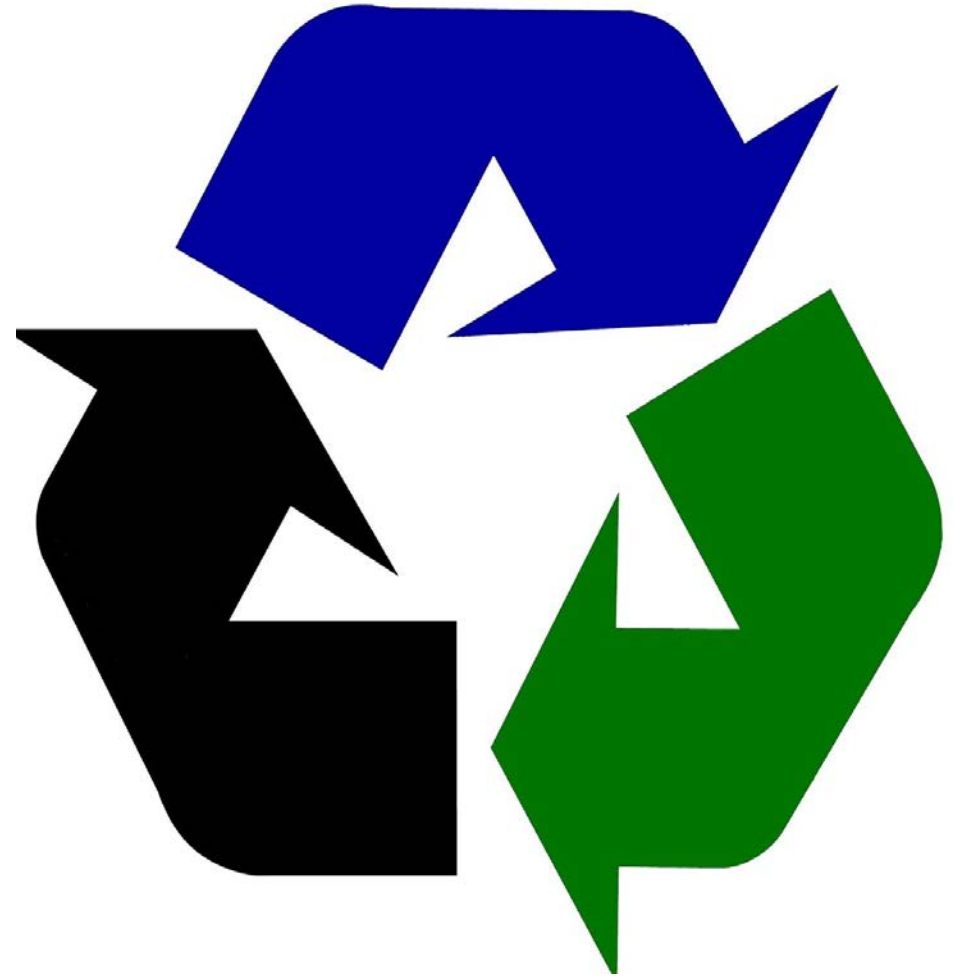


Litter Clean Up & Prevention

Angela Taylor –
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Region 6 Solid Waste Management

Discussion

- Litter has an environmental and economic impact
- Misconceptions about litter
- Litter vs Illegal Dumping – there is a difference
- Current litter clean up programs



23.02.2018

Misconceptions

- There are not enough sorting stations
- Fast food packaging is the problem
- We don't know who litters



Misconceptions

- Most litter occurs within 5 meters of a waste station
- 2008 study showed only 8% of litter was fast food packaging
- Smoker, travels a lot, eats out at least twice a week



Litter vs Illegal Dumping

- Litter is an item laying in a open public space. Harder to enforce due to no evidence
- Illegal Dumping is a bag or more of garbage. Easier to enforce since identifying information is often found



Common Causes of Litter


- Rejection or unsorted waste
- Unsecure loads/unintentional
- ‘Out the window’ syndrome

People know it's wrong but since it's not enforced, it's not taken seriously



13.04.2018

Litter Clean Up Programs

- Earth Day Clean Up – Groups/individuals register a clean up during earth week (April) and the bags and gloves are provided from R6.
 - Municipalities ask contracted waste hauler to collect the bags of litter during earth day (April 22) OR have participants take bags home to be placed with regular collection.
 - Around 8000kg of litter is cleaned up in R6 each year
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Adopt-A-Highway

Established in 1992: Organizations, volunteer groups and businesses collect litter from roadsides and interchanges.

170 groups cover 1,000 kms of road Province-wide.

Collection of bags is organized with DoT

Over 30 groups in R6

Commit to 3 clean ups per year



The Great Nova Scotia Pick-Me-Up

- Extension of Adopt-A-Highway Program but there are no committed clean ups.
- Registration doesn't begin until after April 1st
- Collection of bags is organized by the municipality



Municipal Litter Programs

- Pay non-for-profit groups/organizations to do litter clean up
- Budget \$\$\$ first come, first serve and until the money is gone
- Clean up minimum of 1 km of road, both sides
- Area to be cleaned must be inspected and approved by municipal staff
- Money is provided after clean up



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Cons of Litter Programs

Adopt-A-Highway

Commitment of 3 clean up is a deterrent. Registration and organization is difficult, and people often revoke their application halfway through process.

Great NS Pick Me Up

Registration begins too late, and groups often do not contact municipality for collection of bags so they are left unattended which can cause a bigger problem.

Municipal Programs

Discourage volunteers from other programs that do not offer money which can backfire and create less clean ups. Builds culture that someone else will clean it up which can cause even more litter.

Divert NS Litter Audit 2021

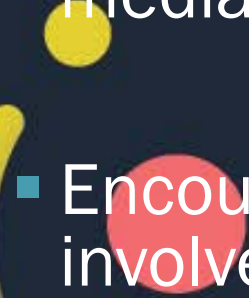
- 3 key parts:
 - Categorize litter (July 2021)
 - understanding litter behavior (Jan 2022)
 - implement communication and tactics (Spring 2022)

Provide data, policy and compliance initiatives

13.04.2018



Recommendation

- Collaborate with R6 on Litter Education Programs – Let's be clear, litter doesn't belong here
 - Divert Roadside Litter Audit completion
 - Continue to show zero tolerance for littering via social media, newsletters and media
 - Encourage litter clean ups by getting involved and organizing events
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QUESTIONS?

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