

Team Samoa Vaa Cleanup Day
11 May 2019
Report on Rubbish Data Collection and Recommendations

Background: Team Samoa Va'a has agreed to be champions for Greening of the Pacific Games. This cleanup was to launch the champion's initiative and collect baseline data to contextualize solutions and interventions to address marine litter and plastic pollution.

Overview of Data Collected:

During the two hour event 2,714 pieces of rubbish were counted and analysed. The data sheets used for the collection process were an adaptation of data sheets created for the International Coastal Cleanup Day by the Ocean Conservancy.

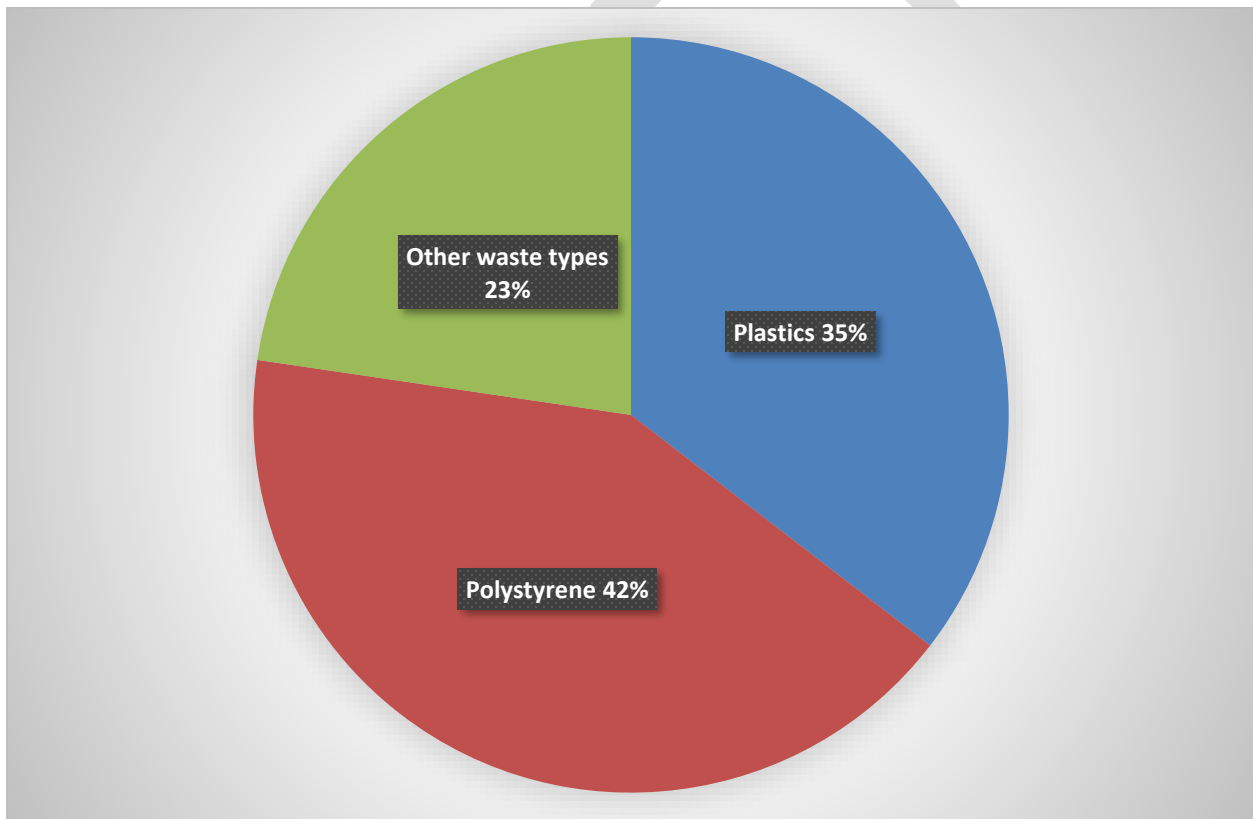


Figure 1: Of 2,714 pieces of rubbish counted and categorized 77% were identified as plastic or polystyrene. "Other" includes items such as metals, fabric, paper, other food packaging. For a full list of items categorized please refer to Appendix A.

Of the plastic counted, over 77% of the plastic can be categorised as single use plastics. Single use plastics are products that are designed to be used once and then disposed of. This includes shopping bags, food wrappers, take-away containers, water bottles and disposable nappies.

