

Cleanups with Compassion

A Best Practice Guide
for planning
volunteer cleanups
near and with
unhoused neighbors

AFTER a Cleanup – What to Do

Thank Volunteers

- Send a thank-you email to all registered participants.
- Include photos from the event (if available).
- Report back on impact metrics (e.g., pounds of trash collected, number of volunteers).
- Mention upcoming cleanup opportunities.

Report Your Impact

- Calculate total pounds of trash, recycling, and compost collected.
- Tally how many participants attended (including community members and encampment residents).
- Record locations cleaned and note any areas that may need future attention.
- Take photos of sorted materials, filled dumpsters, and participant groups.
- Submit any required reports to funders, partners, or permitting agencies.

Evaluate & Debrief

- Debrief with cleanup staff and partners.
- What worked well? What can be improved next time?
- Did any safety or site access issues arise?
- Document lessons learned for future events.

Follow Up with Stakeholders

- Share outcomes with landowners, homeless outreach groups, waste management, and city staff.
- Let them know about any items requiring follow-up (e.g., hazardous waste, large debris).

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Leave No Trace (of the Cleanup Itself)

- Remove tables, signage, and supplies from the site.
- Ensure dumpsters or carts are picked up promptly (unless left intentionally for encampment use).
- Double-check for forgotten supplies or materials left behind.

Share the Impact

Share a social media post or a newsletter article to highlight your team and volunteers. Share the story of your cleanup, teamwork, and the impact made!

