

THE CLOSED-LOOP SCOOP



WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY, WASTE 2 RESOURCES PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

FIRST YEAR OF WASHINGTON'S ELECTRONICS RECYCLING... PROGRAM COLLECTS OVER 38 MILLION POUNDS

More than 38.5 million pounds of TVs, computers and monitors were recycled in the first year of the E-Cycle Washington program. State residents and businesses proved once again that Washington really is the ever-"green" state.

When E-Cycle Washington began operations on Jan. 1, 2009, it was one of the first in the nation to collect unwanted TVs, computers and monitors for free recycling. The program is paid for by the manufacturers of these electronic products and regulated by the Department of Ecology. E-Cycle Washington has safely and responsibly recycled:

- 22.3 million pounds of televisions
- 12.3 million pounds of monitors
- 3.9 million pounds of computers



Electronic products contain heavy metals and chemicals at hazardous levels, making them difficult to dispose of safely. For example, depending on its size, a TV's cathode ray tube contains an estimated

four to eight pounds of lead. Recycling electronic products keeps toxic metals such as lead and mercury out of landfills.

"The E-Cycle Washington program is even more successful than we had hoped," said Ted Sturdevant, Ecology director. "At the start, we estimated the program would collect 26 million pounds in the first year, but it hit that total in August.

"And these numbers don't include the thousands of working units that went to reuse through sales or donations by charities such as Goodwill, the Salvation Army and St. Vincent DePaul," he added.

Households, schools, small businesses, and charities across the state took advantage of this free-of-charge program. More than 230 collection sites and services in Washington were busy from the first day of operations. The heavily populated areas of King, Pierce and Snohomish counties were responsible for over 64 percent of the total pounds collected.

The energy savings from recycling rather than land-filling the computers alone (10 percent of the total volume) is equivalent to more than 690,000 gallons of gasoline.

To find a collection site near you, visit www.ecyclewashington.org.



Publication No.

10-07-001

February 2010

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THIRD ANNUAL BEYOND WASTE PROGRESS REPORT

WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS, BUT THERE'S ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

The Beyond Waste Plan, first published in 2004, was updated in December of 2009 for the next five years. The statewide plan aimed at reducing waste and toxics. As we launch into a new year and a new era of Beyond Waste with this update, it's critical to measure our progress.

The Beyond Waste Progress Report, created during the first five years of the plan, serves as a gauge of our progress on the Beyond Waste goals.

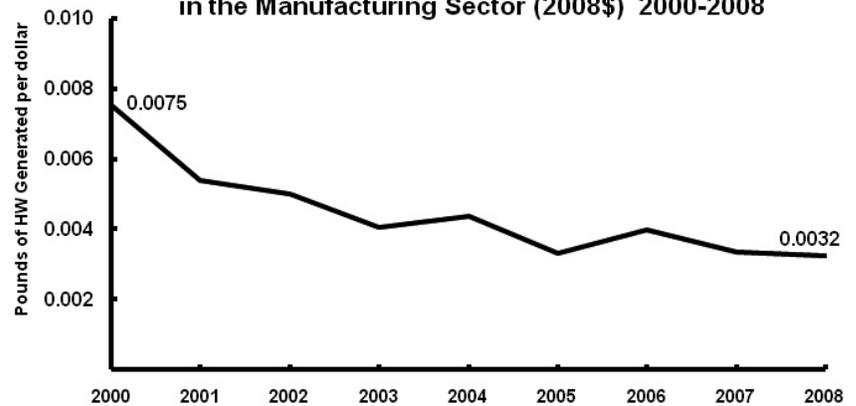
The Beyond Waste Plan has a clear and simple vision: eliminate wastes and toxics whenever we can and use the remaining wastes as resources. How are we doing so far? To find out, check out the Third Annual Beyond Waste Progress Report. It discusses 16 indicators and measures three major areas of focus:

- Eliminating wastes and toxics, and using waste as resources.
- Economic, environmental, and social vitality.
- Reducing risks.

According to the Progress Report, we are making significant progress in some key areas. We have been recycling more solid waste, organics, and electronics over the last few years. However, some trends are disappointing. Despite our recycling efforts, in 2007 we threw away \$266 million worth of recyclables.

Among the good news is that green building is increasing faster than conventional construction. Also, many businesses are creating less hazardous waste per dollar spent. Progress in these areas shows how moving toward the Beyond Waste vision can help individual businesses, the economy, and the environment.

