

What's the Problem Anyway?

Illegal solid waste in McKean County negatively impacts our water quality, public health, public safety, economy and environment.

Although we may not realize it at first, illegal dumping has an enormous impact on our area in many different ways.

- Dumping pollutes ground and surface water. Rainwater washes over trash dissolving contaminants. Tainted water then percolates into groundwater affecting the water table for an extended region. Trash is often tossed directly into lakes, streams and other sources of water. Clean Ways has set its priority to clean up illegal dumps in or near water sources.
- Dumping introduces health concerns that may result in serious illness and injury. West Nile virus is transmitted by infected mosquitoes which breed in refuse containers that hold water. Tires are the most important mosquito breeding sites in the country.
- Dumping can decrease the value of the property and adjacent properties containing trash.
- Illegal dump sites can attract other crimes. The commonly held perception is “if it is okay to dump garbage here, then it is also okay to do other illegal activities here.”
- Dumping can discourage new residents and businesses, putting unnecessary and unfair stress on our already strained economy. Communities that close their eyes to illegal dumping practices decrease the income potential for the region. Customers avoid businesses that are near or surrounded by trashy areas. Tourism, a major source of income for McKean County, is negatively affected.
- Dumping decreases community worth, which further diminishes a wide range of social aspects of an area. Natural beauty and aesthetic value of a region is marred by illegal dumping. Wildlife and human safety are jeopardized.

Pennsylvania Law Against Littering and Illegal Dumping

LAW	Penalty	Agency
<p>PA Vehicle Code, Title 75, Chapter 37 Covers litter and waste dropped, thrown or deposited from a vehicle that lands on a road right-of-way. Vehicle owners are responsible for anything thrown from their vehicles, even if the owner wasn't driving, or wasn't in the vehicle.</p>	<p>The person who does so is guilty of a summary offense and, upon conviction, may be sentenced to either or both:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. To pay a fine of not more than \$300.00. 2. To pick up and remove litter from public or private property...for not less than 8 hours nor more that 16 hours for the first conviction. 	<p>Local Police</p> <p>PA State Police</p> <p>PA Bureau of State Parks (in State Parks only)</p>
<p>PA Crimes Code, Title 18, Chapter 65 Covers illegally deposited trash that lands on private property. This can include someone illegally disposing of their own trash, or someone who is paid to dispose trash.</p>	<p>The person who does so is guilty of a summary offense for the first offense and upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$300 or to imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or both.</p>	<p>PA State Police PA Fish and Boat Commission PA Game Commission PA Bureau of State Parks (in State Parks only)</p>
<p>Act 97 Environmental Protection This code makes it illegal for anyone to haul waste anywhere other than to a facility which has a DEP permit to operate, and it requires vehicles used to haul waste to be appropriately marked and other wise restricted. This code also makes it illegal for anyone to store municipal waste on their property for more than 1 year without a permit.</p> <p>Act 394 Clean Streams la (CSL)- Dumping into "Waters of the Commonwealth" is pollution.</p> <p>Act 101 Municipal Waste Planning and Recycling Act Mandates recycling and municipal waste management plans.</p>	<p>As a summary offense, penalty is between \$100 and \$1,000 per incident. As a civil penalty, fine can be as high as \$25,000 per incident.</p> <p>Clean Streams Law – up to \$10,000 per incident.</p> <p>Act 101 – Vehicles can be seized for dumping with out a permit</p>	<p>PA Department of Environmental Protection</p> <p>Bureau of Land Recycling and Waste Management</p>
<p>PA Code, Title 17, Chapters 11 & 21 Conservation and Natural Resources State Parks & State Forests Rules and Regulations Covers Littering and dumping in State Parks and State Forests.</p>	<p>As high as \$300.</p>	<p>PA Bureau of State Parks</p> <p>PA Bureau of Forestry</p>

<p>PA Fish and Boat code, title 30, Chapter 25 Covers litter and trash dumps that impact surface water, especially when trash impacts trout streams.</p>	<p>Any person in violation commits a summary offense and can be fined between \$50 and \$200 or imprisonment not exceeding 90 days. An additional penalty of \$10 for each item or piece of litter may be imposed.</p>	<p>PA Fish and Boat Commission PA Game Commission</p>
<p>PA Game and Wildlife code, Title 34, Chapter 25 Covers litter and illegal dumping on State Game lands and on land open to public hunting.</p>	<p>The violation is a summary offense of the third degree resulting in a \$300 fine which can be doubled for subsequent offenses. An additional fine of \$10/item can be imposed.</p>	<p>PA Fish and Boat Commission PA Game Commission</p>
<p>Local Ordinances Cover improper disposal and storage of waste. Ordinances may vary in different municipalities.</p>	<p>Varies by municipality.</p>	<p>Local Code Enforcement Offices Local Solid Waste Authorities County Health Department</p>

Become a Member Of PA CleanWays!

To join PA CleanWays in the fight against illegal Dumping and littering, return this form and your dues to the address below. If a chapter or affiliate exists in your area, your membership dollars will help support those efforts.

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Senior |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Municipality | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Small Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Donation of \$ _____ |

Name _____

*If using credit or debit card, name and address must be
Exactly as they appear on your credit card statement.*

Address _____

City _____ County _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

E-Mail _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Credit Card # _____

- Visa MasterCard

Expiration Date _____

Cardholder Signature _____

Return this form and your donation to:

PA CleanWays
105 West Fourth St.
Greensburg, PA 15601-2981

A copy of PA CleanWays' registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State. Gifts to PA CleanWays are tax-deductible.

Littering

Don't Be a Litterbug

Spring has finally arrived. On a beautiful day, you pack the kids, some sodas and snacks to go for a drive and look at the scenery. Flowers are popping up everywhere, trees are budding and the grass is getting greener. Wait! What's that over there on the ground?? Is it a flower? NO! Yuck it's litter. The litterbug was here.

Littering is a serious problem in Pennsylvania. The PA Department of Transportation spend millions of dollars each year for clean up. Thousands of volunteers contribute hundreds of hours of time and energy to Penn DOT's Adopt-A-Highway and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful program in addition to the hundreds of community groups that conduct their own local clean-ups.

Each ear litter causes thousands of auto accidents and fires. In addition to reducing property values, litter provides a breeding ground for disease carrying rats and insects and is a threat to wildlife both on land and in water.

In an attempt to reduce the litter problem, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has established the Litterbug Hotline, 1-888-LITTERBUG, to enable concerned citizens to call when they observe littering.

Myths and Facts about Litter

Myth: Litter Control is not important.

Fact: Litter may not be the most dramatic or exciting of the many problems that threaten the quality of our environment, but it is a problem which affects everyone in the community.

Myth: Only certain types of people litter.

Fact: Litterbugs can be found among people of every age, sex, race and geographic location, at every level of society and in all 50 states.

Myth: No one notices litter.

Fact: Litter destroys the beauty of a community. Tourism is an important part of Pennsylvania's economy. People come from all over the world to see the beauty of countryside, towns and cities. When litter mars their enjoyment, Pennsylvania loses valuable tourist dollars.

Myth: Litter doesn't hurt anyone.

Fact: Litter is a safety hazard. Litter is a breeding ground for rats, and disease causing bacteria.

Fact: Litter impacts car insurance rates because hundreds of thousands of auto accidents are litter-related.

Fact: ingesting litter causes injury or death to thousands of pets, wildlife and farm animals.

Myth: Litter doesn't affect the economy.

Fact: Litter discourages economic development because it impacts real estate values. Stores and businesses will not locate in a community which lacks the pride to effectively control litter.

For more information contact: hsmckean@mckeancountypa.org