Illegal Dumping in Pennsylvania: A Decade of Discovery

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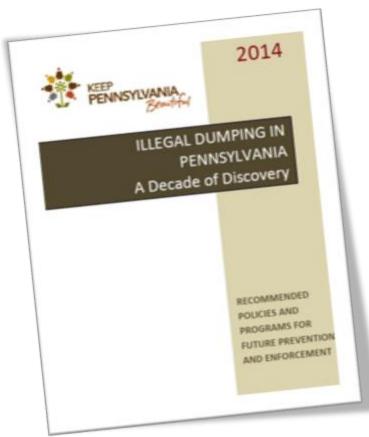
Shannon Reiter Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful











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 and the surveys: http://www.keeppabeautiful.org/

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Approach and Background Sources

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

- Statewide Illegal Dump Surveys
 - 10 Years to survey 67 Counties
- Data from 25 years of Cleanups
- Comparative Analysis of Cleanup Costs

Waste Collection & Disposal Practices

- Service Types
- Availability
- Expected vs. Reported

Laws, Regulations & Enforcement

- State, County, Local
- Available Resources

Geographic & Demographic Data

- Census
- USDA
- Brookings

Extensive Stakeholder Input

- Interviews
- Focus Groups
- Phone Surveys
- Panel Discussions

Industry Recognized Publications

- Journals
- Studies
- National Data

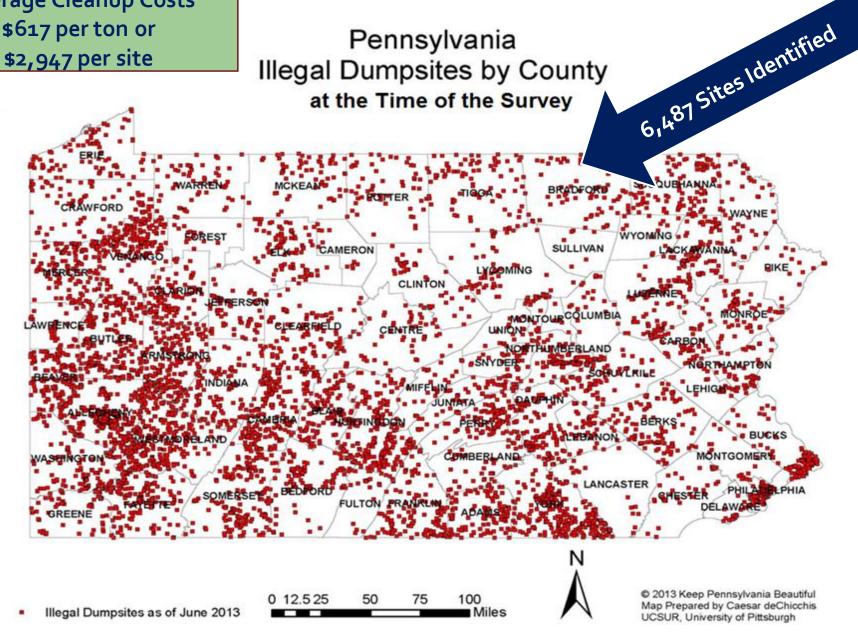
Professional Experience

• 25+ years





Average Cleanup Costs \$617 per ton or



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.



Pennsylvania's Current Approach Favors Enforcement over Prevention





Illegal Dumping Common Label...Distinct Issues









• 2,562 MUNICIPALITIES

- Varying service and bidding requirements. (or NONE AT ALL)
 - Less Efficient, Costlier
 - Unclear Expectations
 - Poor Participation
 - Recycling Contamination
 - Illegal Dumping

WASTE & RECYCLING SERVICE OFFERINGS INCONSISTENCIES & INEQUITIES



86.7% surveyed have Curbside Trash Collection

58.5% have Bulk Waste Collection included with their household waste service

Only 25% have Bulk Waste Collection at least once per month

87.8% would drive up to 11 miles to properly manage household trash, recyclables, and other materials.

