



Turn your school into a Coastal Champion!  
Work together and make positive changes that  
have big benefits for local nature, waterways  
and coastal environments.

# There are plenty of reasons why cleaner beaches and seas and thriving coastal ecosystems are important to local communities, clubs and schools in Somerset.

Sometimes environmental issues and their long term impact can be hard to see. What we do know is that we can all make a positive difference to the natural environment that surrounds us and supports us if we work together to reduce our environmental impact. For example, we know that what we throw away, flush down the toilet and pour down our sinks can block drains and sewers allowing litter and sewage to enter the sea after heavy rainfall. This reduces the cleanliness of our coastal waters, destroys habitats and affects the bathing water quality for swimmers and water users.



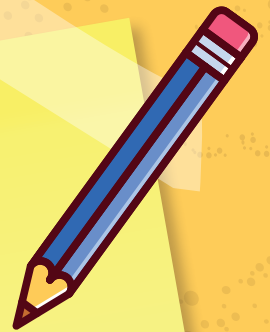
By becoming a Somerset School Coastal Champion, you and your friends, your teachers and your school managers can work together to make a few simple changes to the way your school runs – embedding good practices like nature conservation, sustainable resource use and sound environmental policies into the heart of your school and the people that learn and play there to help create great coastal habitats and beaches that are full of wildlife, free from litter and with clean waters for even the youngest explorers to paddle in.

*Inspire others to follow your lead...*

Who doesn't love a bit of friendly competition? Show off your achievements to other local schools and inspire them by becoming a Somerset School Coastal Champion as well.

*Leading by example:*

- ✓ Team work
- ✓ Leadership
- ✓ Problem-solving
- ✓ Environmental education
- ✓ Improved environmental credentials
- ✓ Collaboration with local charities
- ✓ Complementary actions to existing eco-credentials
- ✓ Reduced environmental impact
- ✓ Technical support from local experts



# About Us



Litter Free Coast and Sea Somerset is a community-led campaign designed to reduce marine and beach litter and protect bathing water quality in Somerset. The project aims to develop and foster local community action across Somerset that empowers local people, community groups, schools and businesses to consider and ultimately reduce their own impact on the local environment. This is done by promoting positive, solutions-focused initiatives based on sound science and local knowledge; encouraging people to get involved with the campaigns and to support projects that get people interested and educating the public about the impact of litter and water quality across all age groups.

Litter Free Coast and Sea Somerset is run by the Severn Estuary Partnership - an independent initiative, hosted by Cardiff University, that aims to work with local stakeholders in promoting a sustainable approach to the planning, management, and development of the estuary for today, tomorrow and for future generations.



Somerset Wildlife Trust was formed in 1964 by a group of individuals who recognised the desperate need to take action to secure the future of wildlife in our wonderful and diverse County. The Trust has grown to be Somerset's leading environmental charity with over 18,000 members and volunteers who have helped transform the organisation into a vital and influential charity which now owns and manages 1700 Ha of nature reserves. In recent years, the Trust has been running a series of projects along the Somerset coast to help raise awareness of this important part of the county's environment. This has included working with individuals, community groups and schools.

Its strategic objectives are:

- To inspire people and communities to value and protect nature;
- To stand up for nature
- To create ecological networks which rebuild Somerset's natural environment.



Carymoor Environmental Trust is an environmental education and nature conservation charity based near Castle Cary in Somerset. Since 1996 Carymoor has transformed 100 acres of an old landfill site into a species-rich nature reserve and the contrasts of the site make it a unique place to learn about green issues and the importance of the 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' message. Carymoor also runs the Schools Against Waste project with Somerset Waste Partnership and can provide a free visit to Somerset primary schools to help you tackle waste issues and raise awareness.

## How does the scheme work?

## Your school's personalised action plan

	CORE PRINCIPLES		
	WATER	WASTE	NATURE
LEVEL ONE	Action Plans	Action Plans	Action Plans
LEVEL TWO	Action Plans	Action Plans	Action Plans
LEVEL THREE	Action Plans	Action Plans	Action Plans
PASS THE BATON ON!			

Each level of the scheme should take about one school term to complete.

The actions are all quite straightforward (and your school may have already completed some of the actions points). By following the steps outlined on your personal action plan, you will receive accreditation to the Somerset School Coastal Champions league which includes certificates of achievement, window stickers, and promotion of your school's efforts online, on social media and at events.

This scheme is brought to you by **Litter Free Coast and Sea Somerset**, in collaboration with **Somerset Wildlife Trust** and **Carymoor Environmental Trust**.

# Five simple steps to take on your journey to becoming a Somerset Coastal Champion

## STEP ONE

**Sign up to become a Somerset Coastal Champion and commit to the core principles**

We'll send you the Action Plan so that you can have a read through and start thinking about the areas of your school that you need to focus on.

## STEP TWO

**Identify fellow Coastal Champions and pick your A team**

Hint... try to include a wide range of players in your team including teachers, school managers, PTA members, pupils and TAs.

## STEP THREE

**Set to work**

It's time for some investigation – what does your school already do to protect the coastal environment and where could it do better?

## STEP FOUR

**It's action time**

Find your allies within the school, and work out how to achieve all of the different challenges in your action plans. Set yourselves a timeline so that you have milestones to work towards (hint... try to achieve one level per term).

## STEP FIVE

**Actions speak louder than words**

Lead by example and celebrate what you are achieving within your community. Share your stories with the school, friends, families. Pass the baton and inspire other schools to get involved by sharing the changes that you have made. Tweet your success stories using the hashtag #SomersetCoastalChampions.



**Sedgemoor**  
IN SOMERSET

Somerset West  
and Taunton

Project funded by



## Have a question?

Just get in touch and we'll be happy to help:

### WATER

LITTER FREE COAST & SEA SOMERSET

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LitterFreeSomerset

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@SevernEstuary



### WASTE

CARYMOOR ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

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