

BUILDING SUPPORT: ORGANIZE YOUR COMMUNITY

There's no reason to go it alone. When you work with existing groups or recruit other community members, you can form a strong, diverse group to fight plastic pollution. Always set clear goals for engaging community members: Do you want to get petition signatures? Distribute educational materials? Recruit volunteers for upcoming events? Or use your public speaking skills to move people to action? Answering these questions will inform your efforts.

You can also consider becoming an Alliance for the Great Lakes Ambassador. Our Ambassadors are volunteers who represent the Alliance at events across the region. We give Ambassadors regular trainings in how to advocate for the Great Lakes and opportunities to learn from experts about topics like plastic pollution. We also help Ambassadors build skills like public speaking and tabling. [You can learn more and sign up on our website.](#)



*Adopt-a-Beach
volunteer picking up
a plastic water bottle.*

*Photo Credit:
Lloyd DeGrane*

Here are a few ideas for engaging people around plastic pollution:

- **Table at an Event:** Many festivals, community events, and even some stores allow organizations to set up informational tables. Just ask the event organizers or managers if you can set up a table. This is an excellent opportunity to connect with people in an informal setting around their interests and yours.
- **Make an Announcement:** Other community events, like community meetings, service group meetings, and church services, can also be great opportunities to spread the word. Ask event organizers for permission to make an announcement about your efforts.
- **Post Information or Flyers Where People Will See Them:** Even if you can't talk to everybody you want to about stopping plastic pollution, your message can still reach members of your community. Ask to hang informational posters or flyers in public spaces or on community bulletin boards. Shop windows, community centers, and libraries are great places to start.
- **Host Your Own Event:** You can host an event to bring together other community members that support your cause. A screening of a film about plastic pollution or organizing an Adopt-a-Beach cleanup event are fun and informative ways to educate and organize your community.

