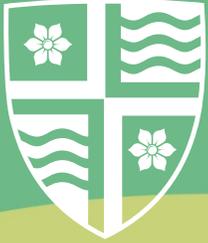


Township of  
Langley



Est. 1873

# Litter and Illegal Waste Management Strategy



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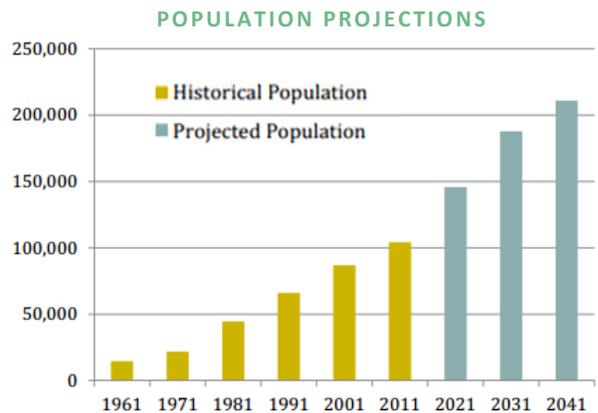
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This report was prepared in July 2015, by Dillon Consulting Limited for the Township of Langley Engineering Division, to address the issue of litter and illegal waste.



## What's the problem?

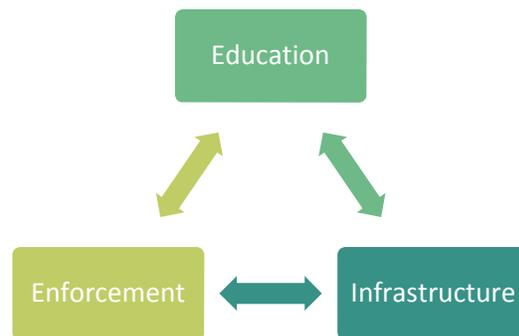
The number of requests to respond to litter and illegal waste issues has steadily been increasing in the Township of Langley (Township). Litter and illegal waste is a concern, as it pollutes the streets, parks, waterways, and the local environment. With population projections indicating continued growth throughout the Township, it is expected that the number of requests will continue to increase; unless new steps are taken to reduce litter and illegal waste.



## What's the solution?

To effectively deal with litter and illegal waste, a comprehensive Township-wide strategy has been created to focus on a proactive approach. It is based on three fundamental pillars – education, infrastructure, and enforcement.

