



Illegal Dumping in Pennsylvania: A Decade of Discovery

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Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

Joint Legislative Air and Water
Pollution Control and
Conservation Committee
Environmental Forum

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Harrisburg, PA



KEEP
PENNSYLVANIA
Beautiful



Nestor Resources, Inc.



THE CYCLICAL DILEMMA

- Trash attracts trash.
- Cleanups must occur to reduce the impact on the environment.
- Cleaning up the sites absolves the dumper of responsibility.
- Mechanisms to prevent and deter illegal dumping are critical.



NOW WHAT?

Background



*"The activist is not the man
who says the river is dirty.
The activist is the man who
cleans up the river."*

Ross Perot

Entrepreneur and Businessman

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Strategic Plan

- Create Awareness and Reduce Illegal Dumping in PA

Statewide Illegal Dump Surveys

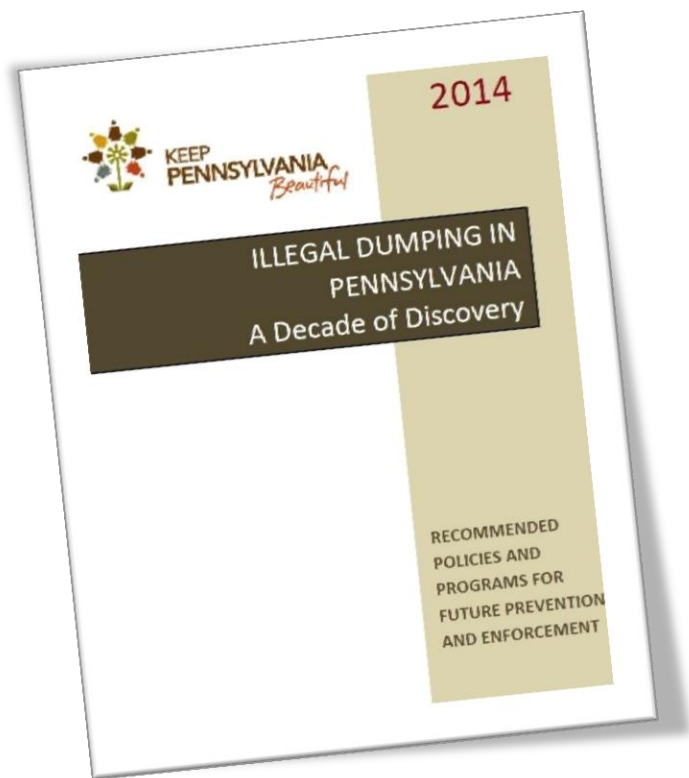
- 10 Years to Survey 67 Counties
- Assess and Document Results

Educate and Advocate

- State, County, Local Officials
- Citizens

Address and Diminish the Problem

- Cleanups
- Resource Allocation
- Public Policies



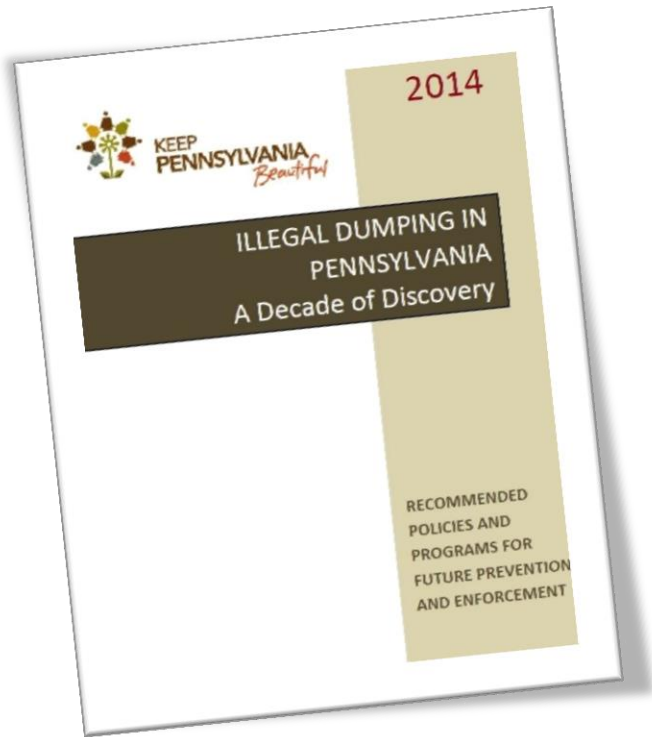
WHAT'S IN THE REPORT:

