



PENNSYLVANIA'S LITTER ACTION PLAN

JESS SHIRLEY, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
NATASHA FACKLER, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

AGENDA

Background

PA Litter Research

Key Findings About Litter

PA's Litter Action Plan

Q&A

Resources



BACKGROUND

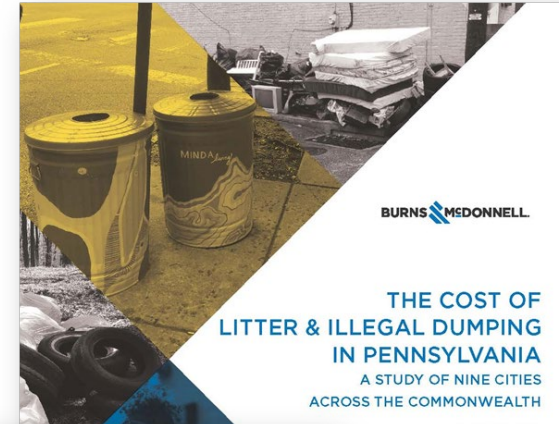
Litter is a problem in Pennsylvania.

- Two case studies were published in February 2020 documenting the amount of litter across the state and the cost of managing litter for 9 cities in PA.
- Using recommendations from the studies, DEP and PennDOT created workgroups of state and local government, industry, and community organizations to develop the Pennsylvania Litter Action Plan.



PA LITTER RESEARCH

- Pennsylvania Litter Research Study included:
 - Visible Litter Study
 - Public Attitude Survey
- Municipal Litter and Illegal Dumping Cost Study
 - Study of nine cities on the money spent to manage litter & illegal dumping