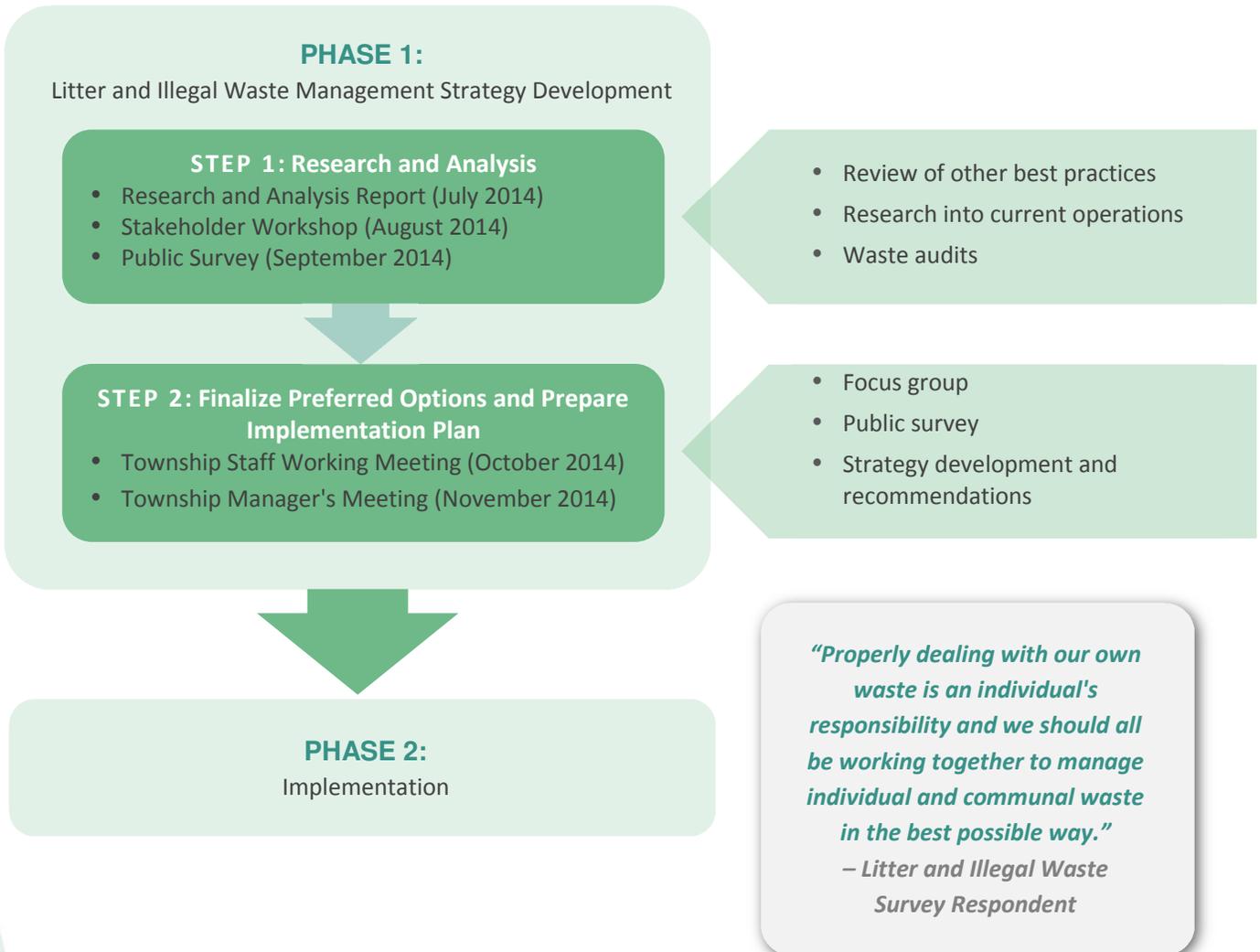
This strategy was created with input from the public, including various stakeholder groups. Input was gathered from focus groups and also a public survey, completed in 2014.



# What was the approach to developing the strategy?

The strategy was developed over several steps (phase 1). The strategy outlines existing actions and proposed new actions, to encourage and support the community in preventing litter, and to reduce the occurrences of illegal dumping of waste. A detailed set of recommendations has been developed for implementation in 2015 (phase 2).

## LITTER AND ILLEGAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY APPROACH



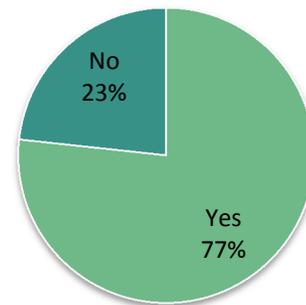


## History of litter and illegal waste in the Township

Litter and dumped waste both represent the illegal deposit of items and materials in places they are not meant to be.

The Township's costs associated with litter and illegal waste programs are continuing to increase each year. This includes the public space waste collection program, routine litter collection, collection of illegally dumped materials, and the delivery of the adopt-a-programs. Most current actions and programs are reactive rather than proactive. Both litter and illegal waste have a negative impact on the Township; however, they require different solutions to address them.

*In a recent survey, approximately 75% of people indicated that over the past few months they had observed litter and/or illegal waste in the Township.*



### What is being littered?

During the study, a series of waste characterization studies were completed on litter collected by Adopt-a-Program volunteers and on Clean Up Langley Day.

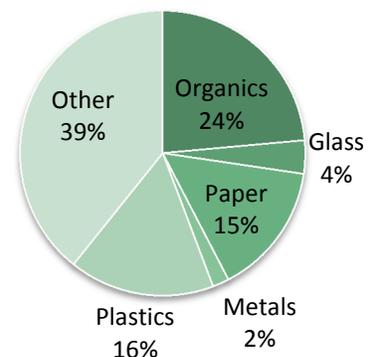
**Organics:** Food scraps and kitchen waste, food soiled paper, pet waste

