

Trash from the top of the world handed over for recycling in Nepal

June 5 2019



Nepali workers search for recyclable materials from a a pile of waste collected from Mount Everest

Aluminium ladders and cans collected from Mount Everest may find a second life as pots and pans, Nepali officials said Wednesday, as some

ten tonnes of garbage collected from the world's highest mountain was handed over for recycling.

The 14-strong team sent by the government spent about six weeks scouring for litter from base camp to Camp 4—nearly 8,000 metres (26,300 feet) up—scraping together empty cans, bottles, plastic and discarded climbing gear.

Global warming means melting glaciers are revealing rubbish which has gathered over decades of mountaineering by climbers who pay little attention to the ugly footprint they leave behind.

The bags of [trash](#) were flown by army helicopter to Kathmandu, or trucked down along winding mountain roads before being handed over to a local recycling company in a ceremony to mark World Environment Day.

"We collected (the trash) but managing it is also very important," Dandu Raj Ghimire, chief of Nepal's tourism department, told reporters.

The trash will be manually divided into [different materials](#) and then recycled accordingly.

"Usually there is a big volume of metal, aluminium, glass and heavy and light metal which can be easily recycled," said Nabim Bikash Maharjan of Blue Waste to Value, adding that some would go to supplying a utensils factory in Kathmandu.



The team spent about six weeks on Everest scouring for litter, from base camp to Camp 4 - nearly 8,000 metres (26,300 feet) up



Fluorescent tents, discarded climbing equipment, empty gas canisters and even human excrement litter the well-trodden route to the summit of the 8,848-metre (29,029-feet) peak



Bags of trash were flown by army helicopter to the capital or trucked down along winding mountain roads and handed over to a local recycling company

Fluorescent tents, discarded climbing equipment, empty gas canisters and even human excrement litter the well-trodden route to the summit of the 8,848-metre (29,029-foot) peak.

Governments on both sides of the mountain have been battling the human waste and trash left by an increasing number of climbers.

Six years ago, Nepal implemented a \$4,000 rubbish deposit per team that would be refunded if each [climber](#) brought down at least eight kilos (18 pounds) of waste, but only half of the climbers return with their trash.

In February, China banned non-climbers from accessing its Everest [base camp](#) in Tibet in an attempt to clean up its side of the mountain.

Hundreds of climbers reached the summit this season, and the total could go past last year's record of 807 ascents.

© 2019 AFP

Citation: Trash from the top of the world handed over for recycling in Nepal (2019, June 5)
retrieved 24 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-06-trash-world-recycling-nepal.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.