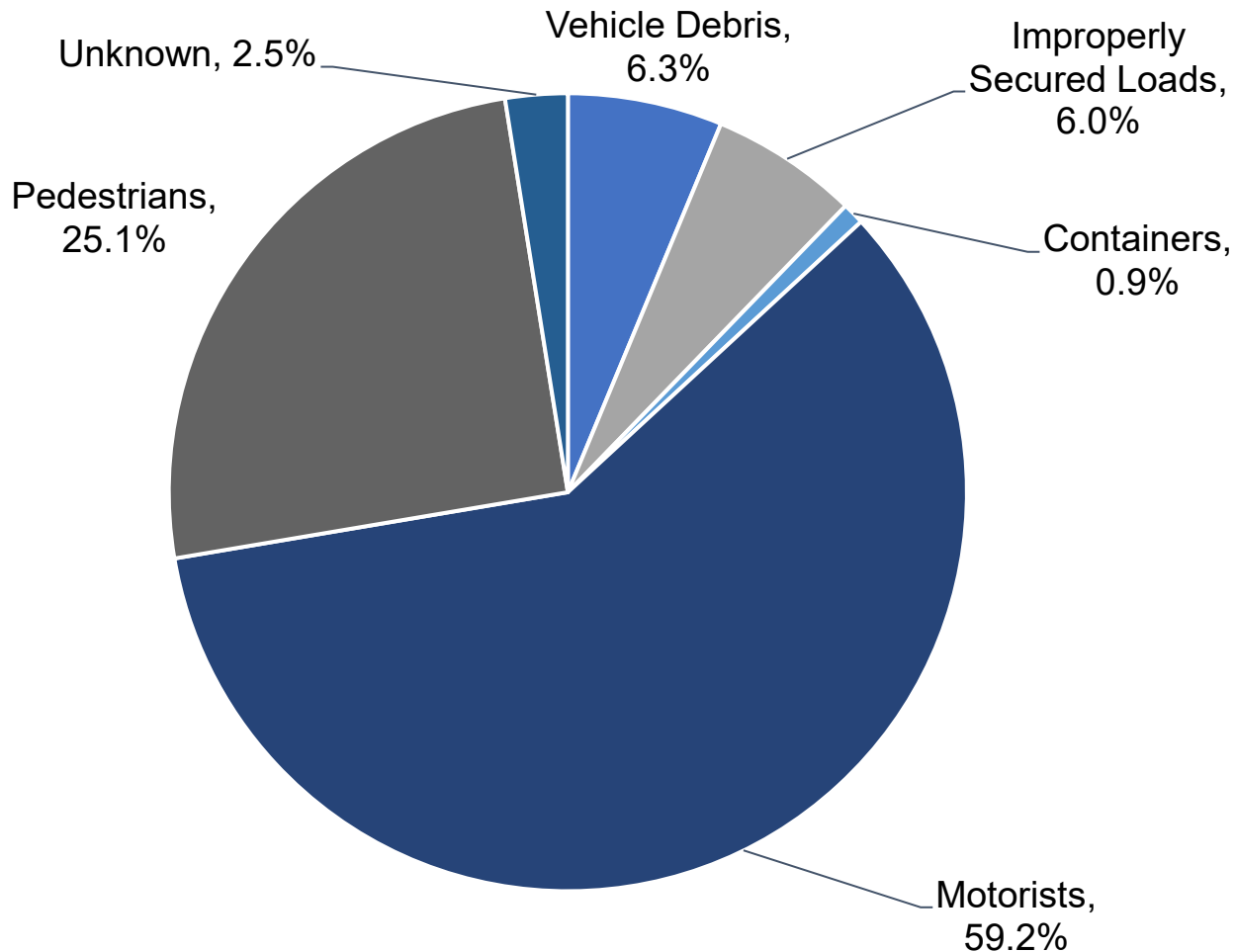
KEY FINDINGS ABOUT LITTER

- A 2018-2019 research study and public survey found:
 - Approximately **500 million pieces of litter** are left on PA Roadways
 - **90% of Survey respondents** reported that litter is a problem impacting the environment and property values in PA
- A concurrent study by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful of nine cities on the money spent to manage litter & illegal dumping found that:
 - Collectively, these nine cities spend **\$68.5 million a year** on prevention, education, and enforcement efforts to address litter



