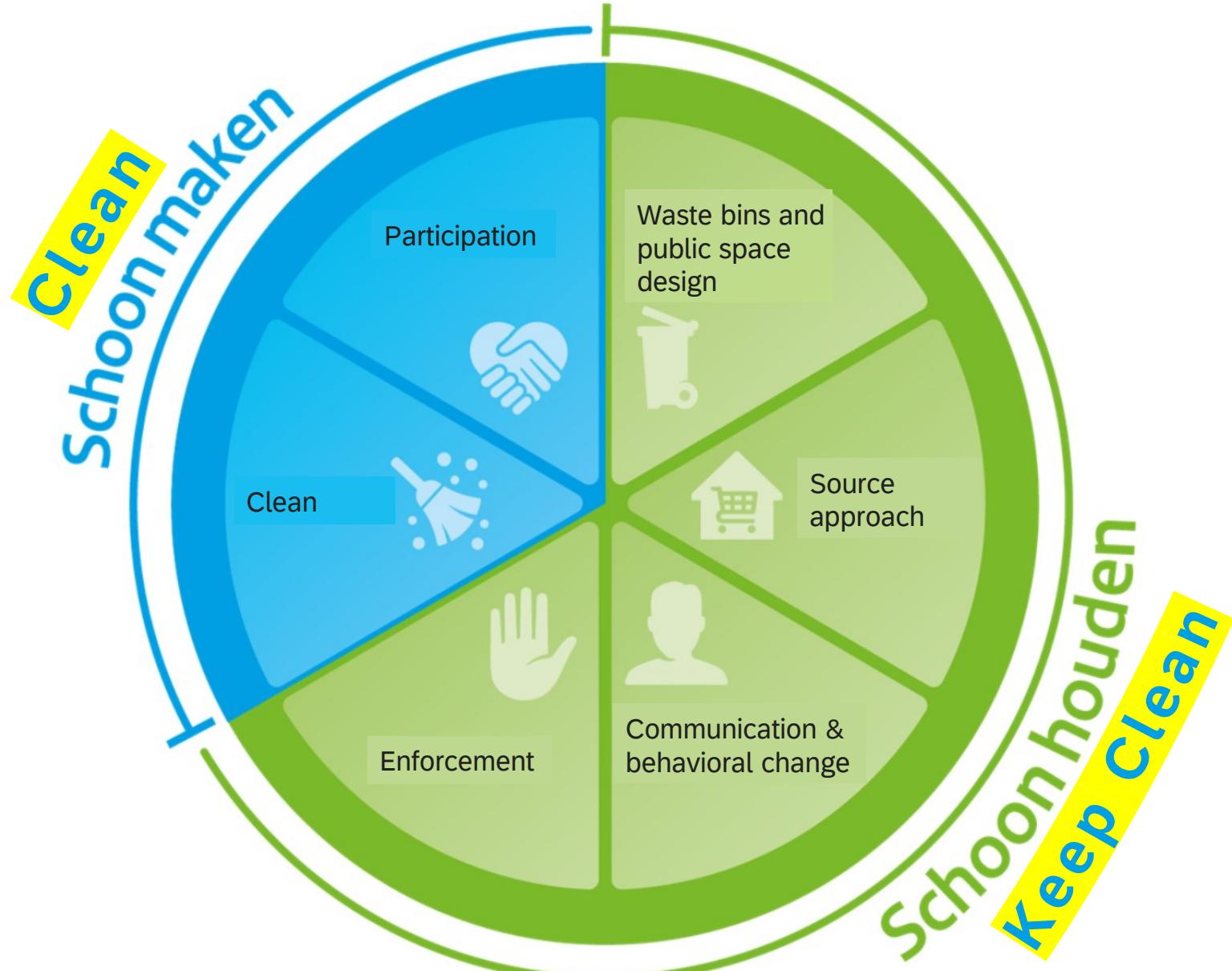
National approach, international anchors

- EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD): reducing the input of pollutants and waste/litter.
- OSPAR regional action plan (article A3.1), lead & support F, B & NL: Monitor, prevent and reduce riverine inputs of macro litter to the marine environment and share knowledge on micro litter monitoring
- Water Framework Directive (WFD): no specific provisions on plastic pollution, but relevant bodies are paying attention to the issue in this regard.



