



# ILLEGAL DUMPING PREVENTION PROJECT

## Tribal Assistance

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

As you know, illegal dumping is a major problem that raises significant concerns with regard to safety, natural resources, and quality of life for Indian reservations. Improper solid waste disposal practice on Indian lands has been identified as among the most serious problems facing Tribal communities. EPA aims to work with Tribes, along with other federal agencies, to strategically prevent illegal dumping activity.

In some urban areas, local agencies and citizens groups have formed unique partnerships to address illegal dumping and are making some real progress. In response to requests for Federal assistance, the Region 5 Illegal Dumping Prevention Project was established in 1995 to exchange information, establish partnerships and implement strategies to address the problem. Efforts were originally focused on five major urban areas: Chicago, Gary, Detroit, Cleveland and East St. Louis. In each of these areas, EPA conducted a comprehensive assessment of the problem and established collaborative projects to combat illegal dumping. Information on best prevention practices has been compiled into an "Illegal Dumping Prevention Guidebook." EPA is expanding this project to add value to Tribal efforts to stop illegal dumping in their communities.

### THE PROJECT TEAM

The Illegal Dumping Prevention Project is being led by EPA Region 5 staff in Chicago, Illinois. EPA is willing to come to your reservation and work directly with local Tribal officials and members to achieve the project's goal.

### THE PROCESS

**STEP 1:** EPA identifies key contacts, or "stakeholders," involved in addressing illegal dumping to form partnerships to conduct an assessment of the problem. The information needed in this assessment is contained in the Chart on the reverse side of this Factsheet. A report is developed which clearly identifies all stakeholders, defines the nature of the problem, identifies ongoing prevention efforts, and determines outstanding resource needs.

**STEP 2:** A facilitated stakeholder meeting is held at which the assessment report is reviewed and a comprehensive strategic plan is developed.

**STEP 3:** Collaborative projects are initiated which follow the strategic plan. At this point, EPA will seek to identify and utilize grant funding to support these projects.

EPA staff actively supports the partnerships and projects established at the stakeholder meetings. This process is based on an approach outlined in EPA's "Illegal Dumping Prevention Guidebook," (EPA905-B-987-001, March 1998) which contains "best practices" for preventing and mitigating illegal dumping in urban and rural areas.

### SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS

This process has been successfully implemented in urban areas throughout Region 5. For example, the City of Chicago developed a Fly Dumping Prevention Pilot Project, which to date has resulted in hundreds of arrests, cleaned-up sites, and confiscated vehicles. In addition, thousands of outreach materials have been distributed by hand and through the mass media encouraging neighborhood residents to keep lots clean and report dumpers. The City of Detroit worked with EPA to establish a local partnership and develop a program to address illegal dumping with similar results. Prior to EPA's assistance, these cities had virtually no program in place to address the problem.

### YOUR PARTICIPATION IS VITAL

The success of this project depends on collecting accurate information and identifying key contacts. Active participation by local stakeholders in the development and implementation of collaborative projects designed to strategically address illegal dumping is critical. If your Tribe is interested in participating, please feel free to contact:

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## ASSESSING THE PROBLEM

The following topics are discussed with stakeholders in conducting the 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 trash pickup, or lack of effective recycling programs

### ✓ **The Players Involved**

- Tribal departments responsible for enforcing laws, ordinances, or regulations
- Relevant federal agencies
- Other organizations involved, such as counties or local interest groups
- Level of coordination and communication among involved organizations
- Amount of information-sharing with other Tribes

### ✓ **Past and Ongoing Efforts**

- Tribal 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