



We need your help protecting biodiversity, locally and globally.

This project is best suited for rural, urban, and suburban communities. Dr. Jane reminds us to "think globally and act locally."

If you feel there are other issues more pressing in your area, consider using the [Roots & Shoots 4-step Formula](#) to observe your community and design a service project. Or, take the quiz on our [homepage](#) to discover issues that matter to you.



Project-in-a-Box: Together No Trash



"I was inspired to plan my first beach cleaning when I remembered all of the research and statistics I had read about of how many animals are negatively affected by ocean pollution. I have always cared for animals and wildlife so doing this beach cleaning meant a lot to me."

—ISABELLA V., ROOTS & SHOOTS MEMBER

GET ENGAGED

1. Be inspired...Meet Isabella

Isabella V. is a young activist who **inspires peers** by leading multiple projects to help people, animals, and the environment. One of Isabella's many projects, [Beach Cleaning](#), focuses on her passion for wildlife. Her hometown in Florida is an important nesting area for loggerhead sea turtles. By creating this project and cleaning the beaches, Isabella **acted with a purpose** and **empathy** to ensure the sea turtles' habitat was safe for them.



Learn More BLOG

[Click here](#) to learn more about why littering is so harmful to the people, animals, and the environment.

Throughout this resource you'll notice terms and phrases that are **bolded in orange**, these are the Roots & Shoots compassionate traits, [click here](#) to learn more.

GET INSPIRED MINI-STORY:

Abby A. is a Roots & Shoots National Youth Leadership Council Member from Rehoboth, Massachusetts. Motivated by her love for her community, Abby **collaborated** with members of her town to participate in trash clean-ups. Inspired by the group's impact, Abby created her own litter prevention initiative. By partnering with local business and artists, Abby was able to donate decorated trash barrels that were placed throughout the town for easy trash disposal. [Click here](#) to check out her project profile page.



Learn More

Get inspired and learn about the importance of protecting global biodiversity by [listening to this episode](#) of the Jane Goodall Hopecast Podcast with Razan Al Mubarak, conservation and sustainable development professional.



ACTION GLOSSARY

BIODIVERSITY The variety of living things in a given place—whether a small stream, an extensive desert, all the forests in the world, the oceans, or the entire planet. (<https://kids.britannica.com>)

BIODIVERSITY LOSS A decrease in the biodiversity within a species, an ecosystem, a given geographic area, or Earth as a whole. (www.britannica.com)

HABITAT The natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism. (Oxford Languages)

LITTERING Not disposing of trash properly. (www.ecokidsusa.org)

NATIVE SPECIES A species that is within its known natural range, and occurs naturally in a given area or habitat, as opposed to an introduced species or invasive species. (www.oxfordreference.com)

2. Explore the natural habitats in your local community

FOCUS ON A 1-MILE RADIUS.

Mark the following things on a hand-drawn or printed map:

- * Identify the natural habitats you find. (for example a park, hiking trail/woods, the beach)
- * How many types of living species can you name in the places above (for example different trees, plants, animals, insects)
- * Place stars on your map where you could help increase or protect biodiversity. Rate the locations based on:
 - * Which location has the most plant and/or animal species?
 - * Do many people visit this area?
 - * Do you notice evidence of harmful human activity at this place (trash littered, footprints off marked trails)

3. Next, **think critically** to determine what type of biodiversity project might be the best fit for your community:



QUESTION 1) Is there a place in your neighborhood/community where you have permission to plan a trash clean-up (or a group you can work with)? Do you think you have, could find, or borrow the materials you need to host one?

* If yes, [click here](#) for Giving Habitats a Hand. If no, go to Question 2!

QUESTION 2) If you do not have access to a place in your neighborhood/community to do a trash clean up, can you reduce the amount of trash you create?

* If yes, [click here](#) for Taking Out the Trash. If no, go to Question 3!



QUESTION 3) Instead of focusing on trash production, how about sharing your passion for saving and increasing biodiversity?"