- EXTENT AND IMPACT OF ILLEGAL DUMPING
- AFFECT OF MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES
- EFFECTIVENESS OF REGULATORY AND ENFORCEMENT POWERS
- DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE AND WASTE/RECYCLING STATISTICS
- PUBLIC AWARENESS AND STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION
- CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

To review the report:

<http://www.keeppabeautiful.org/>

**Made Possible through Funding From
PA Department of Environmental Protection and
The Richard King Mellon Foundation**



EXCERPTS FOR TODAY'S DISCUSSION

- TOOLS, RESOURCES, APPROACH, CRITERIA
- REDEFINING ILLEGAL DUMPING
- SAMPLE FINDINGS AND CORRELATIONS
- OVERVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS
- THE CALL TO ACTION
- COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

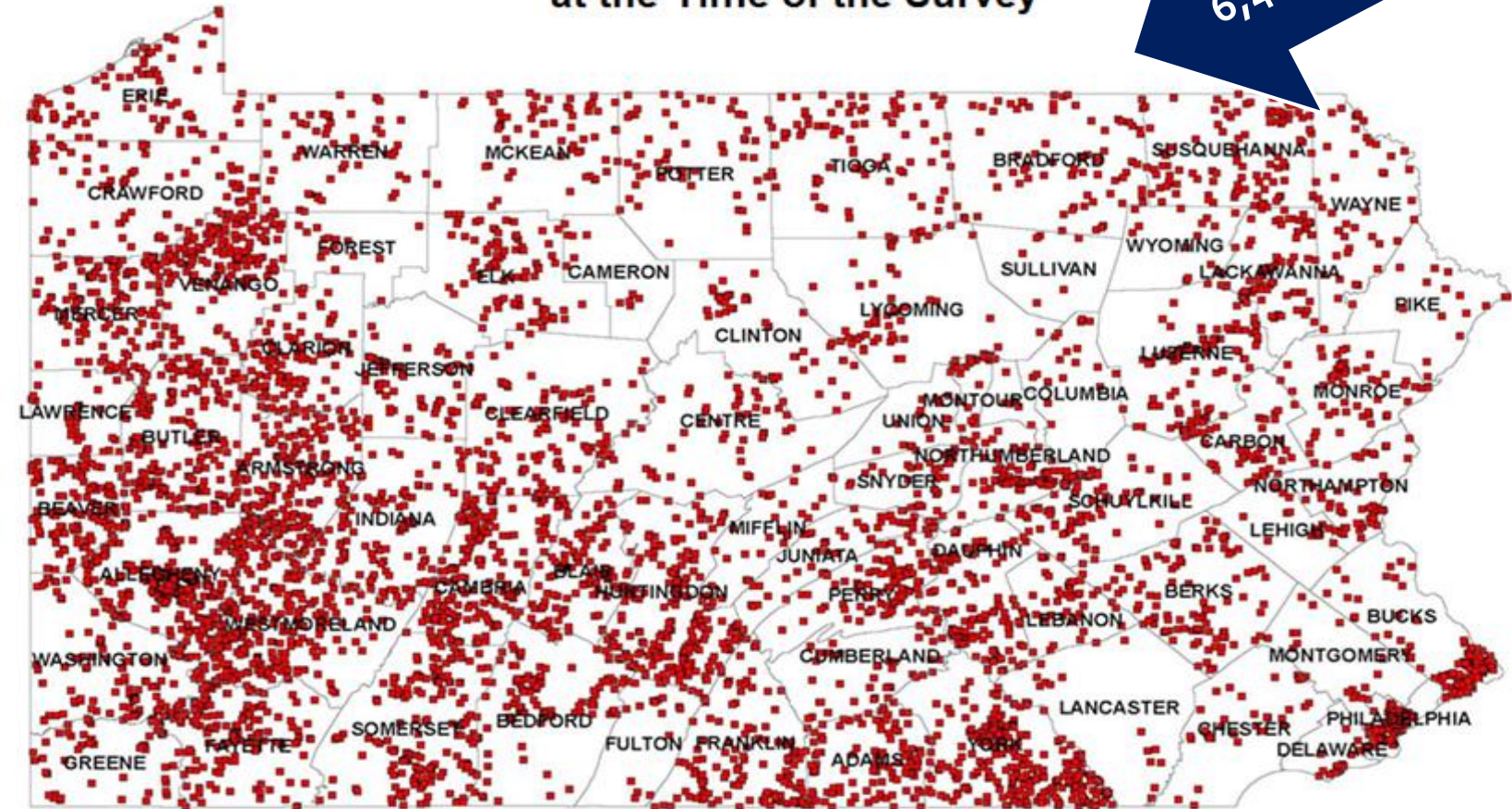
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Pennsylvania Illegal Dumpsites by County at the Time of the Survey

