



How do you add microplastics program data to the Citizen

Science database?

General Access and Navigation of the Database

1. Go to anecdata.org
2. Make an account if you haven't already – it is free, and you must have an account to enter data
3. In the search bar at the top right corner of your screen, type “microplastics pollution monitoring program.” You should see this exact title and the OFI logo appear.
4. If you have not joined the project yet, you will see a “join” button directly below the banner of the microplastics page. Once you select “join,” you should then see a “+ New Observation” button in its place.
5. Now you can add data to the database.
6. Note that ONE observation is for ONE sample.
7. Upon selecting “+ New Observation” to input data from a sample, you will be directed to a different page to fill out

information for your sample. It is fairly intuitive, but be sure to do the following:

- a. Add coordinates in the decimal formatting.
 - b. The location of the School/Organization can just be a City, State, or Country
 - c. Towards the bottom of the data entry page, one entry is for a single type of microplastic. If more than one type of microplastic was found in the sample (e.g., microfiber, fragment, film, microbead), add a new entry for each type of microplastic found.
 - d. If there were no microplastics found, this is still data. Choose any microplastic in the entry section and type a quantity of 0.
8. Once you are done entering the information, click the “All Done? Save This Observation” button in the bottom right corner of the screen.

Downloading the Data

- Downloading the data is very easy. On the main page of the database, you should see a “download dataset” button right next to the “+ New Observation” button. Select this, and it will prompt you to download the data.
- The data downloads onto an Excel spreadsheet. Some of the columns on the spreadsheet are not important.
- When looking at the data, a single observation recorded on the database may be divided into 4 rows, as a new row is made for each type of microplastic found in a sample. Otherwise, the data will be the same across that individual sample.