* If yes, [click here](#) for Host a Community Conversation.

4. Choose your change

The most effective change-makers are **adaptable** and **hopeful/optimistic** about their community's needs and strengths. Each change option presented below is equally powerful and important. Choose the change that you will make by deciding which action is best for YOU!



TIP: [Click here](#) to use the Roots & Shoots resource Sample Project Timeline to help organize your project.

GIVING HABITATS A HAND

Find a location in your community where you have noticed trash littering the area. This could be the beach, a hiking trail, or a street in your neighborhood, etc. If you don't already have permission to host a cleanup in your chosen location, get that first! Try thinking about those responsible for public spaces in your community and reach out to them.

Next, gather your supplies. For safety, consider using sturdy bags, work gloves, grabber tools, and close-toed shoes. Make sure to use [this checklist](#) for safety during cleanups.

Then, do some research on the best way to dispose of the trash and recyclable items you found. You can do an online search for "trash disposal + your city's name" ([click here](#) for an example)

During your cleanup, pay attention and avoid handling sharp or unknown objects.



TIP: Two can pick up more than one! Think about who you can invite to **collaborate** on your cleanup. Are there existing organizations that do this work in your community? Do you have family or friends who would be excited to make a difference with you?



Learn More DID YOU KNOW

You can upcycle the trash you clean up! Find out how a group of Roots & Shoots members upcycled trash into bird houses [here](#).

TAKE ACTION

“My community is a place full of people that I love, and I think it's really special to be able to work with others to help improve certain areas of need within the community to make it a stronger and healthier place to be in.”

—ABBY A., ROOTS & SHOOTS NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEMBER



TIP:

Often, our plastic waste ends up in places it shouldn't be like the ocean, other waterways, ecosystems, or landfills. Find more ways to put a pause on your plastic pollution using our Roots & Shoots 1-click, [Waste Not](#).

TAKING OUT THE TRASH

Use the power of knowledge to help protect species' biodiversity. [This waste audit](#) will help you track your single-use plastic consumption and waste. Your findings will help you influence your community (school, place of worship, neighborhood, friend group, etc.) to make better choices when it comes to plastic consumption and addressing plastic pollution.



GET INSPIRED

Learn how youth leader Virginia J. has reduced her single-use plastic consumption and educated her community here by watching this video, [here](#).



Learn More DID YOU KNOW?

Researchers estimate that over one million animals are endangered each year after ingesting or becoming trapped in to improperly discarded trash [Click here](#) to learn more.



TIP: [Visit](#) the Community Collaboration page on Roots & Shoots to learn how your project can have a bigger impact!

HOST A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Use the power of your knowledge to educate your family, friends, and community members on why biodiversity is so important in your community.

- * Write your own message about how pollution negatively impacts ecosystems and plays a part in the increase of biodiversity loss.
- * Host a discussion to share what you learned. This conversation can happen in your living room, on a walk around your neighborhood, or on a video call with your friends.
- * Contact your elected representatives! Letting your local and federal representatives know that clean habitats is important to you makes a difference. Search for yours [here](#).



Learn More DID YOU KNOW?

Learn more about the causes of biodiversity loss. [Click here](#) to learn more



TIP:

People connect **empathetically** to images and stories. When talking about the importance of biodiversity, share a personal anecdote that includes your favorite species native to your community!

5. Inspire others with your impact

SHARE YOUR PROJECT ON THE ROOTS & SHOOTS WEBSITE!

Tell the rest of the Roots & Shoots global community about your project. This helps us measure the collective impact of our members around the world and show off your success to inspire others.

* Not a member yet? Sign up at rootsandshoots.org/register (it's always FREE!)

Already a member? Login to rootsandshoots.org and navigate to your project profile to edit, update, and report on your project.

Communicate the good you are doing to your online community! Use the keyword TogetherNoTrash in your project title to be exclusively counted as part of this Project in a Box