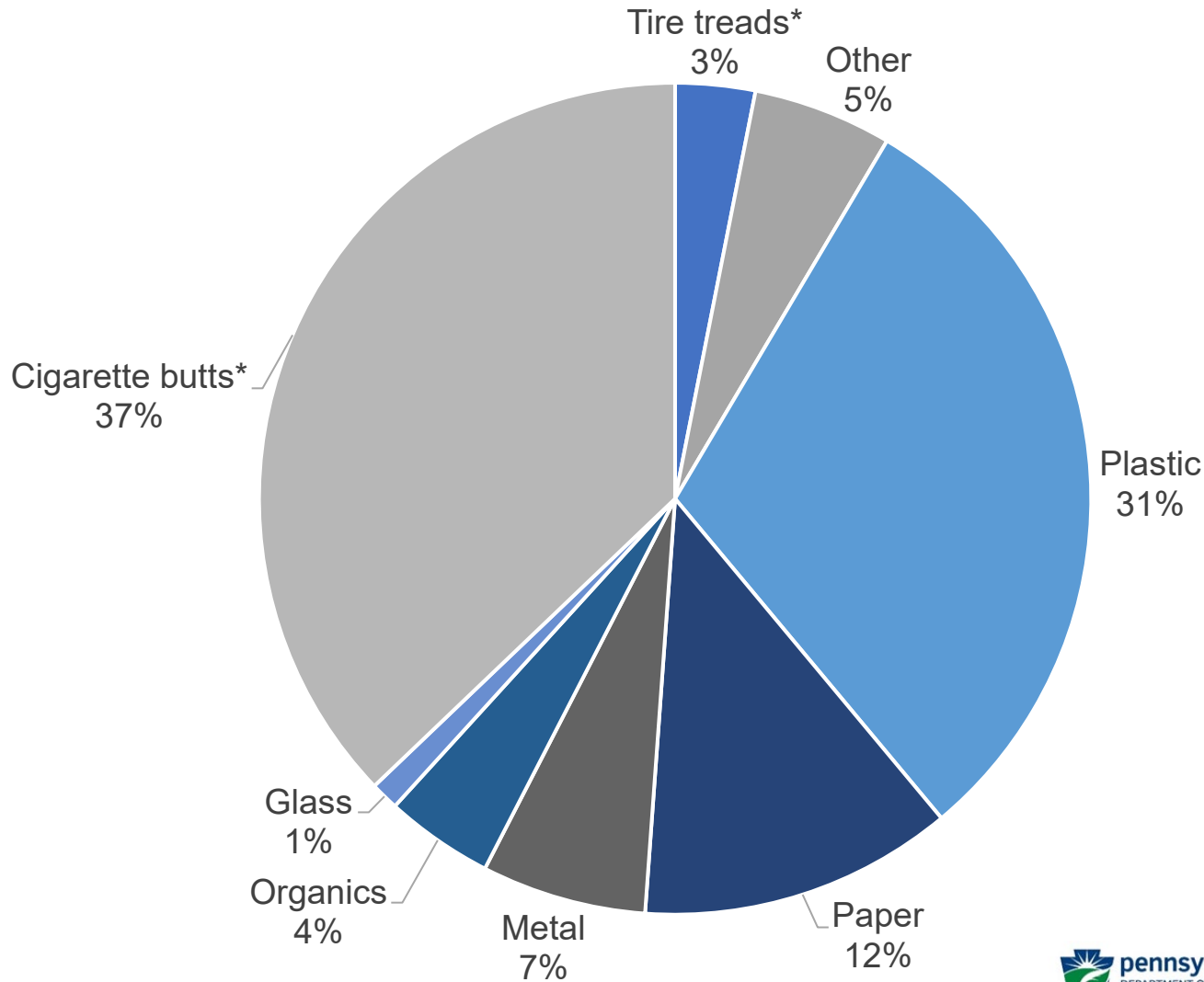
PRIMARY SOURCES OF LITTER

Motorists & Pedestrians are primary sources of litter



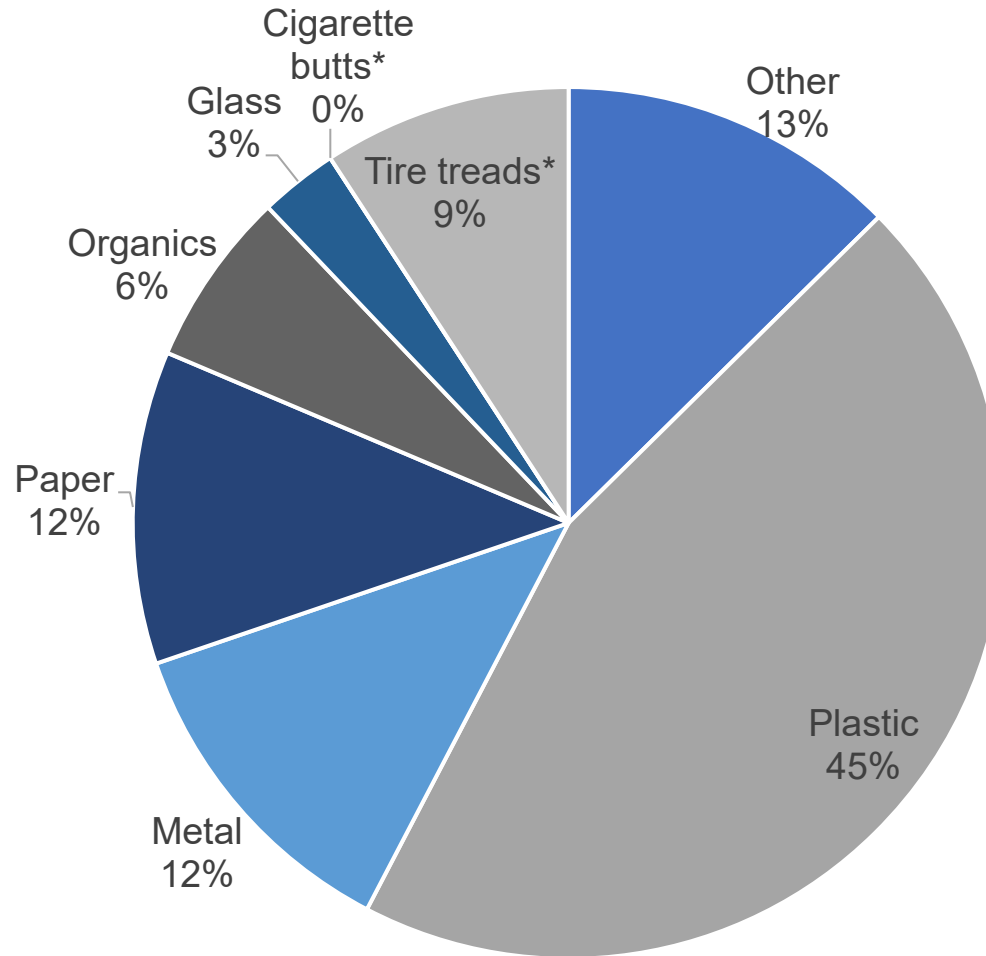