6,487 Sites Identified



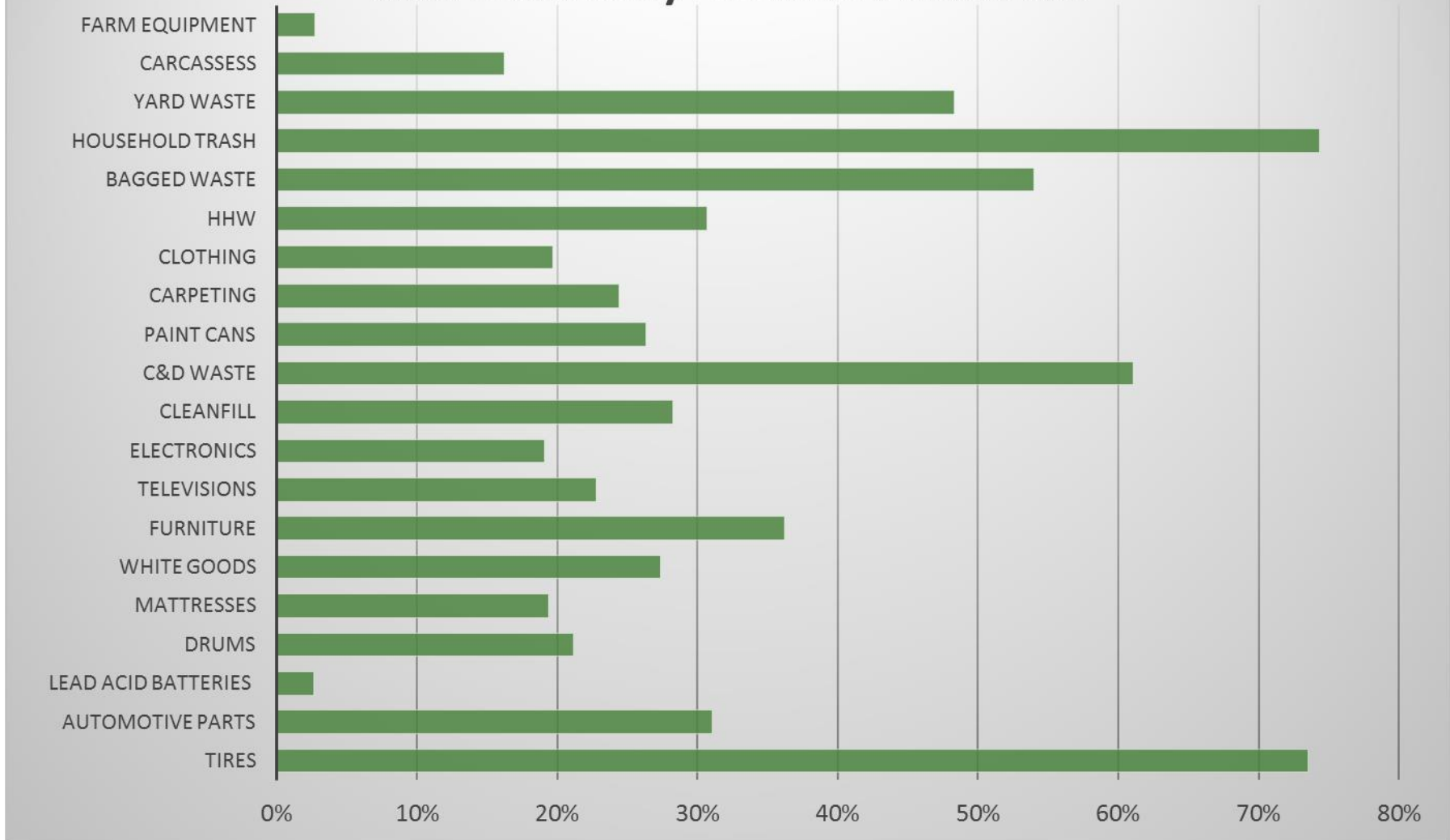
■ Illegal Dumpsites as of June 2013

0 12.5 25 50 75 100 Miles



© 2013 Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful
Map Prepared by Caesar deChicchis
UCSUR, University of Pittsburgh

