



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT GUIDE

Ideas and Implementation Tactics for
Litter Education and Community Improvement

South Carolina State Litter Laws

SECTION 16-11-700. Dumping litter on private or public property prohibited; exceptions; responsibility for removal; penalties.

UP TO 15 LBS	BETWEEN 15 LBS & 500 LBS	MORE THAN 500 LBS
		
<p>Persons convicted of placing litter, as defined, on public or private property must remove that litter and shall be fined not less than \$25 and not more than \$100, or up to 30 days in jail, and the court must impose eight hours of "litter gathering or other form of community service."</p>	<p>Persons convicted must be fined not less than \$200 nor more than and \$500, or up to 30 days in jail, and the court shall require 16 hours of litter gathering or other community service. Community service increases to 24 hours upon a second conviction, and 32 hours for a third conviction within five years.</p>	<p>Persons convicted must be fined not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000, and up to a year in jail. The violator also may be ordered to remove the dumped litter, pay damages, and perform community service. Fines for dumping more than 500 lbs of litter may not be suspended.</p>

Tarp it or ticket

(SECTION 56-5-4100) – Properly securing your loads includes preventing the escape of any materials loaded on vehicles. No person shall operate on any highway, any vehicle, with any load unless such load



and any covering there on is securely fastened to prevent such covering or load from becoming loose, detached or in any manner a hazard to other users of the highway. Any person who violates the subsections relating to unsecured loads is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined \$100.



Benefits of Being Litter-Free

PalmettoPride wants to create cleaner communities. Our goal is to change the behavior that causes one to litter.

- Litter accumulates where there is already litter.
- Litter is harmful to the environment, leaching chemicals into soil and water, endangering animal and aquatic habitats.
- Cleaning up litter is one of the cheapest and easiest ways of home improvement.
- Cleaning up litter, graffiti, junk cars and illegal dumpsites deter criminal activity.
- Cleaner neighborhoods make residents feel safer, friendlier and healthier.
- Cleaner neighborhoods strengthen communities and improve quality of life.

Economic impacts of litter:

- 93% of homeowners say a littered neighborhood would decrease their assessment of a home's value and influences their decision to purchase a property.
- 40% estimated that litter would reduce a home's value by 10% to 24%.
- 36% of business development officials say that litter impacts a decision to locate to a community.

- 55% of realtors think that litter reduces property values by about 9%.
- The presence of litter in a community decreases property values by a little over 7%, according to the National Association of Home Builders pricing model.
- The primary source of litter at active residential and commercial construction sites is workers (69%) from improper disposal of trash from snacks, meals, smoking, etc.



Small Changes Set a challenge for yourself to pick up one piece of trash a day. If the trash can is full hold on to your trash until the next one. Adopt a space in your community to pick up regularly. When we all make small changes we can create a litter-free South Carolina.

LITTER BY THE NUMBERS



81%

of littering is intentional. This includes dropping, flinging of the item and other littering with notable intent.



76%

of roadway litter originates from motorists and pedestrians. Individual actions by them, along with improperly covered trucks and cargo loads, and other behaviors are the source of roadway litter.



21%

of roadway litter comes from unsecured loads. Vehicle debris from improperly secured containers, dumpsters, trash cans or residential waste and recycling bins.



15%

of littering is directly affected by the environment. A strong contributor to littering is the prevalence of existing litter.



Community Cleanups

Litter cleanup events do more than just remove litter from your streets and green spaces. They unite government officials with the citizens in their communities. They foster team building for employees or church members. They bring us together in a joint mission to improve our quality of life.

- Choose a week during the spring or fall when temperatures are moderate for outdoor activities
- Advertise the event locally through traditional media, social media, clubs and churches
- Identify specific areas to clean up
- Schedule adequate dumpsters for collected trash
- Ask all residents and business owners to pick up trash from their own property, freeing volunteers to focus on public spaces and right-of-ways
- Encourage local officials to participate to convey the importance of litter prevention in your community
- Provide trash bags and gloves for volunteers if possible
- Provide collection points for recyclables and encourage volunteers to separate recyclable litter

PalmettoPride has a step-by-step guide available on organizing a litter pick up event complete with checklists, safety guidelines and a sample volunteer

waiver to assist you in planning your cleanup. We can also provide supplies for your volunteers.