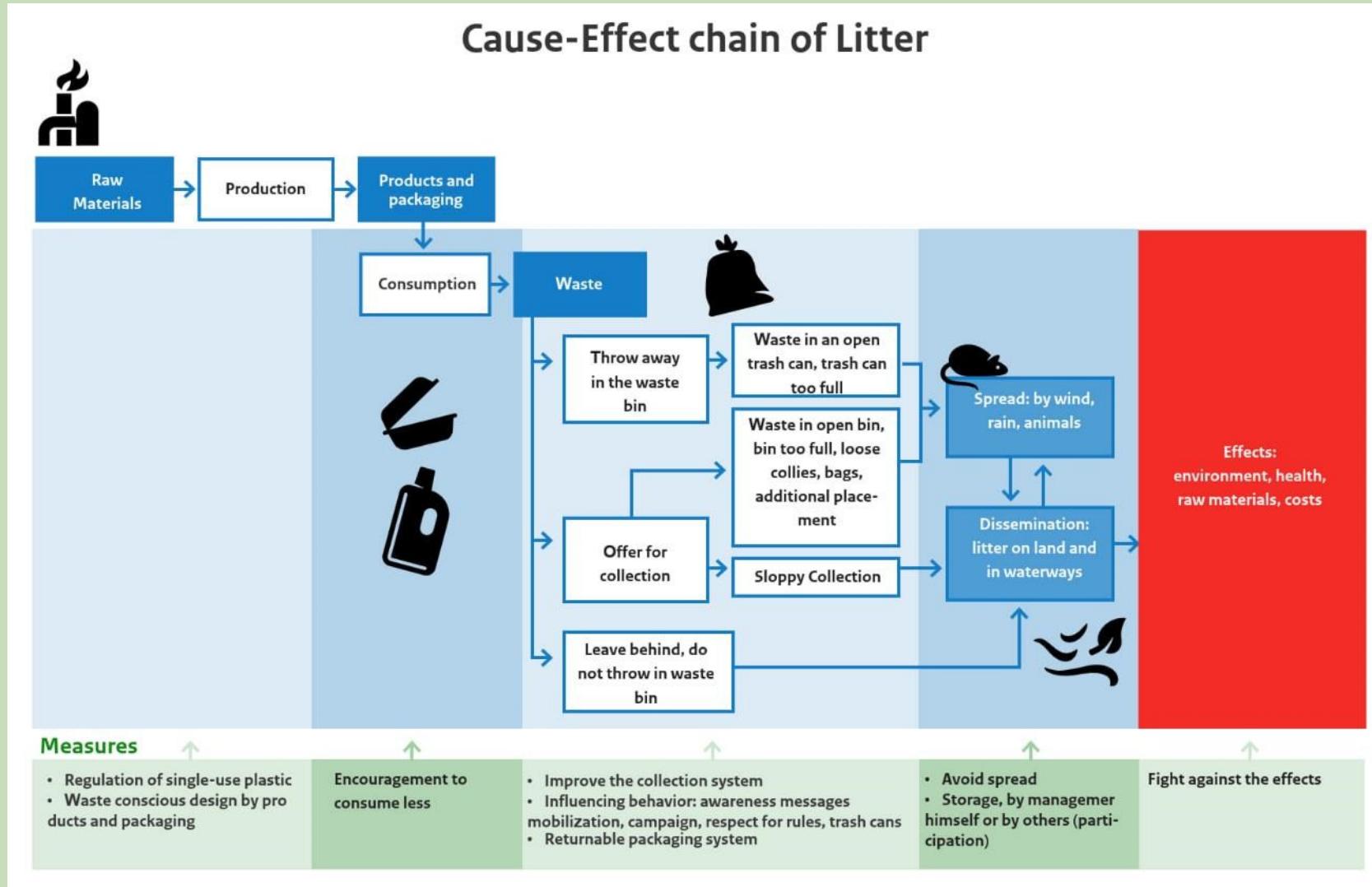
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source approach





What's a source?

