



Empowering Pennsylvanians to keep our communities clean and beautiful

Illegal Dumping Programs for Affiliate training

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Talk Overview

- Illegal Dumping in Pennsylvania
- KPB Resources Available for Affiliates and Local Communities to Address Illegal Dumping
- Questions and Discussion



Litter and Illegal Dumping are Widespread Problems in our Communities

Illegal Dumping

- More than 6,200 dump sites identified between 2005-2013
- Occurs often where risk of detection is low and lack of accessible, affordable disposal
- Most common items: household trash, building materials and tires

Litter

- Over 500 million pieces of litter can be found on Pennsylvania roadways
- 37% cigarette butts
- 30% pieces of plastic
- 85% less than 4 inches in size



Litter and Illegal Dumping are Costing our Communities

Economic Costs

- \$11.5 billion in national cleanup
- 9 PA cities spend \$68.5 million with 80% on cleanups
- \$614/ton to clean up an illegal dump
- Average community cleanup is \$2,947

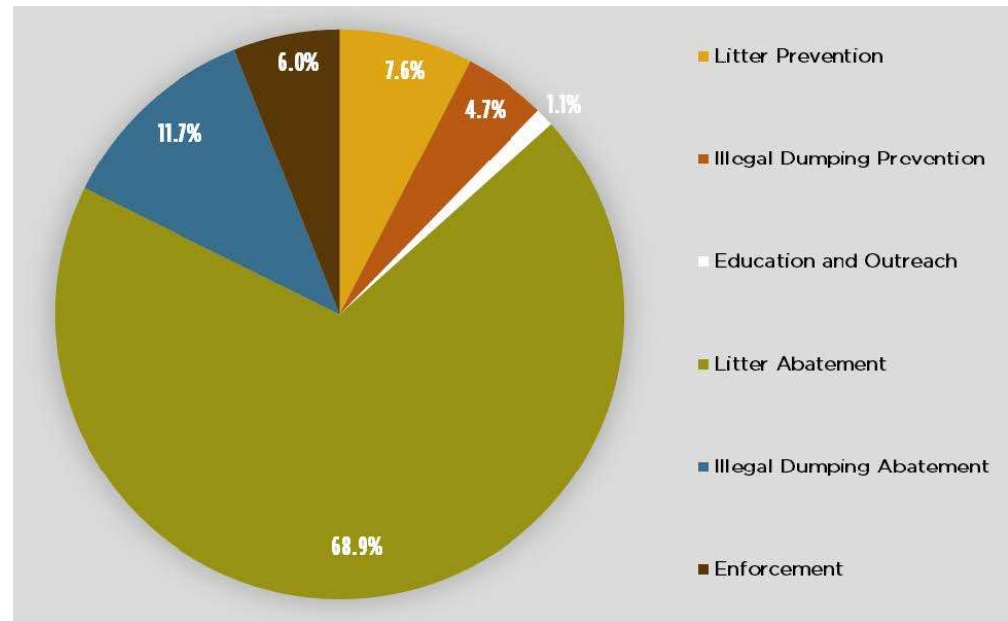
Social Costs

- Sends a message that no one cares
- Invites other harmful activity

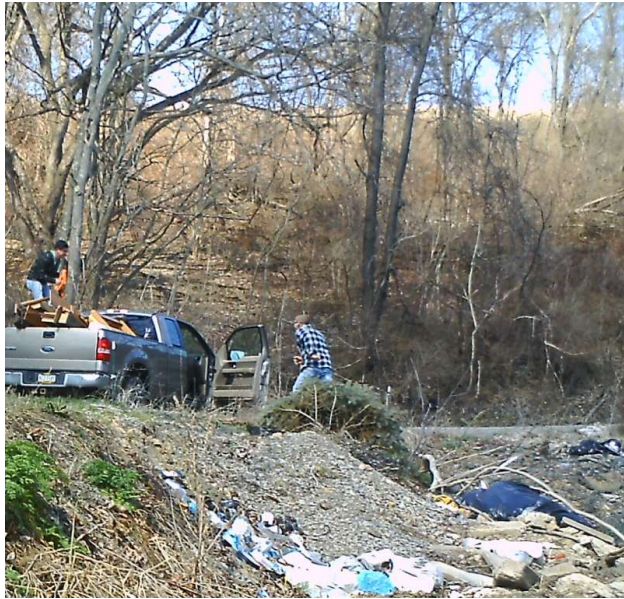
Environmental Costs

- Pollution
- Flooding
- Harms Wildlife

Total Measured Cost By Activity



Root Causes of Illegal Dumping



- Lack of Awareness
- Ability to Pay
- Financial Gain
- Risk of Discovery
- Inconsistent Enforcement and Judicial Process
- Access and Opportunity



