WELCOME TO YOUR COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP TOOLKIT

There is always an opportunity to treat our planet with the dignity and respect that she deserves. We only get one planet so let's do what we can to keep her clean, habitable, and safe for generations to come. You have the power to make changes in your community. Local clean-up efforts influence other communities on the local and national levels to make sustainable change. Real leadership is rooted in public service. Through service projects around the country, Democrats deliver for the people they represent. Follow these steps:

- **Step 1: Identify a cause you would like to support or volunteer with.**

  - **Slightly Worn:** We're all guilty of holding on to unwanted or unworn clothing. Take some time to dig through your closet and donate any clothing that no longer brings you joy! Host a drop-off event where lightly worn clothing can be recycled and distributed to organizations such as social services can distribute to those in need.

    - *The world now consumes about 80 billion new pieces of clothing every year. This is 400% more than the amount we consumed just two decades ago.*

    - *Cotton represents nearly half of the total fiber used to make clothing today. More than 90% of that cotton is now genetically modified, using vast amounts of water as well as chemicals. Cotton production is now responsible for 18% of worldwide pesticide use and 25% of total insecticide use.*

  - **Neighborhood Clean-Up:** Choose the area of focus for your neighborhood cleanup carefully. The right project is one that fixes an existing problem and inspires others to get involved.
    - *Trash and litter collection*
    - *Beautification/Flower planting projects*
    - *Beach/River/Stream clean-ups*

- ○ **Battery Recycling Drive:** Did you know that in many states it is illegal to throw batteries away in the trash? After your neighborhood clean up, recycle the batteries you find.
  - ■ *Find a Battery Recycling Station Near You:* https://www.call2recycle.org/start-recycling/

- ○ **Grow a Community Garden:** Calling all green thumbs! Community gardens are shared places where folks can get together to plant and all sorts of things, including fruits, veggies, and herbs. Not only do they build bonds among neighbors, they also absorb carbon, support pollinator habitats, and reduce the shipping of food over long distances.
  - ■ *Volunteer at a community garden near you, or start your own!*

- **Step 2:** Once you have identified the cause you'd like to support, take a second to search for any non-profits that you'd like to donate to, support, or join.

  - ■ *Find a Non-Profit Near You:* https://greatnonprofits.org/

- **Step 3:** Post your Event HERE.