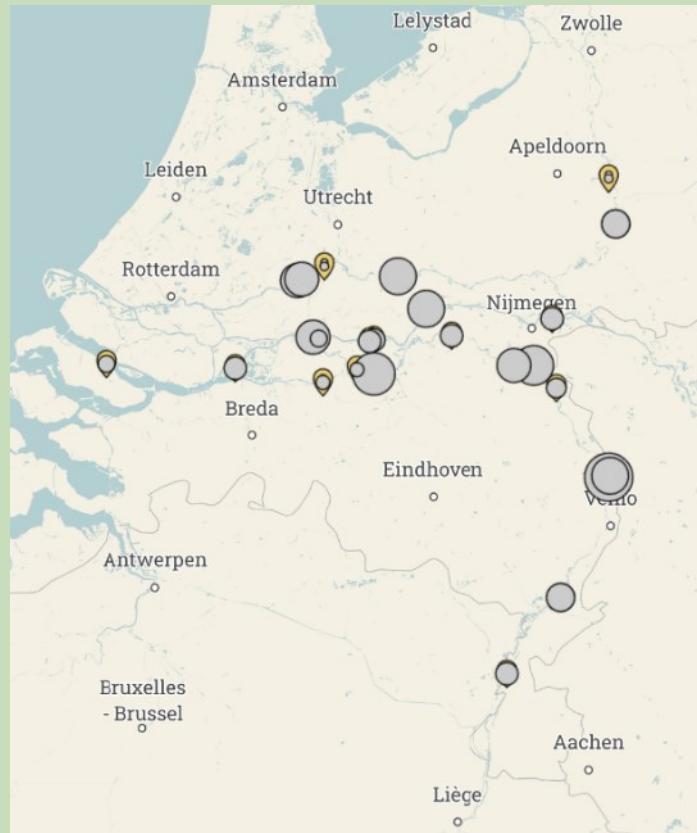




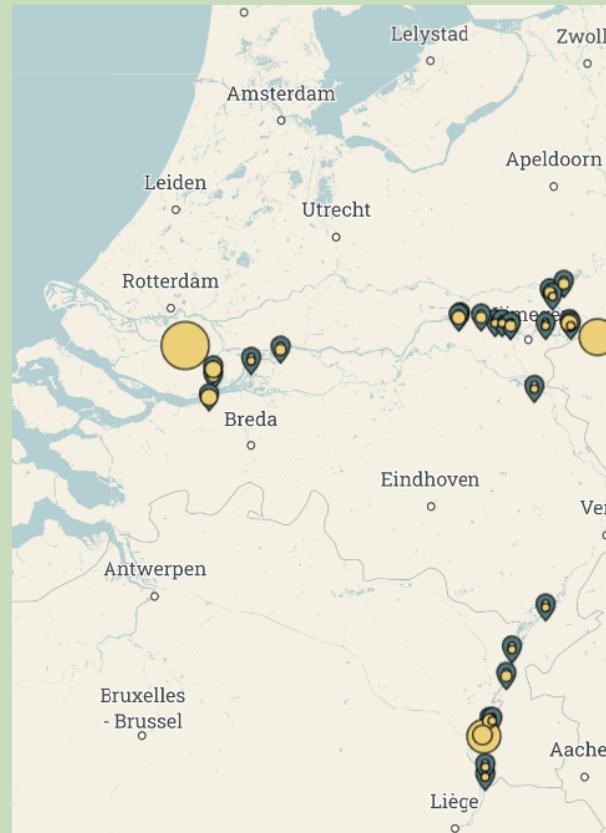
Hotspots help to define sources

Data obtained from citizen science projects by IVN ([program clean rivers](#)):

Recreational Waste hotspot
(2017-2020)



Sanitary Waste hotspot
(2020)



Sport Fishing Waste hotspot
(2017-2020)





