



TACIR INSIGHT

TENNESSEE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
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COMPREHENSIVE LITTER REVIEW: STRENGTHENING AND COORDINATING EFFORTS TO REDUCE LITTER AND ILLEGAL DUMPING

Background

Litter and illegal dumping continue to be major concerns identified by Tennessee local officials. National experts agree on several best practices to address litter issues and that multiple approaches should be used concurrently. Such approaches are being taken in Tennessee, and although the state, local governments, and communities have been using best practices to address the problem, efforts could be improved and strengthened. TACIR has released its study of litter and illegal dumping and the effect on the environment, economy, and overall quality of life in the state.

Findings and Recommendations

The report recommends that

- cities that need additional funding to deal with litter apply for special litter grants offered by the Tennessee Department of Transportation's Highway Beautification Office. Further, a permanent statewide litter task force should gather data and assess the needs of cities across the state and help them connect with funding opportunities, such as the special litter grants;
- the Highway Beautification Office and Keep Tennessee Beautiful collaborate to create an online toolkit with resources for local governments based on best practices to help them find resources and solutions;
- the state support and facilitate more litter law enforcement training for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges to improve enforcement of litter laws. And it recommends state and local governments consider focused enforcement of tarping laws in problem areas, such as roads that lead to landfills and convenience centers; and
- the state create a permanent litter task force that includes diverse stakeholders to provide coordinated support on an ongoing basis and help implement strategies in communities across the state. And it recommends this group consider developing and implementing a statewide action plan, like Pennsylvania's.

The Commission also continues to recommend the state implement the recommendations made in TACIR's 2020 waste tire report.

See TACIR's full report at the following link for additional information: <https://www.tn.gov/tacir/tacir-publications.html>.