



ILLEGAL DUMPING PREVENTION PROJECT

Update and Overview

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Welcome to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5 Illegal Dumping Prevention Project! Illegal dumping is a major problem in many areas of the Midwest that raises concerns with regard to safety, property values, and quality of life in our communities. Several local agencies and community groups have formed partnerships to address the problem and are making some real progress. The Region 5 Illegal Dumping Prevention Project was established to exchange information, establish partnerships and implement strategies to address the problem. The project focuses on five geographic initiative areas within Region 5: Greater Chicago, Southeast Michigan, Northeast Ohio, Northwest Indiana, Mississippi Gateway. Comprehensive assessments of the problem were conducted in each area and EPA partnered with government, industry and community groups on prevention projects. An "Illegal Dumping Prevention Guidebook" (EPA905-B-97-001) was published to articulate the lessons learned from several pilot projects and summarize national research on innovative prevention efforts. The goal of this effort is to add value to efforts to stop illegal dumping.

THE PROCESS

Before taking action, it is important to understand the nature of the illegal dumping problem. Once a thorough assessment of the problem is completed, solutions can be developed in partnership with local stakeholders. This process is being utilized in each of the geographic initiative areas.

STEP 1: Conduct an assessment of the illegal dumping problem (see reverse side of this Fact Sheet). An assessment report is developed which defines the nature of the problem and clearly identifies stakeholders, ongoing prevention efforts, and outstanding resource needs.

STEP 2: Stakeholders are contacted to determine interest in a partnership and may be provided a copy of the assessment report. In some cases, a stakeholder meeting is held at which the assessment report is reviewed and a strategic plan or specific projects are developed.

STEP 3: Once a work plan, time line and budget for specific project(s) are prepared, resources are sought to support implementation of the project(s). Results are measured and lessons learned are documented during implementation.

Experiences to date strongly suggest that collecting accurate information and identifying strategic partners is important. In addition, active participation by local stakeholders in the development and implementation of collaborative projects is critical. U.S. EPA is interested in supporting efforts to conduct accurate assessments and establish successful partnerships.

PROJECTS

Several local governments and community groups are implementing a variety of illegal dumping prevention projects involving community outreach and education, cleanup events, mapping, and targeted surveillance or enforcement.

The City of Chicago revised a solid waste code to incorporate stiffer penalties and hired enforcement officers to investigate and enforce against dumpers utilizing streamlined administrative procedures. This targeted enforcement effort was complemented by extensive multi-lingual community outreach and education programs. Police provided information to and solicited feedback from residents through the community-oriented policing program.



The City of Gary, Indiana assessed illegal dumpsites citywide, establishing a database and map of sites. Several problem sites were cleaned up and a Task Force was convened to implement pilot prevention and enforcement programs in two target neighborhoods in coordination with residents.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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ASSESSING AN ILLEGAL DUMPING PROBLEM

The following topics should be addressed in conducting an assessment.

✓ **The Nature of the Problem**

- Locations of persistent illegal dumping problems
- Commonalities of illegal dumping areas, including demographics and types of waste
- Commonalities of illegal dumping incidents, such as the source of the waste, dumping incident characteristics, and the profile of illegal dumpers
- Possible driving forces behind illegal dumping, such as user fees, restrictions on curbside trash pickup, or lack of effective recycling programs

✓ **The Players Involved**

- Departments or agencies responsible for enforcing laws, ordinances, or regulations
- Other organizations involved, such as community groups or local industry
- Level of coordination and communication among involved organizations
- Amount of information-sharing with other tribes

✓ **Past and Ongoing Efforts**

- Local laws, ordinances, or regulations that address illegal dumping
- Existing programs or previous efforts to prevent illegal dumping
- Methods used to monitor or measure illegal dumping and any trends observed in the data
- Previous or ongoing cleanup efforts, such as community-volunteer cleanup days
- Communication of illegal dumping prevention efforts to the community
- Efforts that have been successful or unsuccessful and why

✓ **Resources**

- Sources of funding for previous or existing efforts to address illegal dumping
- Additional resources needed to adequately address illegal dumping problems