LITTER COMPOSITION

Aggregate Composition of Litter (All Pennsylvania Roadways)



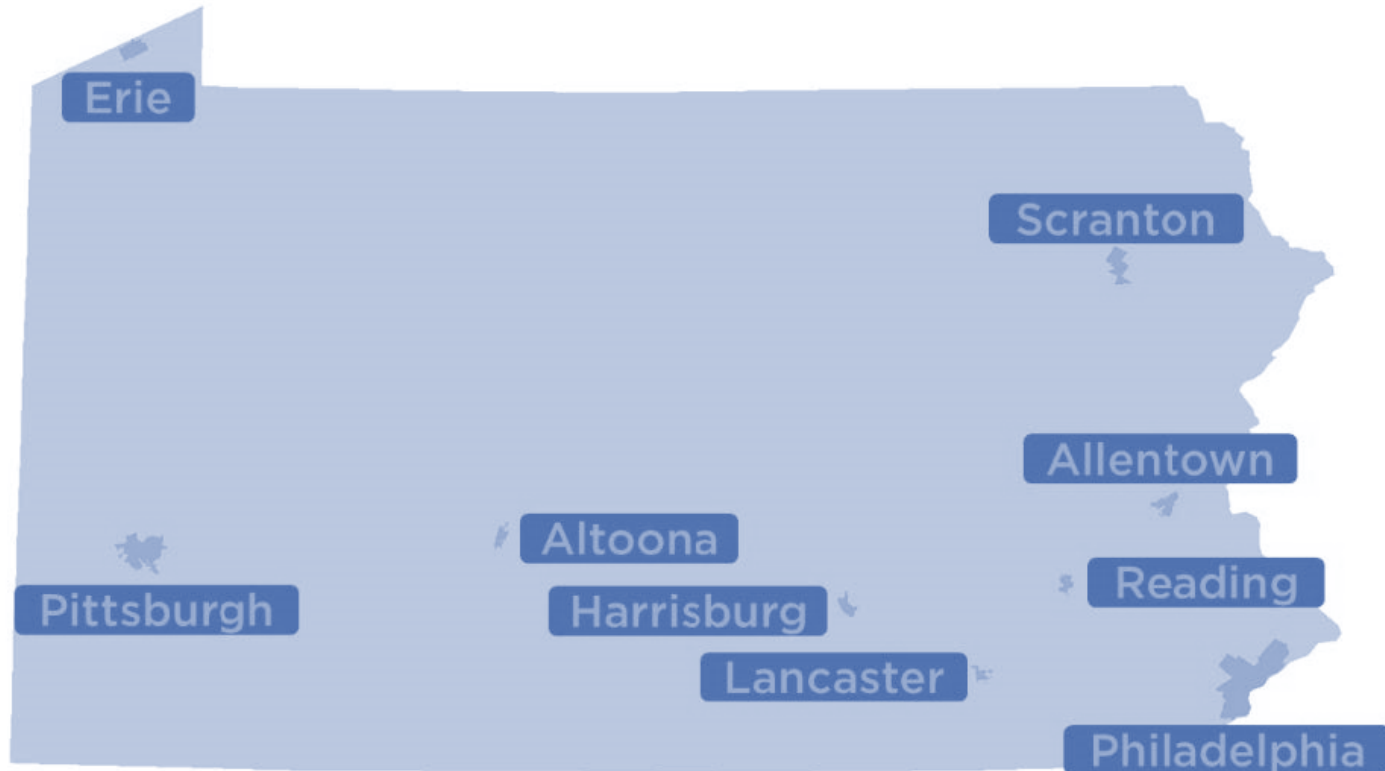
LITTER COMPOSITION, CONT.