Nice Touch Celebrate your community cleanup with a picnic in the park. Find some local talent who will play music and face paint. Ask local stores or restaurants to donate food items.

► LITTER TASK FORCE STEPS

STEP 1

Conducting a litter survey will inform of problem areas and set benchmarks for future reference

ASSESS LITTER
ISSUES IN
COMMUNITY

01

02

FORM AND
INSTITUTE
ACTION PLAN

STEP 2

Beautification and
education campaigns;
Enforcement program

STEP 3

Internal, community
and maintenance

ESTABLISH
LITTER
PREVENTION
POLICY

03

04

PERIODIC
REVIEWS

STEP 4

Litter surveys, action plan
assessment and update.
Assess effectiveness of
litter policy and adjust
accordingly.

Pick Up & Beautification Programs

Engage and encourage citizen participation in one or more of these programs.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Adopt-A-Highway groups commit to removing litter from selected segments of state maintained roadways quarterly.

PALMETTOPRIDE CLEAN TEAMS

CleanTeams commit to litter removal in a specific area such as streams, parks, neighborhoods or boat landings.

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUPS

Ask all planned neighborhoods to take responsibility for routine litter pickup in their shared spaces.

PRIDEWAY PROGRAM

Businesses and other organizations provide funding for twice-monthly litter removal from a selected segment of South Carolina interstate by the Department of Corrections. Encourage local businesses to become Prideway Partners on interstate segments in your community.

RECYCLING

A recycling program in your public offices will reduce solid waste disposal fees. Employees who participate in workplace recycling programs are more likely to recycle at home. If curbside recycling is unavailable in your community, designate a team to periodically drop off collected recyclables at county convenience centers.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

The goal of any successful litter abatement program is to prevent littering, not just pick up the trash that litterers leave behind.

Website/Social Media

Your internet presence should feature your anti-litter and beautification efforts prominently:

- Post important dates of pickup and beautification events on calendars
- Post pictures of litter pickup and beautification events
- Highlight your community litter volunteers

Traditional Media

Ask media outlets to join in on your litter awareness campaign. Provide information on volunteer efforts and receive recognition for all your hard work. Other possibilities include creating advertising campaigns focusing on litter awareness.

Awareness Events

Many communities have created unique visual exhibits to inform residents of the negative impacts of litter on their community.

Schools

Encourage schools to include litter awareness programs in their curriculum. PalmettoPride has a SC Department of Education approved curriculum available to teachers in South Carolina.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

In 2018, the Legislature passed Act 214 which amended Section 16-11-700 of the Code, making litter pickup mandatory and rendering the supervising agency immune from any use of action, including Workers Compensation, when the court ordered litter pick up is being performed pursuant to Section 16-11-700. Litter pickup does not need to be assigned solely for litter cases. We can help you implement litter pickup for community service at both the magistrate and circuit court levels.

Assign-A-Highway as a special condition of probation. Under this condition, the Probationer accepts to clean up litter on a one-mile section of highway for period of time. Assign-A-Road is an option for persons convicted of litter ordinances other misdemeanors or traffic violations. Some Magistrates are assigning 30-hours of litter pickup for local misdemeanors in lieu of jail time. For violations of the state law, community service is mandatory with a few exceptions.



Enforcement

Littering is a gateway crime that emboldens criminals and encourages additional crime. Research has proven that allowing one societal norm to be broken without consequence encourages the breaking of others. The law enforcement community has recognized the importance of enforcing lesser crimes as a way to discourage more serious violations. Engaging your law enforcement officers in litter prevention strategies will result in a more effective campaign and lowered crime rates.