Percentage of Active Illegal Dump Sites with Commonly Discarded Materials



Bagged Waste, Carpeting, Paint Cans, were part of construction/demo waste also

Illegal Dumping

Common Label...Distinct Issues



Legacy Sites



Active Commercial
Dumping



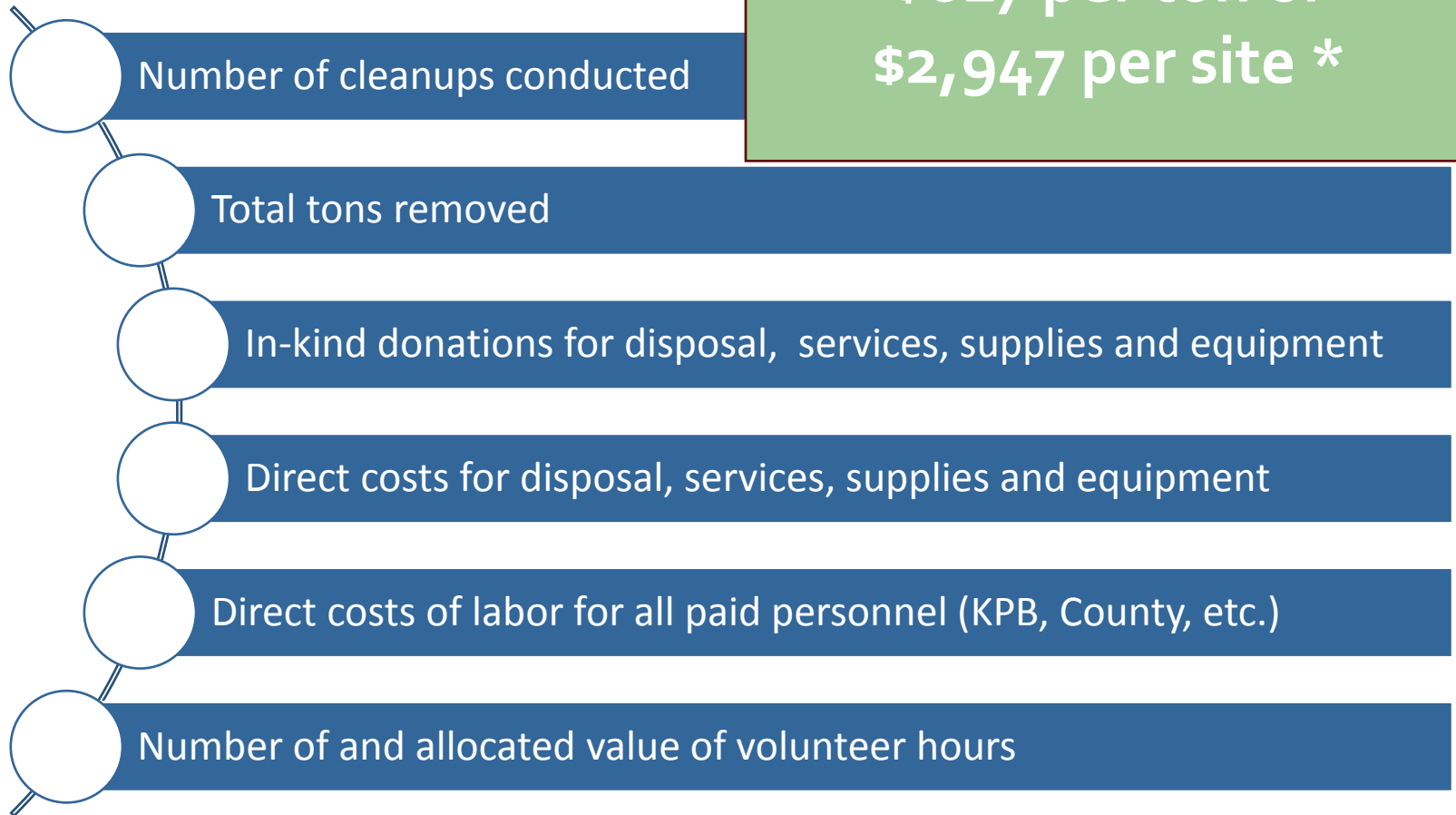