Types of litter – 4 inch plus (All Pennsylvania Roadways)



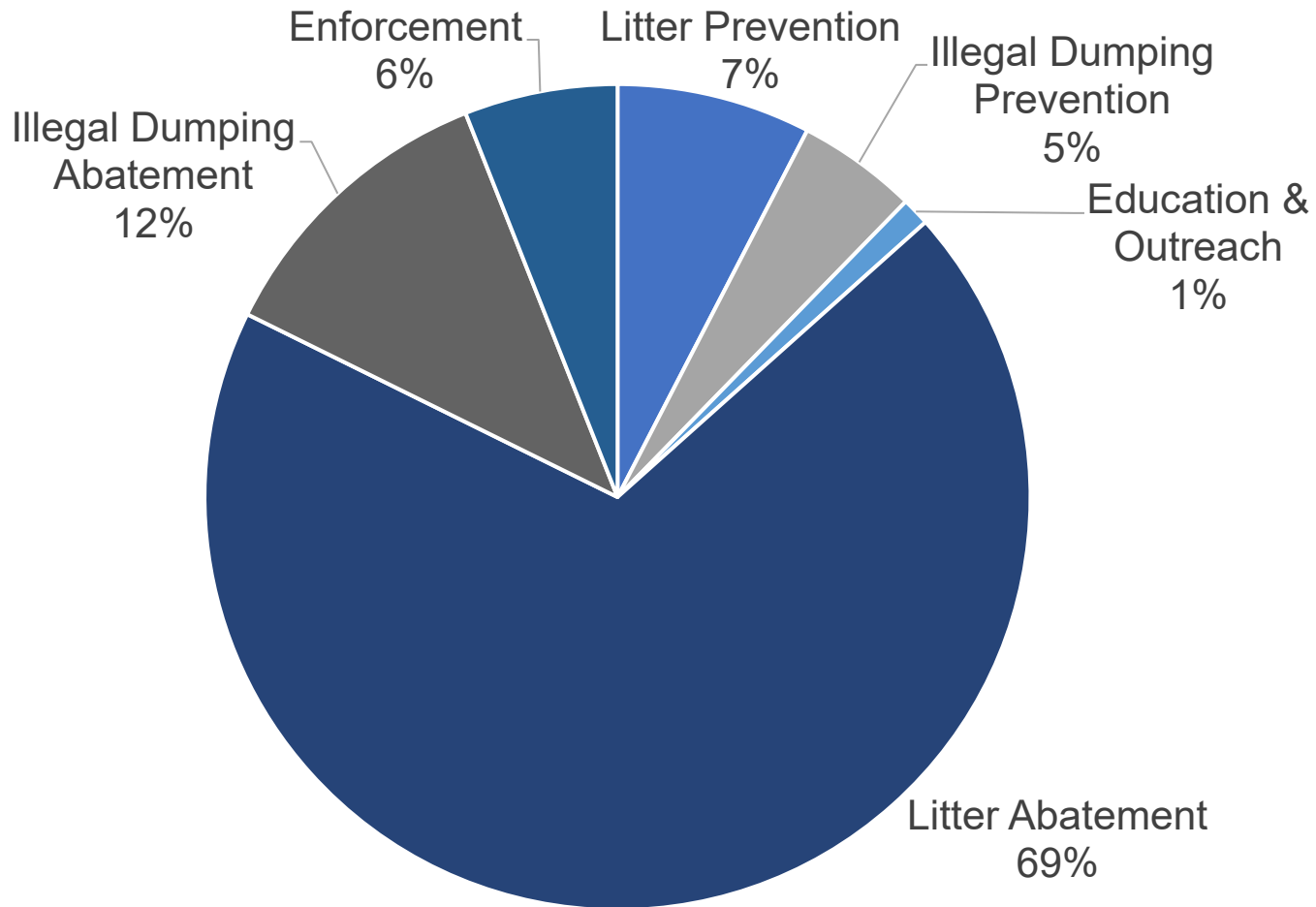
MUNICIPAL LITTER & ILLEGAL DUMP FINDINGS

- Nine Cities across PA have spent more than **\$68.5 million annually** to prevent and clean up litter.