**Glass:** Recyclable glass, non-recyclable glass

**Paper:** Recyclable paper, corrugated cardboard, other non-recyclable paper, coffee cups

**Metals:** Recyclable metal, non-recyclable metal

TYPES OF LITTER AS A PERCENTAGE OF ITEMS COLLECTED BY THE TOWNSHIP'S ADOPT-A-PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS AND ON CLEAN UP LANGLEY DAY



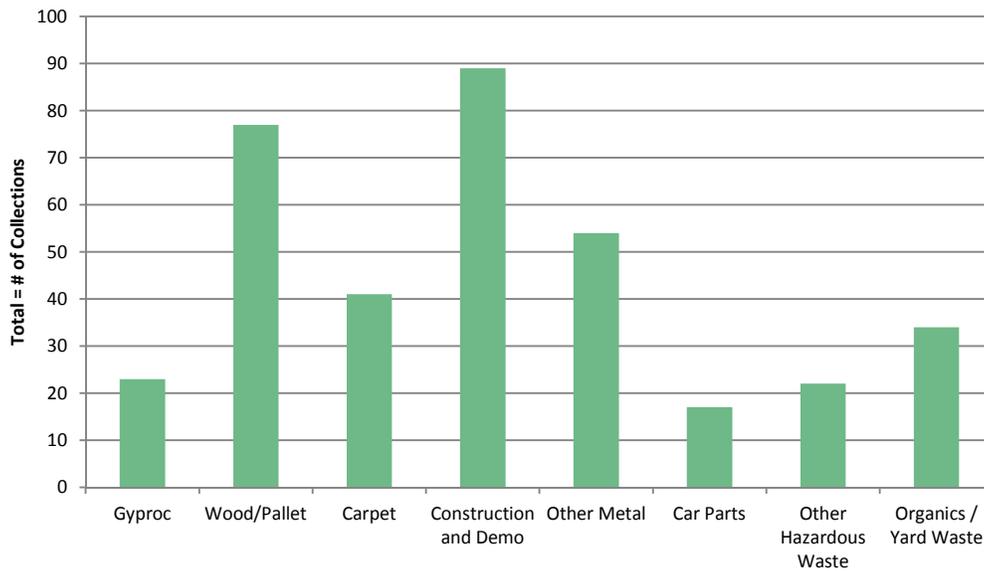
**Plastics:** Recyclable hard plastics, non-recyclable hard plastics, bags and film, Styrofoam, other plastics

**Other:** Textiles, electronics, household hazardous waste, bulky waste, other waste

## What is being dumped illegally?

An illegal dumping tracking sheet is completed each time Township crews collect illegally dumped materials. The graph illustrates the most common items that are illegally dumped in the Township. All communities in the Township have experienced illegal dumping occurrences.

NUMBER OF ILLEGAL WASTE ITEMS COLLECTED OVER A TWO-YEAR PERIOD



## What are we already doing?

The Township has a number of operations and programs in place to assist with the management of litter and illegal waste. This includes bylaws and associated staff to implement the bylaws, management of litter and illegal waste in parks and roadways, residential household programs, and volunteer- based programs.

### Bylaws

There are three Township Bylaws that allow for the enforcement of litter and illegal waste:

- Highway and Traffic Bylaw 2010 No.4752;
- Township of Langley Solid Waste Management Bylaw 2011 No.4845;
- Untidy and Unsightly Premises Bylaw 1982 No.2092.



### Public spaces waste collection

There are over 430 garbage receptacles in Township parks and along trails. Some garbage receptacles in parks have recycling receptacles located next to them.



**Roadside receptacles** – There are approximately 180 roadside receptacles for garbage. They can be found adjacent to a bus stop, on a sidewalk, or attached to a sign post.



## Adopt-a-Program

The Adopt-a-Program is a volunteer-based program where residents, businesses, or schools can adopt a street, trail, park or creek, and clean up the litter. There are approximately 2,000 volunteers working together in 270 groups throughout the Township.

## Extra garbage stickers

The Township offers garbage collection to residential properties within specific areas. Extra weekly garbage bags or containers are permitted if they are tagged with an extra garbage sticker, which are available at Township facilities at a cost of \$3 each.