Activities and reach

1. Knowledge tools for interventions

- Technical facilities
- Influencing behavior

2. Collaboration on area management approach

- 4 regions inflow and outflow areas
- Plus: Local Customized Advice

3. Agreements with companies

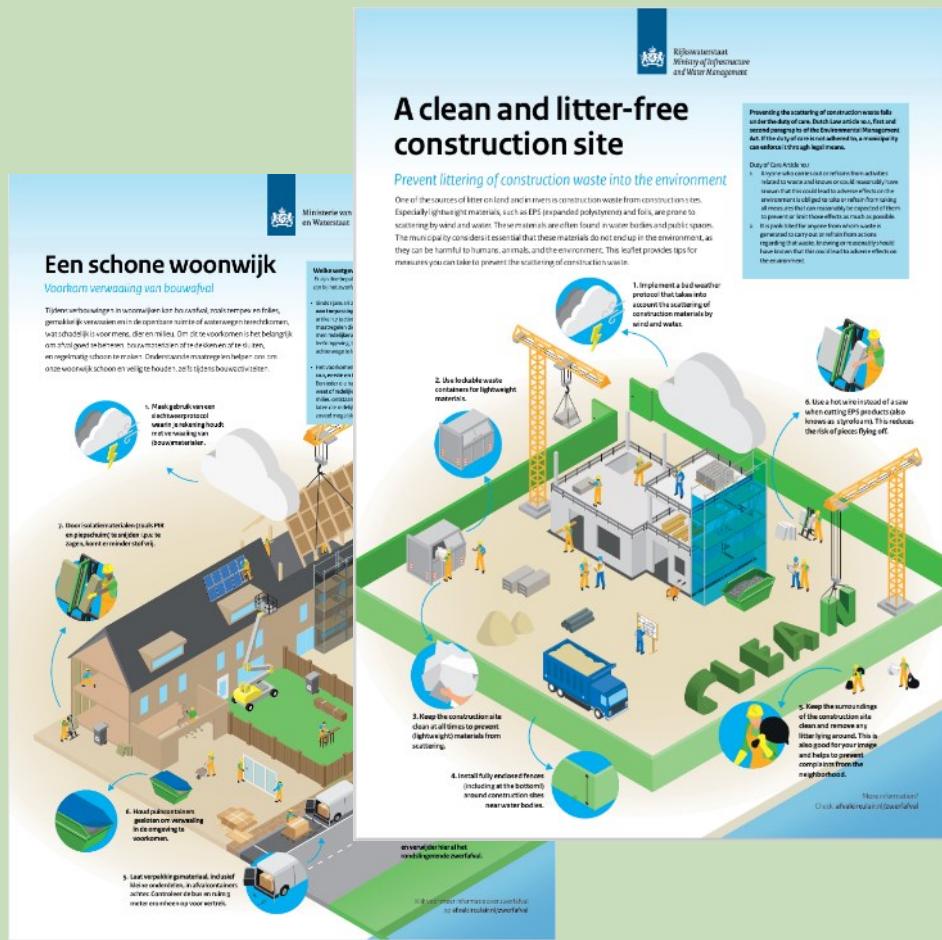
- O.a. construction, river cruises, nurdles

4. Public service collaboration

- O.a. sewer overflows, recreational boating drop-off points



1. knowledge tools



Een schone woonwijk
Voorbeeld verzuizing van bouwafval

Tijdens verbouwingen en nieuwbouwprojecten kan het aantal bouwafvalgroepen flink toenemen. Gelijkveldig verzuigen en de juiste plaatsing van bouwafval is voor een groot deel van de kosten van een project. Om dit te voorkomen is het belangrijk om schadelijke stoffen, zoals plastic en metaal, die kunnen vervuilen, zo snel mogelijk te verwijderen. Onderstaande voorbeelden tonen hoe u als bouwbedrijf kunt voorkomen dat uw werkzaamheden een negatieve invloed hebben op de omgeving.