Active Residential
Dumping



Theft of Service
Public & Private


Local Resources Necessary to Remediate Illegal Dump Sites based on:

Average Cleanup Costs
\$617 per ton or
\$2,947 per site *



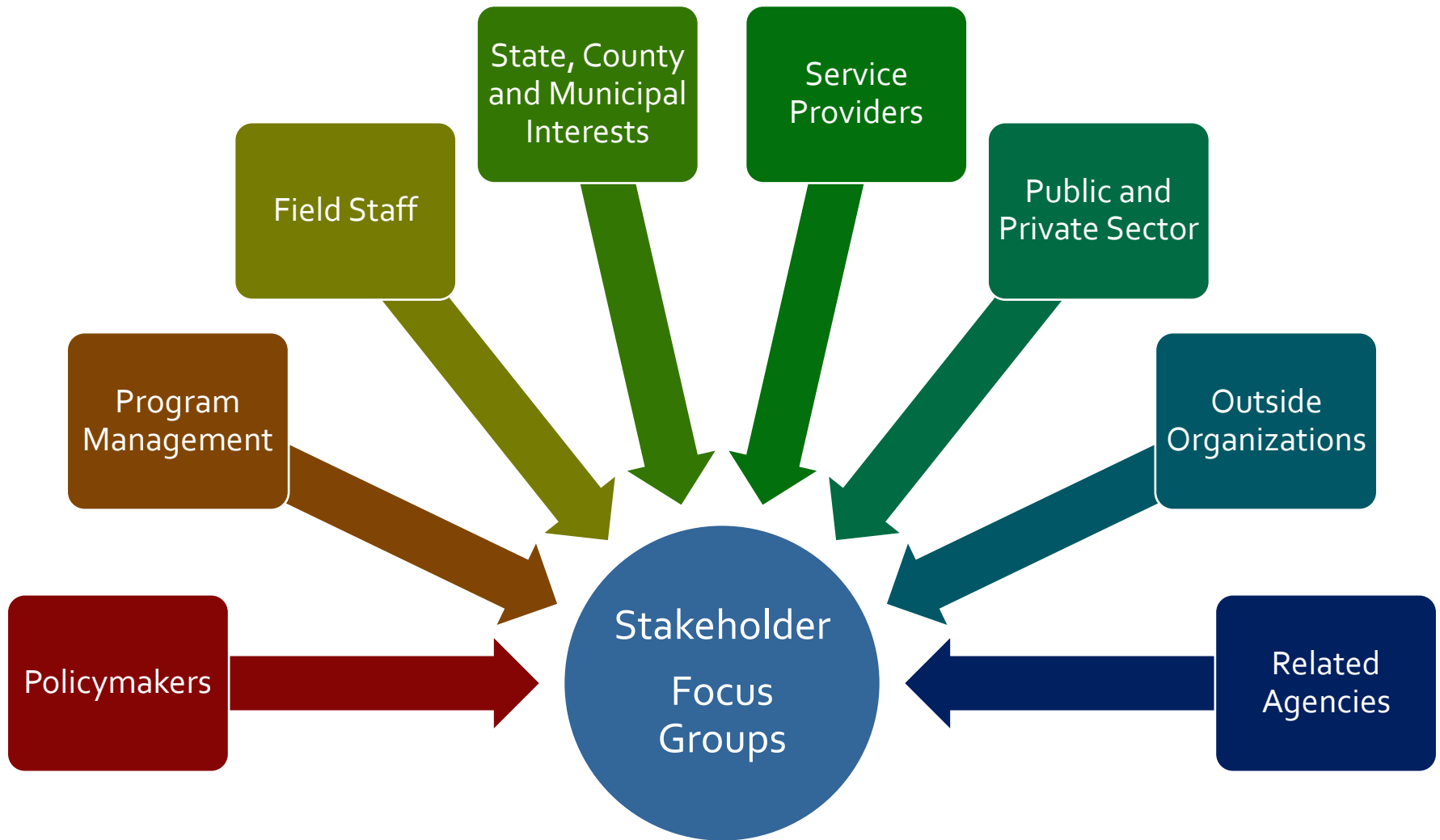
*MSW Consultants, Inc. KPB Illegal Dumping Cost Research 2014

