CLEAN STEM Flash

A Timely Climate and Energy E-Learning Series to Use and Share

**Topic: Marine Debris Down by the Sea**

For [Clean Beaches Week](#), learn all about how pollution affects our oceans and what the solutions may be.

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**CLEAN Resource Feature**

**Video:** Team Marine - Young Voices for the Planet

This video follows a group of high school students and their efforts to ban the use of plastic shopping bags in the city of Santa Monica.

*Video length: 5:42 min.*  
*Audience: Middle School, High School*

Take a look at this [info-graphic](#) from NOAA for supplemental materials.

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Plastic bags and other trash have a lasting effect on marine ecosystems. This video serves as an excellent example of student activism and the power of youth engagement. This
CLEAN Resource Feature

Activity: Oil Spill Cleanup

This hands-on activity teaches students about the complex issues surrounding environmental cleanup.

Activity takes two 45-minute classroom periods.  
Audience: Middle School

For more details about oil spill cleanup, check out this article from NOAA.

Cleaning up an oil spill is an economic and political challenge. It is necessary to work around these obstacles in order to reduce the environmental impact of an event like an oil spill. In this activity, students will be asked to put themselves in the place of both an environmental engineer and an oil company owner who are responsible for the clean-up.

Climate & Energy in the News

Plastic pollution has been making headlines lately. Several cities have begun banning plastic straws, while other areas are working to re-purpose plastic waste in more sustainable ways.
This biology student from Reed College in Oregon may have discovered a solution to the plastic pollution problem. Read about how this breeding bacteria is capable of “eating” plastic and potentially breaking it down into harmless by-products.

Explore the CLEAN collection of climate & energy learning resources

CLEAN supports teaching and learning about climate and energy with 700+ free peer-reviewed, scientifically accurate, and classroom-ready resources.

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