Werkingsvoorbeelden:

1. Maak gebruik van een schadeloosstelling voor de afvalhoed: rekening houdt met de specifieke regels voor de verschillende groepen.
2. Gebruik een skip voor de oppervlakte en gebruik een skip voor de bouwmaterialen.
3. Houd de constructieplaats schoon en gebruik een skip voor de lichtgewicht materialen.
4. Houd de constructieplaats schoon en gebruik een skip voor de lichtgewicht materialen.
5. Laat de bouwmaterialen direct afleveren aan de leverancier, zodat deze niet meer overblijven.
6. Houd de constructieplaats schoon en gebruik een skip voor de lichtgewicht materialen.
7. Houd de constructieplaats schoon en gebruik een skip voor de lichtgewicht materialen.
8. Houd de constructieplaats schoon en gebruik een skip voor de lichtgewicht materialen.
9. Laat de bouwmaterialen direct afleveren aan de leverancier, zodat deze niet meer overblijven.
10. Houd de constructieplaats schoon en gebruik een skip voor de lichtgewicht materialen.

A clean and litter-free construction site
Prevent littering of construction waste into the environment

During the course of time on land and in water, construction waste finds its way into the environment. Especially light-weight materials, such as EPS (expanded polystyrene) and foil, are prone to scattering by wind and water. These materials often find their way into marine birds and marine species. The municipal government has set that these materials do not end up in the environment at all, as they can be harmful to humans, animals, and the environment. The leaflet provides tips for measures you can take to prevent the scattering of construction waste.

Presenting the scattering of construction waste falls under the duty of care. Dutch Law article 1:1, first sentence, paragraph 1 of the Environmental Management Act (EPA) states that it is prohibited to damage the environment, or otherwise do anything that endangers it through legal means.

Duty of Care Article 1:1
It is prohibited to damage the environment, or otherwise do anything that endangers it through legal means that has a negative or adverse effect on the environment, or to do that in a way that causes damage to the environment, or to damage it through the use of resources to prevent or limit those effects as much as possible. In practice, this means that the environmental impact generated by carrying out certain actions must be regarded as negligible. In other words, it should be avoided that the damage caused by the action exceeds the damage caused by the measure.



Best practices for litter free riverbanks

Working method for clean city quays
Best practices for litter free urban water systems



Together we make Rotterdam cleaner.

Introduction
Litter is a problem in many places, including recreational areas along the water. By developing measures for city quays focused on reducing litter, the likelihood of water and environmental pollution decreases. In the process, we have identified various sources of waste occurring on the quay:

1. Recreation on the quay
2. Recreation in square areas/quays
3. Unsanitary containers
4. Waste collection bags

Below, we explain different measures and provide practical information.

The goal of this approach is to examine and enable management with the city quay's users by specifically addressing people's littering behavior. This method can be used by departments such as public space management and venue operators.

Please use this document!

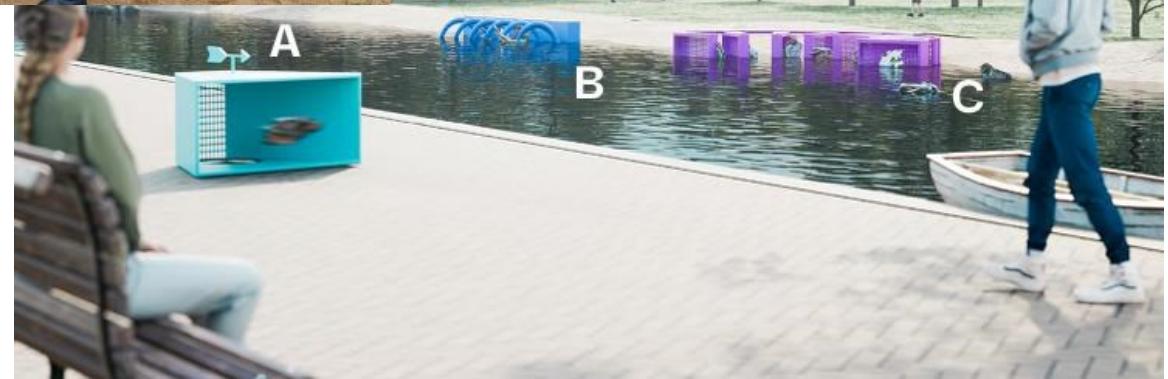
First, determine the source(s) of litter on the water, and then respond with specific behavioral interventions for that source. We provide guidelines for the interventions:

- If it originates from recreation on the quay, go to page 5.
- If it originates from recreation in a square/along the quay, go to page 6.
- If it originates from an unsanitary container on the quay, go to page 7.
- If it originates from waste bags collected on the quay, go to page 8.