Implicit Costs of Illegal Dumping



Theft of Service Container Capacity, Weight and Service Frequency Increase
Ongoing Abuses of Drop-Off Recycling Sites Uncontrollable Volume and Contamination Loss of Revenue and Added Disposal Costs
Non-Participants and Delinquent Payers Need to Cover Fixed Costs Loss of Revenue Must Charge Other Residents More per Month

CATEGORIES OF STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPANTS



Fall 2013 Penn State Poll

Center for Survey Research
located at the Penn State
University campus in
Harrisburg

Organization /Agency Uses

Tracks public policy issues,
general attitudes, awareness,
and knowledge and measures
public satisfaction

STATEWIDE PHONE SURVEY

Survey Question Design

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful
and Nestor Resources, Inc., in
conjunction with PSU

Statistical Validation

95% chance or better,
if all PA households are
surveyed, the results will not
differ by more than 4.0 points.

Scorecard for the Recommendations





Laws and Enforcement

Findings and Suggested Modifications



ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

- Currently focus on Enforcement more than Prevention.
- Disposal bans and restricted access as a form of enforcement, creates illegal dumping without alternative measures available.
- Lack of local resources for enforcement and remediation.
- Penalties are disproportionately low vs. legal disposal and remediation.
- Few convictions due to lack of evidence.

Focus Groups Feedback on Laws & Enforcement

Transporter Issues

Registration fees low entrance barrier for irresponsible tire haulers

Ineffective tracking and monitoring system for waste tires

Manifested tire loads could reduce illegal dumping

Disposal Issues

Unintended consequence of CDRA is illegal dumping

Hold salvage yards accountable for accepting CDRA “parts”

CDRA Landfill ban 100% exceeds manufacturers' coverage 85%

Phone Survey Feedback on Laws & Enforcement

Appropriate Punishment For Illegal Dumping

Respondents favored the following:

69.6% = Clean Up Illegally Disposed Of Waste

30.4% = Jail Time

50% = Community Service And Fines Of Varying Amounts

Appropriate Use of Fines

91.8% believe fines from illegal dumping should go for site cleanup.

Entity Responsible For Use Of Fines From Illegal Dump Sites

Respondents indicated:

Municipalities (35.2%)

Counties (26.1%)

State (30.6%)

Regulating Small Haulers And Contractors

86.0% favor licensing/regulation of building contractors, remodelers, roofers, and junk haulers to ensure proper waste management

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENFORCEMENT

Expand the use of surveillance cameras at active illegal dumping sites

Create a Joint Code Enforcement Officer Program to support local governments

Revoke transporter licenses and authorizations and require forfeiture of equipment for certain violations

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENFORCEMENT continued...

