

Coastal clean-up 4. May 2019



Snæfellsnes regional park in cooperation with Snæfellsnes ecocertification organised coastal clean-up at four beaches across the peninsula

The inhabitants of Snæfellsnes like to keep their surroundings tidy, which is why a coastal cleanup of the entire peninsula was organised on the 4th of May. This was also part of a Nordic clean up day across the Nordic countries. Groups of volunteers from all the communities took part at four different locations.

Although it is often possible to find good things that drift onto the beaches (such as driftwood), there was also a lot of bad things (mostly plastic) that is of no use, pollutes and creates a danger to birds and others organisms.

Most of the beach clean-up consisted of plastic such as bottles, ropes and fish nets and plastic broken down to small pieces.

The benefits of beach clean-up are multifaceted: pure beautiful beaches that residents and visitors can enjoy, less pollution that has an adverse effect on all inhabitants - human beings and other, and at the same time this is a fun way to get to know one's own environment better.

This coastal clean-up leaves one with the thought how we can prevent all this stuff from being found on our shore? Can we sort our garbage better? Reduced the amount of garbage? Can we avoid buying plastic and packaging? What can we do as individuals, companies, and communities?

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Pictures from the Snæfellsnes National Park – one of four areas where the clean-up took place



Picture 1: Much was collected from all kinds of plastic waste, e.g. ropes and net balls. They needed to be carried from the beach and up to the parking lot, about 600 m. One idea was to thread the netballs on the rope and pull.



Picture 2: The beach clean-up was part of a joint Nordic effort. Here the Norwegian ambassador in Iceland arrived to do her bit. At certain places all over the Nordic countries, the type and quantity of the trash was sorted into categories, which was carried out by the Snæfellsnes Regional Park, here inside the Snæfellsnes national park, at Bervik.

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Picture 3: Here is a big heap of the typical trash found on the beach, nets, ropes and net balls. This bundle of trash was too heavy to carry to the road. Here a helicopter will be needed to transport the trash away.



Picture 4: Beautiful surroundings but in between you can find the trash. This habitat for all organisms is therefore not only beautiful but also safe when all the trash is cleared.

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Pictures from the Snæfellsnes National Park – one of four areas where the clean-up took place



Picture 5: In the end, this group of about 25 people had collected and brought to the parking place a great deal of trash. The next step was to move it away, but it was not clear whether some parts could be categorized and reused or whether it ended up in a landfill. Therefore, the best solution would have been, of course, if all this trash had not gone into the wild and that everybody who was responsible for it when it was in use would have reused it. Therefore, in the beginning, the end should be considered.

Picture 6:
The largest part of the trash was any kind of plastic waste, such as plastic bottles and -cans, net balls, ropes and fish nets, as could be seen when one looked into one of the many trash bags.