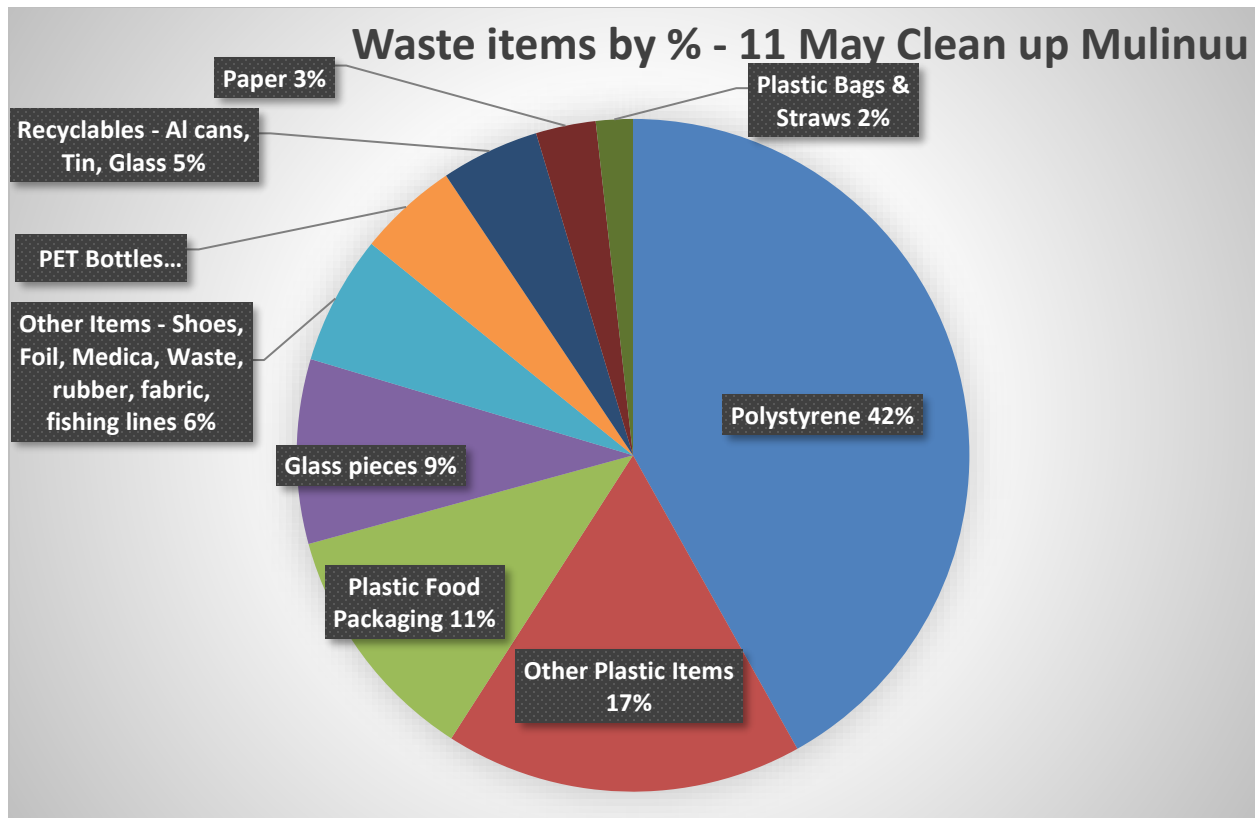


Figure2: A breakdown of the types of plastics counted during the 11th May 2019 cleanup Day in Mulinuu.

Recommendations: The data collected suggest plastics contribute significantly to waste management at the Mulinuu peninsula and that although Samoa has banned single use plastic shopping bags and single use plastic straws there is still a huge issue with changing behaviour to address littering.

Polystyrene constitutes the largest waste category which supports the governments plans to ban polystyrene food packaging, cups and plates in 2020.

From the data there are several recommendations that the Team Samoa Vaa can target to address this marine litter, plastics and polystyrene issue that can relate directly to improving waste management systems and the health of our oceans. They include:

- Installation of trash bins along the Mulinuu peninsula at key strategic locations e.g. at the launching ramp area;
- Installation of signage's in Samoan and English that communicate the issues of waste and plastics and polystyrene pollution; and
- Explore ways to collaborate with Mulinuu businesses, restaurants, communities, visitors and sellers in addressing marine litter and plastics and polystyrene pollution.