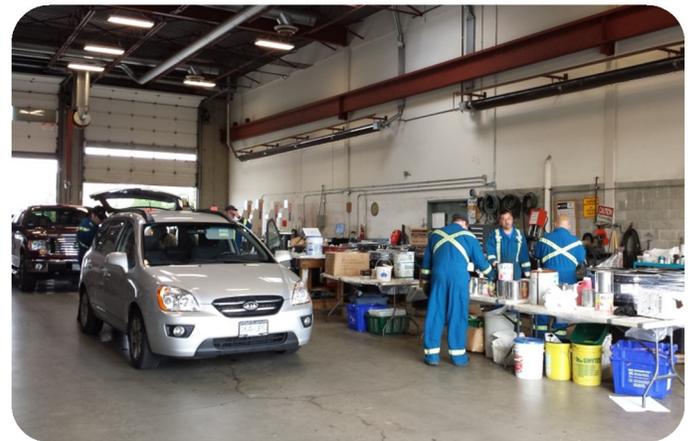


## Household Hazardous Waste event

For 10 years, Township residents have had the opportunity to drop-off hazardous waste items, small appliances and additional items at the Household Hazardous Waste Event held in October. In 2014, 38 tonnes of hazardous waste, paint products, car batteries, household batteries and electronics were collected.

## Clean Up Langley Day

Clean Up Langley Day has occurred for the past three years and is a community-wide clean up with local businesses, community groups, individuals, and families have collected about 500 kgs of waste at each event.



*"I do like what the Township does each year with Hazardous Waste Drop-off event. We have really come a long way in the right direction over the past many years. Keep it up."  
– Litter and Illegal Waste Survey Respondent*



## Future direction

Through the development of the Litter and Illegal Waste Management Strategy, 20 recommendations have been identified.

The recommendations can be grouped into five key areas:

### 1. Bylaw enforcement and reporting

Compliance and enforcement are integral tools in the management of litter and illegal waste. Their use encourages positive action through compliance with the requirements of the Townships Bylaws. One of the strengths of having Bylaws with associated fines for non-compliance is that financial penalties make residents more likely to comply.

### 2. Education, awareness and campaigns

Success comes from education, engagement, and working collaboratively with local groups to raise awareness. The Township will continue to work with the community to ensure there is buy-in and partnership with businesses, business associations, non-profit organizations, Township staff and Councillors, neighbouring municipalities and residents, throughout the implementation of the strategy.

### 3. Infrastructure and staffing

With projected growth throughout the Township, the quantity of materials in roadside, park, and trail receptacles will continue to increase as the use of these areas increases. Ensuring there is adequate infrastructure and staffing in place will assist with reducing litter and illegal waste in the community.

*“Providing residents and guests to our community an opportunity to properly dispose of pet waste, organic and recyclable materials seems like a great way to divert a sizable amount of waste from our landfills.”*

– Litter and Illegal Waste Survey  
Respondent

## 4. New Programs

There is a potential to create new partnerships with local fast food chains since approximately five percent of roadside receptacle waste is generated from their operations.

## 5. Public Space Waste Management Strategy

Public space waste receptacles provide opportunities for visitors, tourists, shoppers, hikers, etc. to dispose of waste properly. The Township wants to allow access to bins for recycling, organics, and pet waste to reduce littering, assist with reducing the amount of garbage that is sent for disposal, and to help the Township reach its 75% diversion target.

## Strategy key performance Indicator

To track and monitor ongoing performance, success of the strategy will be measured against the number of litter and illegal waste activities throughout the Township. As crews respond to litter and illegal waste requests, this will be tracked in the Township's software system and will be compared with records pre-strategy.

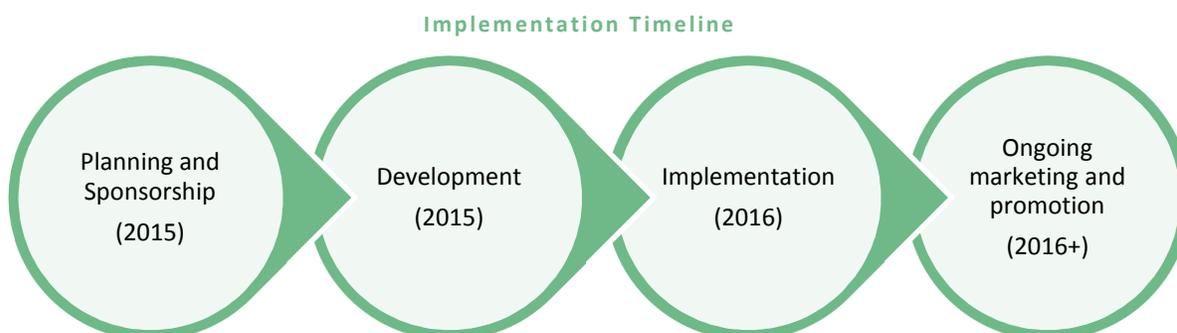
The Township will continue to involve and update the public throughout this process. A follow-up survey will be completed with residents to see if they have noted any recent litter and illegal waste.