Working the Basics in Order:
It is essential to ensure that the foundation is in order. The environment and layout of an area are unique to it. Therefore, it is best to start with the way an area is used by the public. After this, the littering behavior can be addressed. Finally, we move on to the physical management and venue operators, and describe three ways to get the basics in order.



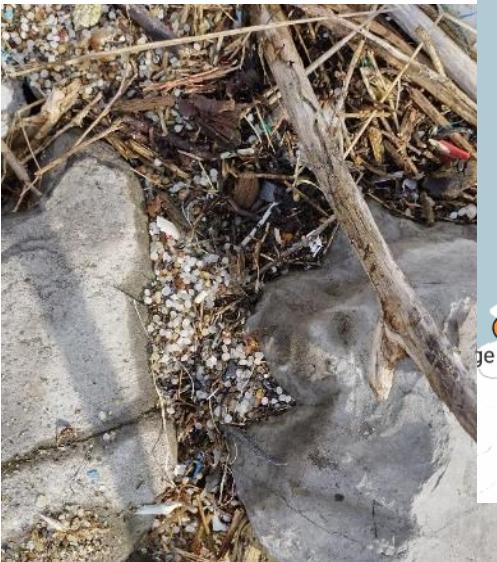
2. Area management approach



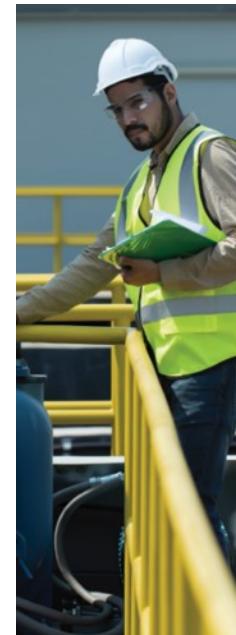


3a. Nurdles

Hotspots analyses



Checklists certification, oversight and enforcement



Stap 1 Inventariseer je bedrijfs

- Bekijk of er bedrijven voorkomen in jouw bes
- productiebedrijven die pellets gebruiken on
 - transportbedrijven
 - bedrijven die werken met containers (op- ei
 - afvalverwerkende bedrijven die van afvalpl
 - opslagbedrijven die pellets opslaan in een d

Bekijk welke voorschriften gelden

- Zijn er voorschriften/artikelen voor de opslag, p verwerking van plastic korrels opgenomen in d in algemene regels in het ActiviteitenBesluit (AB)
- a. Type a en b inrichting – voorschriften AB
 - b. Type c inrichting – voorschriften in vergunnin
 - c. Type c inrichting – voorschriften in vergunnin





3b. Rivercruises on board

Interventions (behavior)

Toolkit for River Cruises

How you, as a cruise operator, can contribute to solving the plastic problem in rivers

This guide provides tips for interventions that you can apply on your river cruise. With behavioural interventions, you can influence passengers' habits regarding their use of wet wipes and how they dispose of them. Ready to get started? Scan the QR code and download the toolkit for river cruises!

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- The captain, the figurehead of the cruise ship, should include in their welcome speech the importance of disposing of wet wipes in the bin and not flushing them down the toilet.
- Invite all passengers who are checking in to sign a pledge promising that they will dispose of their wet wipes in the bin.
- After submitting the signed pledge at the reception, passengers receive a branded candleholder to keep their room key in.
- Place a commitment counter at the reception showing how many passengers have committed to the pledge.
- Hold a raffle with fun prizes for all passengers who submit the signed pledge.
- Display a poster with a poem opposite the toilets and in private cabins. The text reminds passengers to dispose of wet wipes properly. In public toilets, place a sticker on the bins that says: "Dispose of your wet wipes here."