SCLCA

Organized in 1987, the SCLCA promotes litter enforcement, protects the environment and helps to heighten public awareness of the problems associated with litter. PalmettoPride works in partnership with SCLCA to not only encourage all law enforcement officers to enforce South Carolina's litter laws but also to spread awareness of the fines associated with these laws. Encourage your local law enforcement to join SCLCA.

ORDINANCES

The starting point of any enforcement program is to review your ordinances. Do you have existing ordinances or codes that deal directly with litter? Your enforcement officer can write tickets on state

statutes for litter or vehicle violations, but putting local ordinances in place sets the tone for litter enforcement in your communities. PalmettoPride can help analyze your current ordinances and provide assistance in creating ordinances that make sense to your particular needs.

Enforcing codes and ordinances should not be reserved solely for law enforcement purposes. Municipal and county departments should also maintain adequate standards when it comes to litter. Make sure all fleet vehicles are properly secured. Make sure that local convenience sites are adequately staffed and open during business hours. Make sure all employees are informed on policies.



Reach Out PalmettoPride can help you create ordinances, form a task force, gather evidence for litter cases and more. The South Carolina Litter Control Association can provide training for your officers and employees.



Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Have you ever considered how your surroundings impact behavior?

Our environment can encourage desired behavior or offer opportunities for crime. CPTED strategies can lead to a reduction in fear and incidence of crime and an improvement in quality of life in your community. Municipalities throughout the world are adopting CPTED ordinances requiring site plan reviews with crime prevention and safety in mind.

PalmettoPride's CPTED Certified Professional Designers offer classes to assist your community in implementing these techniques:

Territorial Reinforcement creates a sphere of influence by utilizing physical designs, such as distinctive pavement treatment, landscaping and clear signage.

Natural Surveillance A person is less likely to commit a crime if they think someone will see and report them. Learn how to increase visibility with proper lighting and landscaping techniques.

Natural Access Control Well defined entryways can be used to guide users to desired locations.

Maintenance Broken windows, damaged benches, burned out light bulbs, litter conveys the message that no one cares about the property. Proper maintenance informs offenders that their activities will be noticed.





Keep South Carolina Beautiful is the state affiliate for Keep America Beautiful, Inc. KAB is the nation's largest community improvement organization.

Keep Aiken County Beautiful
803.502.9000 ext. 3356

Keep Anderson County Beautiful
864.260.1001

Keep Bamberg County Beautiful
803.928.0004

Keep Beaufort Beautiful
843.441.3849

Keep Berkeley County Beautiful
843.719.2383

Keep Charleston Beautiful
843.579.7501

Keep Colleton Beautiful
843.925.8013

Keep Darlington County Beautiful
843.398.4800

Keep Dorchester County Beautiful
843.832.0070

Keep Edisto Beautiful
843.603.0009

Keep Florence Beautiful
843.206.3205

Keep Georgetown Beautiful
843.545.4100

Keep Greenville County Beautiful
864.467.7292

Keep Greenwood County Beautiful
864.941.3370

Keep Hampton County Beautiful
803.943.2586 ext. 101

Keep Hanahan Beautiful
843.580.8005

Keep Horry County Beautiful
843.915.7893

Keep Newberry County Beautiful
803.597.3160

Keep North Charleston Beautiful
843.745.1073

Keep North Myrtle Beach Beautiful
843.280.5673

Keep the Midlands Beautiful
803.733.1139

Keep Oconee Beautiful Association
864.631.6169

Keep OneSpartanburg Beautiful
864.462.4083

Keep Orangeburg County Beautiful
803.534.2409

Rock Hill Clean and Green
803.329.7027

Keep Sumter County Beautiful
803.773.5561

Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful
803.559.3637

Keep Williamsburg Beautiful
843.355.6431

Keep York County Beautiful
803.628.3245

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If you would like to learn more about any of the programs mentioned in this guidebook, please call our office at 877.725.7733.



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PalmettoPride is South Carolina's anti-litter organization. Our mission is to eradicate litter. We use a four-pronged approach to achieving results — Education, Enforcement, Awareness and Pickup. We were created as a legislative initiative to engage citizens to take responsibility for their communities.