

**RE: COUNTY GALWAY ‘ADOPT A ROAD’ LITTER REDUCTION
PROGRAMME**

CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION

1. This programme relates to the collection of litter from agreed roadside verges by businesses or groups agreeing to participate in the scheme.
2. The section of road will be agreed between Galway County Council and the business or group and will generally be outside areas not covered by an existing service.
3. Galway County Council will supply reflective jackets, gloves, and /or litter pickers and a collection service for any litter collected. Agreed signage acknowledging participants and Galway County Council will be erected along the adopted stretch of road verge.
4. Other options of support by Galway County Council can be considered.
5. The business or group must
 - o Read and understood the attached guidance leaflet and ensure that all persons carrying out any works do so in accordance with the attached guidance leaflet.
 - o Ensure that when litter maintenance work is in progress that all persons are supplied with reflective jackets and equipment suitable to the task.
6. Issues in relation to insurance must be clarified and agreed between the participants and Galway County Council before commencement of any programme.
7. The business or group and Galway County Council will have the right at any time to review or terminate this arrangement.
8. The business or group will designate a contact person to liaise with Galway County Council.

I the undersigned, on behalf of _____ (Name of company / group / organisation) agree to participate in the above scheme in accordance with the conditions outlined above.

Name _____ Title _____

Address _____

Signed: _____ Date _____

Galway County Council

Litter Picking: Advice to Volunteer Groups 2011

The following information gives advice and guidance to help volunteers understand what hazards they may face and how they should deal with these and also give practical information for organisers of 'clean up' events. A safety briefing should be conducted prior to the clean up by the organisers of the event.

PERSONAL PREPARATION:

- Wear Gloves
- Strong Footwear
- Waterproof Clothing
- High Visibility Clothing

SAFETY OFFICER:

Groups should appoint a Safety Officer.

CHILDREN:

- Children under 10 years old should not participate in a clean up.
- Children over 10 years should be properly supervised at a ratio of no more than 5 children to one adult.

COLLECTING EQUIPMENT:

- Heavy Duty Refuse Sacks
- Litter Pickers
- Rake or shovel to deal with potentially hazardous items.

HAZARDS – Waste Types

- Unidentified cans, canisters, drums or similar containers, if there is a suggestion that the contents may be hazardous or that the container is leaking leave the item and mark for collection later.
- Broken Glass should only be lifted using a litter picker and placed in a suitable container.
- Needles/Syringes, under no circumstances touch a hypodermic needle or other drugs related litter. Mark clearly and arrange for special collection.

ROADWAY SAFETY:

For any site where there is a significant risk of being struck by moving traffic, volunteers should be provided with high visibility clothing. High Visibility clothing is essential even on roads that are not busy if low light levels or poor weather restrict visibility. A number of High Visibility Vests will be provided to organising groups but the responsibility for wearing them, obtaining them and erecting any signs to warn road users is the responsibility of the organising group.

FIRST AID PROVISION:

- At minimum a First Aid Box with Anti Bacterial wipes should be available on site.
- Any cuts or grazes should be carefully covered up with waterproof plasters/dressings before the cleanup event.
- Report all injuries however minor to the event organisers.

INSURANCE:

Issues in relation to insurance must be clarified and agreed between the participants and Galway County Council before commencement of any programme.

NOTE:

Employers who are involved in litter collection activities or who are asking employees to volunteer for such work during work time should be aware that they are subject to the requirements of Health and Safety legislation.

HAZARDS – Site Risk Assessment

The organiser of a Clean up should carry out an assessment of the chosen site and examine possible risks. The following are some of the hazards to look out for:

| HAZARD | RISK |
|---|---|
| Road Traffic | Major injury or death with direct or indirect contact with vehicles |
| Moving Plant and Machinery | Physical injury from moving parts |
| Natural Hazards, Deep or fast flowing water, Dangerous currents and tides, Steep, slippery or unstable banks, Derelict Buildings or Electric Fences etc. Sharp Rocks/ Mud Holes, Giant Hogweed. | Drowning, Slips, Trips and Falls, Skin irritation |
| Manual Handling | Injuries including torn ligaments, lacerations and broken bones. |
| Hazardous Substances/Waste | Contact with chemical causing injuries to skin, eyes or respiratory |
| Bio-Hazards - body fluids, sharps, needles etc | Lacerations/puncture wounds, contracting harmful diseases e.g, Weils disease. |
| Environmental conditions - wet, ice, cold, heat. | Physical Injury, hypothermia, heatstroke or sunburn. |
| Animals/insect bites | Physical injury, stings, bites, allergies. |
| Working Alone. | Violence/Medical or Personal Injury |

IMPORTANT

Galway County Council are not responsible for any injury, loss or claim in the event of accident or injury to persons during a litter picking exercise.

The act of litter picking is done with the free will of all voluntary participants and not as a request or in partnership with Galway County Council.

The information contained in this document is current at the date hereof and is issued to assist voluntary groups undertake litter picking activities safely. It does not replace any other guidance, affect any existing enforcement procedures, nor does it present a full summary of the requirements imposed upon employers / organisers and the self-employed.