Wet wipes are a popular product. They are convenient and hygienic to use. However, they also cause problems, as wet wipes often contain plastic fibres. After usage, many wipes end up in the environment, posing a danger to flora and fauna.

It often goes wrong during disposal: used wet wipes are often flushed down the toilet instead of being thrown in the bin. This can cause blockages in the sewage system. However, no real problems are immediately visible. The plastic fibres in wet wipes break down and enter the environment as microplastics. These issues occur both by use of wet wipes on land and on water, for example, during river cruises.

The improper disposal of wet wipes calls for both policy adjustments and consumer education. As a cruise operator, you can also help reduce the flow of wet wipes into rivers, by implementing this toolkit.

Scan the QR code to download the toolkit or visit www.ssihouderondersteunen.nl/toolboxen





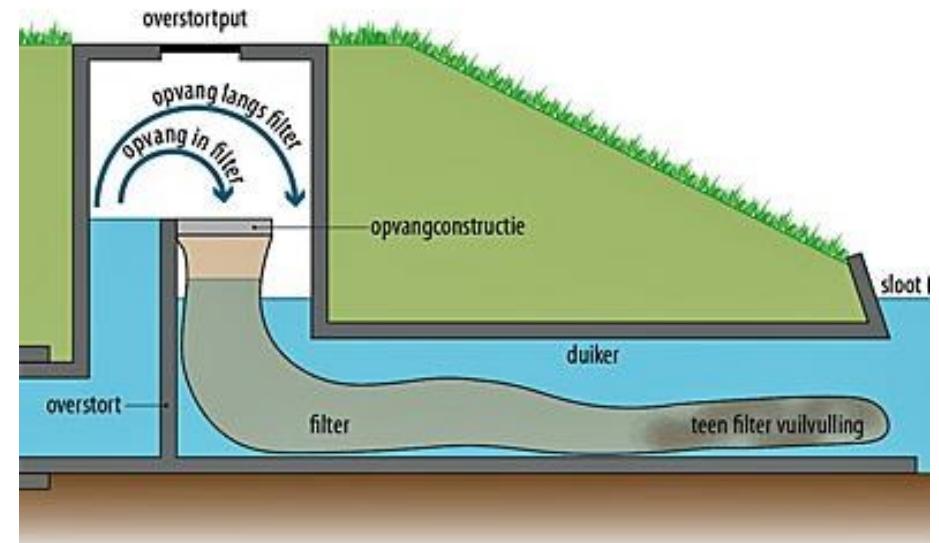
4a. Waste water discharge

Interventions (physical)





4b. Sewer overflow





Sharing is caring

Online

- [Plastikfreie Flüsse: Überwachung und Quellenansatz](#)
- [Des rivières sans plastique : surveillance et traitement à la source](#)
- [Programma plasticvrije rivieren - Afval Circulair](#)
- E-mail: zwerfafval@rws.nl

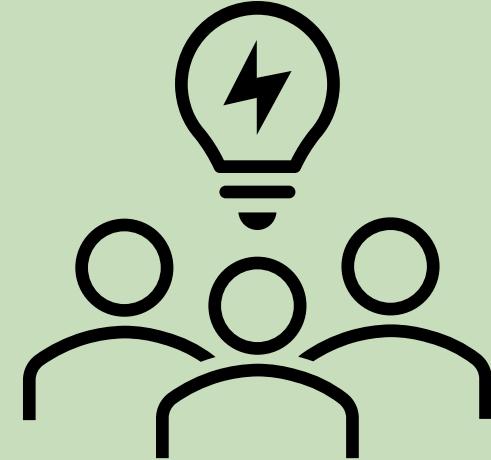




Your turn ;-)

Questions:

- What are your local challenges?
- What are solutions for your situation and how to approach them?
- How can we collaborate?



In groups (app. 5):

1. inventarize sources within your area – 10';
2. What/who would you need to solve these sources (first in person, reflect within your group and present plenair) – 15';
3. How could OSPAR help in this, what should it enable – 10'.