



Nantucket Macroplastic Notebook

Large pieces of plastic litter are frequently found in the water or on land we call this macroplastic litter. When not collected it will eventually degrade and break up into smaller pieces of many shapes, sizes and colors. How does this happen? As pieces of plastic sit on land, in the sun or are thrown about in and out of water, in changing temperatures, freezing and then heating up causes plastics to become brittle and break down over time into smaller and smaller pieces becoming known as micro and eventually nano plastics. These bits of plastic end up inside of fish and other things when they enter the waterways. We would like some help tracking identifying the types, ages, and movement of the litter on the island and to remove it before it breaks into smaller pieces which becomes harder to remove from the environment.

What you need:

- Bag to collect litter
- tape measure,
- phone, camera or notebook to record what is found
- internet to upload or email photos of notebook

Choose one or more spots to monitor, it can be your yard or a favorite place like a beach, meadow, forest or playground or more than one place.

You will want to estimate the total size of the area you will search for litter by measuring the length and width of the area, collect any litter that is not dangerous to pick up and count the different types you find. How much of it is plastic and do you think it arrived there by wind or not?

You can contribute to the Nantucket Macroplastic Notebook by keeping a notebook of what you find and filling out our electronic data sheet found on our website:

https://umb.edu/nantucket/citizen_science/macroplastic_notebook