47.4% indicate that if collected curbside or at convenience centers costs to manage of bulky items should be included

32% believe disposal fees should be bundled into the purchase price or paid by manufacturer

CURRENT ENFORCEMENT CLIMATE

- Responsibility for enforcement actions in PA is inconsistent.
- Convictions require proof beyond a reasonable doubt.
- Penalties are disproportionately low vs. legal disposal and remediation.

PUBLIC SURVEY

- Appropriate Punishment For Illegal Dumping
 - 69.6% Clean Up Waste
 - 30.4% Jail Time
 - 50% Community Service And Fines
- Appropriate Use of Fines
 - 91.8% believe fines should go for site cleanup.
- Regulating Small Haulers And Contractors
 - 86.0% favor licensing/regulation of building contractors, remodelers, roofers, and junk haulers

Conclusions & Recommendations



"If everyone sweeps before his own front door, then the street is clean."

Johann Wolfgang van Goethe

Scorecard for the Recommendations

Prevents Illegal Dumping Before It Occurs Complements the Existing Infrastructure and Programs Minimal Formal Changes to Regulations or Policies Practical to Implement & Reasonable to Enforce Locally Appropriate & Replicable Throughout PA Convenient & Affordable to Consumers Financially Sustainable-Supported by User Fees

KEY RECOMMENDATION



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

 Shift focus of county municipal waste planning away from disposal capacity needs and over to planning, coordination and demonstration of how local municipalities will attain universal access.

- 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 mechanism to assist eligible low income households with waste & recycling collection costs.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENSURE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SERVICES



Reasonable Alternative Where Curbside Collection is Difficult



Small Site Adjacent to Municipal Building

SAMPLE CONVENIENCE CENTER LAYOUT



Secure Off-loading and Storage



Vending Machine for Pay as You Throw Bags or Tags



RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCREASE AWARENESS

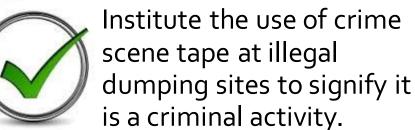


Implement a statewide multi-media education campaign on proper waste management.



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

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





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.



Expand the use of surveillance cameras at dumping sites

Create a Joint Code Enforcement Officer Program to support local governments.

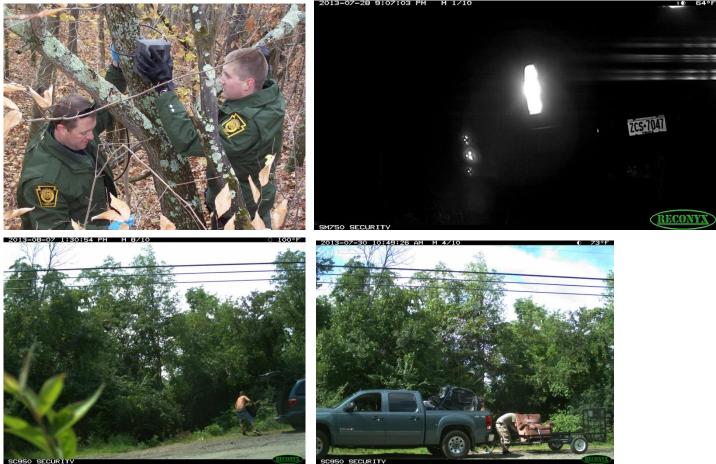
Install barriers at illegal dumping "hot spots" to prevent entry and show it is monitored.



Expedite cases with Environmental Law Court Day or dedicated District Justice

- Establish an Expert Witness Bureau to support prosecutors in illegal dumping cases
- Establish fines that significantly outweigh the avoided cost of disposal
- Revoke transporter authorizations and require forfeiture of equipment for certain violations

ILLEGAL DUMP SURVEILLANCE SUPPORT PROGRAM





Able to capture clear license plate photos, even at night.





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THANK YOU

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?