MUNICIPAL LITTER & ILLEGAL DUMP, CONT.

Total Measured Costs by Activity Category



LITTER ACTION PLAN

Goal of Pennsylvania's Litter Action Plan:

Prevent littering in Pennsylvania through development and implementation of a research-based plan of recommended actions that can be used statewide to change littering behavior.

LITTER ACTION PLAN - STRUCTURE

- The Litter Action Plan is structured to show that everyone has a role to play in the fight against litter.
- There are 5 main sections outlining actions state government, the General Assembly, local governments, businesses, and the general public can take to prevent littering.



State
Government



Local
Government



General
Assembly



Businesses



General Public

STATE GOVERNMENT

- Assist Local Government Partners
 - Model Ordinances
 - Rural Transfer Stations
- Enhanced Understanding and Enforcement of Litter Laws
 - Educate via vehicle registration & driver licensing centers
 - Provide education on littering to judicial system
 - Continued enforcement of litter laws
- Water Infrastructure Improvements
 - Provide ample waste and recycling receptacles on state-owned property.
 - Expansion of cigarette butt stations for proper disposal on state-owned property.
- Litter Education Campaign & Outreach
 - Add littering component to environmental education grant program.
 - Work with the Department of Education on anti-littering curriculum.
 - Develop a Young Ambassador program.



STATE GOVERNMENT

- Update on current initiatives from state agencies involved in the Litter Interagency Workgroup:
 - Statewide Anti-litter Marketing Campaign
 - PennDOT Cigarette Litter Prevention Program at Welcome Centers
 - PennDOT Young Ambassador Program
 - DEP Teaching Green Newsletter
 - DEP Rural Transfer Facility
 - PSP Operation Clean Sweep have issued 661 Citations and 562 Warnings
 - DCNR Concessionaire Agreements
 - DCNR Agency-wide Waste Reduction Policy
 - DCNR “Leave No Trace” Messaging & Outreach
 - DCNR Cigarette Litter Prevention Program at State Parks
 - Fish & Boat Adopt an Access Program



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Litter Enforcement

- Incorporate best practices into local ordinances
- Collaborate with police, store owners and local residents who have surveillance cameras to catch litterers and illegal dumpers.
- Create specific tickets for littering and illegal dumping.
 - **City of Allentown – SWEEP violation ticketing system**
- Partner with fellow municipal government departments, non-profits, or state government to encourage “litter-cleanup” community service programs for people convicted of low-level offenses.
 - **PennDOT Litter Brigade Program**



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Public Waste Infrastructure

- Provide ample waste receptacles and cigarette butt stations in heavily trafficked areas by pedestrians.
 - Rate of littering decreases when people are within 10 ft. of trash receptacle
- Ensure public waste infrastructure is well-maintained and regularly collected.
- Get creative with public waste infrastructure maintenance.
 - **Lancaster Tiny Can Project**
- Consider use of smart waste infrastructure.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Waste Management Best Practices

- Learn about waste management best practices and what makes the most sense for your community.
- Use a municipal-wide contract with a single hauler for waste and recycling services.
- Provide adequately sized waste and recycling containers for residents and encourage closed bins if possible.
- Provide disposal options for hard to dispose of items.
- Conduct your own community litter survey and create your own litter action plan.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Partnering on Litter Education

- Amplify the statewide anti-litter marketing campaign being released in August.
- Add your local sense of community to the materials from the statewide campaign.
- Educate your community on the costs of littering and illegal dumping.
- Celebrate local businesses who are helping to reduce waste and keep your community litter free.
 - **Penn Hills Anti-Litter Group**
 - **City of Philadelphia's Zero Waste Partnership**
- Engage your community in the fight against litter and illegal dumping.
 - Clean Pittsburgh Commission



