

Results from three years of citizen science

Arctic Plastics Symposium 23

Malin Stapnes Dahl Project manager marine litter

The Arctic Cleanup

- Part of PAME
- Collaboration with Ocean Conservancy
- Started in 2021
- Main goals:
 - CONNECT with voluntary groups in Arctic areas
 - ENGANGE these groups to do cleanups
 - Gain KNOWLEDGE about litter in the Arctics



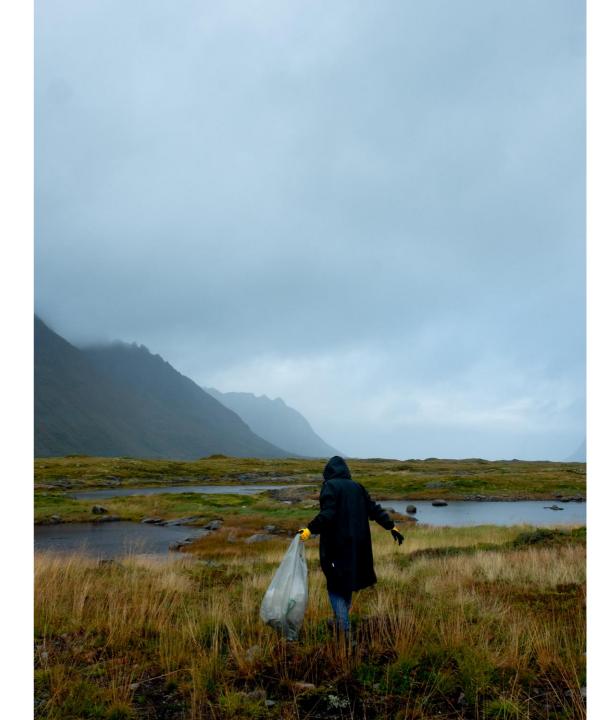


Focus areas

- Norway
- Iceland
- Greenland
- Alaska

The importance of engaging locals

- Essence of Arctic Cleanup
- Give the locals the tools they need
- Local anchoring
- 2021-2023: Over 40 different local actors



Arctic data form

- Based on ICC protocol (OC)
- Adapted together with Arctic actors
- Easy to use vs quality data we need
- «Not another protocol»



40 968

Number of kg collects

346 000 Number of meters cleaned

11111 Number of items registered

7.11.2023

Topp 5 items, by count numbers

1	Plastic/foam pieces > 2.5 cm	69%	J
2	Packaging/strapping bands	6%	\mathbb{Q}
3	Line & Rope	4%	
4	Other plastic waste (fisheries)	3%	D
5	Fishing line	2%	

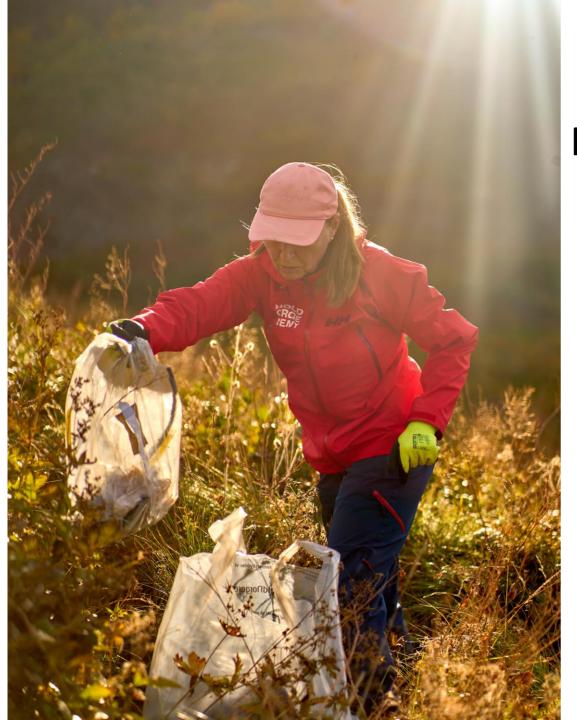
Topp 5 items, by presence on cleanup

å	1	Beverege bottles (plastic)	80%
	2	Line & Rope	80%
٥	3	Boys/floats (hard plastic)	71%
9 ⊘ €	4	Food wrappers (candy etc.)	67%
	5	Plastic bottles (cans, oils)	64%

Lessons learned

- Take the time to give proper training
- Local coordinators are essential
- Cleanups are extra hard in the Arctics!
 - Bad weather
 - Remote areas
 - Waste management





Plans for 2024

- Expand the focus areas
- Increase the data collection
- Focus more on origin of litter and sources

