

Going With the Flow

The next time it rains, watch the water run down your street. Where does it go? It probably goes down a drain or into a ditch. But the water doesn't stop



flowing once it reaches those places. Instead, it joins with water flowing from other drains and ditches. Then it flows into a stream or river. Finally, the water that ran down your street flows into the ocean.

What does that mean for the health of the ocean? It means that when people put garbage, oil, or chemicals into a stream, the water becomes polluted. The polluted water flows down streams and rivers and reaches the ocean.

In addition, the pollution can end up in the water people drink. People might also use the water for swimming or for watering their plants. In this way, pollution can get into people's bodies and make them sick.

But there is good news. People are thinking about

the things they put into rivers and streams. They're also making plans to clean up the water around them.

They're keeping garbage and chemicals out of the water. They're creating places where people can safely put their garbage, oil, and chemicals. They're not just throwing things out, they're recycling or reusing them. All of these ideas mean that water around the world is getting cleaner. That means that animals' homes are getting cleaner. It means that plants don't have as many chemicals in them. It also means people have cleaner water for drinking and swimming.

You can join these people in cleaning up the water.

What can you do? You can throw your garbage into garbage cans or recycling containers, not into streams. You can tell others not to pour oil or chemicals into drains or ditches. And you can teach others to treat rivers and streams with care. People, plants, and animals will be glad you're helping.

