

## **TRASH TRAPPING PROJECT CHECKLIST**

- IDENTIFY SUITABLE LOCATION(S)**  
Gain understanding of pollution sources, accumulation points and the most common types of plastic or litter in your local environment. Use the ITTN visual audit protocol to quantitatively compare areas of litter accumulation and identify hotspots for trash trap device installation. The visual audit can be carried out multiple times throughout a year or season to understand how litter accumulates and moves in changing weather conditions.
- CONSIDER POTENTIAL INTERACTIONS WITH BIOTA**  
Trash traps may capture organic matter and biota along with anthropogenic debris. The likelihood and impact of this will depend on the location and design of the trash trap as well as local wildlife in a location. Efforts should be made to prevent negative impacts. Investigate the biota in your chosen location and consult with local wildlife organizations to ensure that the chosen device and device do not pose a risk to wildlife, including ecologically important or sensitive species or habitats.
- ASSESS ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS**  
Once suitable locations are identified, make a note of relevant environmental conditions, for example the amount of aquatic vegetation, wind, water currents, and seasonal freezing of a water body. Some of this information may be available via local watershed assessments carried out by NGOs or government bodies.
- CHOOSE A DEVICE**  
Refer to the ITTN Trash Trap Device Directory for more information on many of the devices currently available. Consider environmental conditions (including potential interactions with biota and removal of organic matter) and infrastructure requirements e.g., a power source, and how the positioning of a trap may affect other activities e.g., vessel navigation or dock maintenance.
- PURCHASE THE DEVICE OR MAKE YOUR OWN**  
Commercial trash trap devices range in price from approximately \$500 USD upwards. It may be necessary to seek external funding or financial assistance to purchase a trap and carry out long-term maintenance. Alternatively, you can make your own trap, which is often the most low-cost and low-technology option.
- REACH OUT FOR INFORMATION**  
Contact device manufacturers for information on purchase and installation. It can also be useful to reach out to other groups that may have already carried out similar work, and ask question related to their experience with a certain device, mechanics, cost and logistics of installation and maintenance.
- ENGAGE WITH RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS**

Identify and contact stakeholder groups e.g., volunteers, NGOs, local government, marina staff, businesses, and other users of the waterway. You may require permission from local authorities for the installation of a trash trapping device. Identify the roles and responsibilities e.g., trash trap operation, general maintenance, trash trap emptying, waste characterization and local education and outreach projects. Ensure that everyone is clear on their roles and responsibilities, and the time frame of the commitment.

**TRASH TRAP INSTALLATION**

Make a plan with the device manufacturer, and other stakeholders required for shipping and installation. If you are making your own device, ensure you have all materials and team members required for building and installing the trap.

**DATA COLLECTION & SUBMISSION**

Once your device is installed, document the waste diverted using the ITTN waste characterization protocols. If the protocols require adaptation for your device, please contact [info@trashtrapnetwork.org](mailto:info@trashtrapnetwork.org) for assistance. Ideally, the simple protocol should be completed each time the device is emptied, and the detailed protocol should be completed 5-10 times per year. Data can be recorded and submitted via the [Data Trapper App](#) (available via the App Store or Google Play) or emailed using the spreadsheet templates to [info@trashtrapnetwork.org](mailto:info@trashtrapnetwork.org).

**COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT**

Don't forget to make the most of your trash trap for communication and education opportunities! Share information about your device with volunteers, community groups, schools and members of the public (of all ages). Trash trap devices are a great way to engage and inform people about plastic pollution and management actions that can happen locally. The ITTN has a poster available to all network members that can be positioned at the trash trap site, please contact [info@trashtrapnetwork.org](mailto:info@trashtrapnetwork.org) for more information.

**MAINTAIN STAKEHOLDER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Trash trapping projects are often long-term commitments, and to ensure that all stakeholders are effectively collaborating you may need to schedule check-ins and/or meetings to revisit roles, responsibilities and discuss any issues or concerns in running and maintaining the trash trap device. This can include positioning of the device, e.g., if local vegetation is getting collected by the trap, or if local wildlife is negatively affected, the device may need to be moved to a different location.

***Thank you for trapping trash with us!***