Establish an Environmental Law Court Day or assign dedicated District Justice to expedite cases

Establish an Expert Witness Bureau to assist in the prosecution of suspected illegal dumping

Establish fines that significantly outweigh the avoided cost of disposal

Devote fines to cleanup funds



Waste and Recycling Collection Practices

Findings & Recommendations

Municipal Waste Service Offerings Inconsistencies & Inequities

2,562 Pennsylvania municipalities.

Each may have their own variations of service
and bidding requirements.

(OR NONE AT ALL)

This makes waste management & recycling
more complex, less efficient, and often
costlier.

Unclear expectations, and lack of education
contribute to poor participation,
contamination and illegal dumping.



Phone Survey Feedback on Collection Services

Curbside Collection

86.7% of Pennsylvanians surveyed have curbside trash collection

LOWEST - North Central (64%)

HIGHEST - Southeast (92.2%) and Southwest (93.7%)

Recycling

What would prompt them to increase recycling?

MOST INFLUENTIAL

Having items collected at the curb

LEAST INFLUENTIAL

A mandate to recycle

More information about the benefits of recycling

Phone Survey Feedback on Bulky Waste Collection Services

**Bulky Items,
Appliances,
Tires,
Furnishings,
Etc.**

41.5% not included with their household waste service

LOWEST AVAILABILITY North Central = 73.5% Northwest = 56.5%

58.5% collection included with their household waste service

**Items Accepted
Where Service
Is Available**

49.6% - Household Furnishings

28.7% - Large Appliances

25.4% - Roofing/Remodeling Waste

9.7% - Tires

**Service
Frequency
Where Service
Is Available**

50.8%% at least monthly and many weekly. (NCR only 9.4%)

28 % must call ahead to schedule pickup.

62.1% in the North Central region only once/ twice a year

Some Areas in Pennsylvania Are Not Suited for Curbside Collection Why Not Substitute Practical Alternatives?



SAMPLE CONVENIENCE CENTER LAYOUT

Other Configurations



Repurposing a Car Wash



Secure Off-loading and Storage



Redevelopment of Brownfield Site



Fenced Area Next to Municipal Offices

Phone Survey Feedback on Alternative Collection Services

Alternatives to Curbside Collection

87.8% would use a convenience center, if available, to take household trash, recyclables, and other materials.

DISTANCE

Those willing to drive more than 11 miles

36.8% who earn > \$75,000

24.8% who earn > \$75,000

CONSUMER FEES FOR DISPOSAL OF BULKY ITEMS

47.4% favor a fee paid when the item is returned or collected

A statewide law is needed to ensure for all, regardless of the municipality, universal access to waste & recycling collection and/or outlets



Shift focus of county municipal waste planning from disposal capacity to coordinate and demonstrate how local municipalities will plan for and attain universal access.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENSURE RESIDENTIAL ACCESS TO SERVICES?

Expand waste & recycling curbside collection to the greatest extent possible.

Allow for staffed convenient drop-off facilities in lieu of curbside.

Promote municipal contracts to control costs and provide uniform services.

Provide for collection of tires, bulk items and appliances at curbside or at convenient facilities.

Institute a subsidy for waste & recycling collection for eligible low income households.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO DETER COMMERCIAL DUMPING

Require proof of disposal with local building, demolition, and prior to local occupancy permits.

Expand waste transporter authorization to include small contractors, remodelers, and roofers.

Require waste tire transporters to submit logs.

Require manifests for loads of tires for transporters, processors and retailers.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCREASE AWARENESS

Implement a statewide multi-media education campaign on proper waste management.

Establish an Environmental Law Training Program for Enforcement Officers and District Justices.

Create a series of seminars for local officials on effective ordinances and collection contracts.

Institute the use of crime scene tape at illegal dumping sites to signify it is a criminal activity.

COMING IN EARLY 2015

KPB'S COMMUNITY ABATEMENT PROGRAM

- ✓ Surveillance Camera Loan Program for municipalities
- ✓ Community education tools & resources
- ✓ Mini-grants for deterrents
- ✓ Public education and public shaming of illegal dumpers



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**"GOOD LAWS MAKE IT EASIER TO DO
RIGHT AND HARDER TO DO WRONG."**

WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE

THANK YOU

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

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