## Recommendations

Action #	Action description
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Bylaw enforcement and reporting</b>
1.1	<b>Litter and illegal waste audits and follow ups.</b> Conduct litter audits where Enforcement Officers spend time to catch offenders in the act, follow-up with incidents, and follow-up with complaints.
1.2	<b>Dedicated phone number and social media to catch offenders.</b> Have a number of ways for the public to report offenders. A dedicated telephone number will be created for the public to report litter and illegal waste incidents. Residents will encouraged to use Township social media to report such incidents.
1.3	<b>Modify our bylaw language.</b> So that the owner/creator/generator can be held responsible for illegal waste.
1.4	<b>Cameras in hot spots.</b> Cameras will be installed in areas that have been known for illegal waste throughout the Township.
1.5	<b>Construction and demolition waste management plan.</b> The Township will implement requirements that mandate responsible construction and demolition practices in regards to waste and recycling within the building and permitting process.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Education, awareness and campaigns</b>
2.1	<b>Training sessions with Township staff.</b> The Township will provide ongoing training to clerical and bylaws staff so they can help to educate residents on how to responsibly dispose of their waste.

Action #	Action Description
2.2	<b>Pamphlet/brochure development.</b> A pamphlet will be developed and provided to residents for reference on household hazardous waste, recycling depots, bylaws and associated penalties.
2.3	<b>Slogan and campaign.</b> A marketing campaign will be developed to create awareness around litter and illegal waste.
2.4	<b>Volunteer awareness.</b> The Township values the efforts of volunteers and will continue to advertise and support the Adopt-a-Program throughout the community.
2.5	<b>Clean Up Langley Day event.</b> In an effort to beautify the Township, Clean Up Langley Day will be hosted twice a year; once on Earth Day in April and once during Waste Reduction Week in October.
2.6	<b>Develop education workshops for kids.</b> Education Workshops centered on littering will be designed and delivered to youth through school workshops.
2.7	<b>Ongoing community engagement.</b> The Township will promote the Litter and Illegal Waste Management Strategy and involve stakeholders and residents in the process.
3.0	<b>Infrastructure and staffing</b>
3.1	<b>Revise roadside collection schedule.</b> To reduce traffic delays and allows for staff to stay on top of demand.
4.0	<b>New program opportunities</b>
4.1	<b>Fast food waste.</b> The Township will investigate opportunities for fast food businesses to participate in the Litter and Illegal Waste Management Strategy.
5.0	<b>Public Space Waste Management Strategy</b>
5.1	<b>Add public space recycling bins.</b> Add recycling bins to wherever garbage receptacles are located along roadsides and in parks.
5.2	<b>Add public space organics bins.</b> Add organic bins beside garbage bins that generate high volumes of organic waste.
5.3	<b>Pet waste program.</b> Review opportunities for pet waste collection and processing options.

## What's the timeline for implementation?





## Conclusion

The Township's Litter and Illegal Waste Management Strategy sets out a framework for effective litter and illegal waste prevention and management. Much of the effort will go into building a strong foundation around actions that focus on three key pillars: education, enforcement and infrastructure. The strategy and actions will be reviewed and reported on annually. As part of the review, consideration will be given to outcomes achieved and emerging trends in litter and illegal waste management.

*Dealing with litter and illegal waste is everyone's business. We all have an important role to play by working together to achieve long-term behavioural improvements towards litter and illegal waste.*

## More Information

Engineering Division  
604.532.7300  
[Opsinfo@tol.ca](mailto:Opsinfo@tol.ca)  
Tol.ca