KPB Tools and Resources to address Illegal Dumping and Littering

Illegal Dump Free Program

- Camera loan program
- Public Education Resources
- Report a dumpsite online form

Pick Up Pennsylvania

- Mar 1 - May 31 & Sept 1 – Nov 30 receive FREE trash bags, gloves, and safety vests as supplies last
- In April, PA DEP and Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association sponsor free or reduced trash disposal at participating landfills

Public Education Resources

- Research on litter, illegal dumping, and enforcement
- Training guides and videos for cleaning dumpsites, organizing volunteers, and waterway cleanups
- 7 resources now translated into Spanish

Youth Education Resources

- Young Ambassadors of PA - Build community stewards and civic leaders by inspiring, engaging, and empowering young Pennsylvanians in grades 10th - 12th
- Litter Free School Zones - Encourages students to keep their school grounds litter-free and raises public awareness
- Open Your Eyes to Litter - Educational activity books for grades K -6

Technical Assistance

- Our staff has a combined 132 years of experience dealing with litter and illegal dumping
- KPB affiliate network covers 37 counties and partial counties



Illegal Dump Free PA

Public Education Resources

Laws and enforcement

- Enforcement and Prosecution Guide
- Model Illegal Dumping and Litter Control Ordinance
- Overviews of PA litter and illegal dumping state laws
- Overviews of PA enforcement agencies

Clean up resources, also translated into Spanish

- Cleanup guides for dumpsites and waterways
- Fact sheet to identify meth labs

Education and media templates

- For informing elected officials, media, administrators, and the public about the negative effects and potential underlying causes of litter and illegal dumping

Funded by the PA DEP



Illegal Dump Free PA Camera Loan Program

Who can apply

Municipalities, counties, state agencies, other non-profits

What we provide

A loan of high-quality wildlife-style cameras with all accessories.
Installation and on-going assistance during the loan.

What applicants and their partners do

Obtain site permission, maintain cameras, review evidence, prosecute offenders, highlight the issues to the public and relevant officials, and work with partners to reduce future dumping

Funded by the PA DEP



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Illegal Dump Free PA Camera Loan Program

Since 2013:

- 142 applications, 60 installed
- 106 known convictions for more than \$32,600 in fines, court fees, and restitution back to communities
- We've installed in all types of areas- rural, urban, and suburban
- We've worked with KPB affiliates, small boroughs, rural townships, and large cities as well as other non-profits and state agencies like DCNR and F&BC

* The ultimate goal however, is not a high prosecution number, but to reduce future dumping even after cameras are down *

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Illegal Dump Free PA Dumpsite Reporting

How we receive reports

- Online form: <https://www.keppabeautiful.org/contact-us/report-a-dumpsite>
- Phone calls: 724-836-4121
- Emails: rdubas@keppabeautiful.org
- Even postal mail: 105 West Fourth Street, 2nd Flr, Greensburg, PA 15601
- *Reports can be anonymous*

Some outcomes

- Residents reporting learned how and who to contact in their municipality offices.
- Officials who had not already been aware of a site and took steps to clean it up
- Connected those reporting and municipal officials with affiliate and other community and state partners
- Those reporting and municipal officials learned about KPB programs and resources to assist their cleanup and prevention efforts

Stats

- Average around 80 reports a year in 20 – 50 PA counties
- Commonly identified materials: household Trash, building materials and tires

Funded by the PA DEP



KPB Research on Litter, Illegal Dumping and Enforcement

<https://www.keppabeautiful.org/research/>

1. Pennsylvania and South Carolina Litter Enforcement Study (2023)
2. Pennsylvania Litter Research Study (2020)
3. The Cost of Litter & Illegal Dumping in Pennsylvania – A Study of nine Cities Across the Commonwealth (2020)
4. National Literature Review of Economic Impacts of Blight on our Communities (2014)
5. Illegal Dump Community Cost Assessment- MSW Consultants (2013)
6. Public Opinion Poll of Pennsylvanians - Penn State University (2013)
7. Statewide Illegal Dumpsite Survey (2005-2013)



2022 Litter Law Enforcement Study

In partnership with Palmetto Pride of South Carolina, funding support from the PA DEP

Key findings include:

- High fines for littering are not favored
- Assessed fines are low
- Community service penalties are not regularly imposed
- Waste management infrastructure and services differ in each jurisdiction, contributing to intentional and unintentional littering.

<https://www.keppabeautiful.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Joint-Enforcement-Executive-Summary.pdf>



2022 Litter Law Enforcement Study

In partnership with Palmetto Pride of South Carolina, funding support from the PA DEP

The recommendations for PA include:

- Simplifying littering and illegal dumping laws
- Streamlining the littering enforcement process to support ease of ticketing
- Fine consistency and community service infrastructure
- Pursuing education, public awareness, and community engagement
- Improving waste management policies and practices to reduce illegal dumping and littering.

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