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Creating Funding Mechanisms for Litter Prevention

- Create a Downtown Investment District or Neighborhood Investment District.
- Use room tax proceeds to aid with funding litter abatement.
- Offer low-income assistance programs at the municipal level to aid in paying for waste collection services.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- Litter Law Enhancements

- Evaluate and update littering and illegal dumping fines.
- Create a dedicated fund for littering and illegal dumping fines.
- Mandate litter pick-up.
- Specifically link community service to litter clean-ups.
- Update litter-related language on vehicle registration cards.
- Ensure universal access to convenient and affordable trash disposal and recycling.
- Update cover your load.
- Ensure adequate support for managing waste tires.

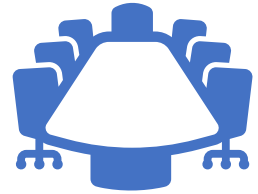


- New Litter Laws

- Identify a new legislated funding mechanism to support county and/or local litter prevention and abatement activities.
- Incorporate extended producer responsibility.
- Create “environmental court” days.

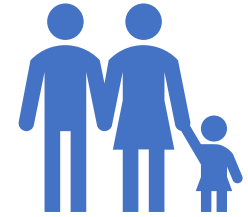
BUSINESSES

- Litter Prevention Ideas
 - Reflect on how many single-use items you distribute to customers.
 - Encourage customers to help reduce littering.
 - Ensure receptacles are in place for employees and those delivering products to your facility.
- Waste Infrastructure Best Practices
 - Provide ample public waste and recycling receptacles in strategic locations.
 - Use the best kind of receptacle for your customers.
 - Ensure public waste and recycling receptacles are well-maintained and clean.
 - Provide cigarette butt stations for customers.
 - Make sure waste haulers do not inadvertently contribute to litter during collection.
 - Keep border areas around business properties litter-free.
 - Consider use of waste and recycling infrastructure specifically for the trucking industry.



GENERAL PUBLIC

- Remember reduce-reuse-recycle.
- Reduce your consumption of single-use products.
- Dispose of your trash properly.
- Manage your cigarette-related trash appropriately.
- Promote litter prevention and help share the message.
- Learn Pennsylvania's litter laws and follow them.
- Make sure any temporary signs, banners, and lawn signs do not contribute to litter.
- Pick up litter when you see it.
- Join a state-sponsored litter clean up or beautification program.
- Join or support a local volunteer group.
- Organize a community clean up.



IIJA FUNDING - RECYCLING

- **Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling** – \$55 million per year – \$275 million total
 - Support improvements to local post consumer materials management including municipal recycling programs
 - Assist local waste management authorities in making improvements to local waste management systems
- **Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program** – \$15 million per year - \$75 million total
 - Support education/outreach on consumer recycling and waste prevention
 - Inform public about recycling programs
 - States, local gov, non-profit, public-private partnerships are eligible
 - PSAs, door to door, social media & digital outreach, advertising, toolkits for municipal and/or commercial recycling programs, Labeling and signs

COMING SOON

- August 1 launches:

- Young Ambassador Program



- Statewide Marketing Campaign

- Sponsor-A-Highway



- [Litter Summit – Lancaster, PA – Nov. 1 & 2](#)

QUESTIONS?

RESOURCES

- [Litter Action Plan \(pa.gov\)](#)
- [Research - Keep PA Beautiful](#)
- [Changing PA's Littering Habit](#)
- [Adopt A Highway \(pa.gov\)](#)
- [Sponsor A Highway \(pa.gov\)](#)
- [Young Ambassadors of Pennsylvania - Keep PA Beautiful](#)

FOLLOW PENNDOT



www.PennDOT.pa.gov



www.DMV.pa.gov



PennsylvaniaDepartmentofTransportation



PennDOTNews



PennsylvaniaDOT



PennDOTSec



/company/PennDOT



PennDOTSec



PennsylvaniaDOT