**Street Survey Setup and Protocol**

Pre trip planning:

* Arrange students into groups of 3-5. Give them group numbers so they will know who they are with once they break out.
* Assign roles: Two people posted and others walking around - Bag or bucket holder, Recorder, Collectors.
	+ Collectors: should give the recorder *three data points* before depositing the trash.[[1]](#footnote-1)
		- Example: “Beverage bottle, recycling #1, brand name Aquafina”
		- Example: “Bottle cap, no recycling #, no brand name”
	+ Recorders: should be the most capable group member. If the collector didn’t provide the information, they need to ask for the data. (e.g. “What was the recycling number?”)
	+ Bag or bucket holder: remains at fixed point next to recorder and assists.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* On clipboards, complete the street characterization sheet.
	+ Complete as much information in advance as possible.
* With data sheets and distributed bags/buckets, send groups to their locations. You will not have a transect, but walk back and forth offering advice, and ensuring data is filled out.

Before any data collection begins, the Street Characterization Sheet should be completed for each street site. On this data sheet you will note:

• GPS coordinates in decimal degrees at the beginning and end of your street site.

• Street characteristics (e.g. nearest garbage bin, presence of a sewer drain, stop lights); surrounding land-use characteristics that may influence the delivery of debris to the site (e.g. retail stores, construction areas, food vendors).

***You will need the following supplies in order to complete your surveys:***

• Digital camera (optional)

• Chalk

• 50 Meters measuring tape

• Work gloves

• Clipboards for data sheets

• Data sheets

• Pencils

• Trash bag or bucket

*Safety is a priority. Do not touch or lift potentially hazardous or large, heavy items. Notify your local officials if such items are encountered*.

**Transect Setup**

1. BEFORE arriving at the site, take into consideration when the site has the least foot traffic, if possible. 2. ONCE ARRIVED

• Measure your 50 m street site and divide the 50 m into segments. Measure your 50-m street site and divide the 50 m into segments so that each group is balanced between safety/supervision concerns and the amount of site that a team can reasonably cover in the time available. For more data, you can measure two 50-meter sites.

• Mark the beginning and end of your street site (50-m), with chalk and mark Segments with chalk.

• Number each section (left to right) from 1 to 10. Each 10-m segment should run from the curb to the property boundary.

3. In order to cover the entire site from the curb to the property boundary, decide whether you will traverse the survey area parallel or perpendicular to the curb. Surveyors should traverse the survey area in a pre-determined walking pattern until the entire site is cleared of debris.

4. Record on your Data Sheet counts of debris items that measure over 2.5 cm, or 1 inch (bottle cap size) see Figure 1. 

*Figure 1. Minimum debris size to be counted. \*This size is required to keep surveyors counting the same size items and to help keep the survey results uniform.*

5. Take photos of your street site and some of the debris items.

1. Students can practice in classroom ahead of time – distribute plastic trash, and have each student state the Three important data points [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Sorting, in the form of dropping recyclables and non-recyclables in different bags/buckets, can be done at this point, if desired [↑](#footnote-ref-2)