Hazardous Waste Generated per Dollar GDP in the Manufacturing Sector (2008\$) 2000-2008

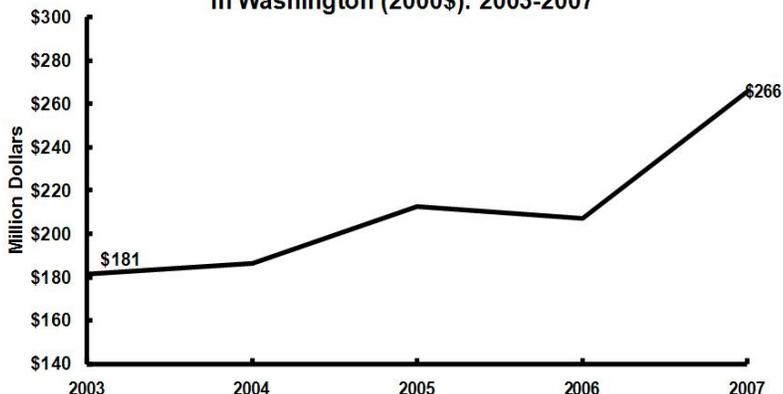


The 5-year update of the Beyond Waste Plan for the Measuring Progress Initiative includes recommendations for a full assessment of the Progress Report, develop goals and benchmarks for the indicators, and an enhanced communication strategy. We will make the Beyond Waste Progress Report an even better tool to track advancement toward our goals.

To see the full Beyond Waste Progress Report, including detailed information about each indicator, go to www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/09_bwprog_front.html.

To see the Beyond Waste Plan 2009 Update, go to www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0907026.html.

Economic Value of Recyclables Disposed in Washington (2000\$): 2003-2007



REMANUFACTURED TONER CARTRIDGES SAVE MONEY

In 2008, Washington State saved \$7,864,245 by buying remanufactured toner cartridges. We could have saved an additional \$1,052,386 if all state agencies had purchased remanufactured rather than new cartridges. On a per copy basis, remanufactured toner cartridges typically cost 30 - 60 percent less than new cartridges.

Each year in the U.S. we use about 350 million toner and inkjet cartridges in laser printers, fax machines, and copiers. Usually we send toners to either landfills or incinerators. The good news is that toner cartridges are simple to remanufacture, saving money and natural resources.

Spent toner cartridges are nearly 100 percent recyclable. The typical spent cartridge is composed of 40 percent plastic, 40 percent metal, and small amounts of rubber, paper, foam, and toner. Spent toner cartridges are refurbished and the toner is refilled.

Most suppliers of remanufactured toner cartridges guarantee the quality of their cartridges. By federal

law, the use of remanufactured toner cartridges cannot be the basis for voiding manufacturer equipment warranties on printers and copiers.

When contracting for remanufactured toner cartridges, make sure:

- cartridges meet or exceed the original equipment manufacture's standards for quality and performance.
- cartridges meet or exceed the latest remanufactured toner cartridge standards or the guidelines adopted by the Standardized Test Methods Committee (STMC), the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), and the International Safe Transit Association (ISTA).

Remanufactured toner cartridges are available on State Contract 09205 through Office Depot. To learn more about remanufactured toner cartridges, go to www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/epp/office_supplies.html or contact Karin Kraft at (360) 407-6693.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 8-9, 2010, SWANA Recycling and Special Waste 2010 Conference will be held in Charlotte, NC. To learn more, visit the website at thinkingoutsidethebluebox.org.

February 22-26, 2010, US Composting Council Compost Operations Training Course will be held in Davis, CA. To learn more, visit their website at www.compostingcouncil.org, or call Cary Oshins at 484-547-1521.

March 8-11, 2010, Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) 33rd Annual Landfill Gas Symposium will be held in San Diego, CA. To learn more, visit the website at www.lfg.swana.org.

March 10-12, 2010, Waste & Recycling Expo will be held in Mexico City, Mexico. To learn more, visit the website at www.wasterecyclingmexico.com.

March 12, 2010, 2010 Built Green Conference & Expo will be held in Bellevue. To learn more, call Emily Erickson at 425-460-8238, or visit the website at www.builtgreenconference.com.

March 23-24, 2010, Residential Recycling Conference will be held in Chicago, Illinois. To learn more, visit the website at www.residentialrecyclingconference.com/index.html.

March 24-26, 2010, GLOBE 2010 will be held in Vancouver, BC. To learn more, visit the website at www.globe2010.com.

April 12-15, 2010, 25th Annual BioCycle West Coast Conference will be held in San Diego, CA. To learn more, visit the website at www.biocyclewestcoast.com.

May 3-6, 2010, Waste Expo 2010 will be held in Atlanta, GA. To learn more, call 800-927-5007, or visit the website at www.wasteexpo.com.

WASHINGTON IS RECYCLING MORE

AND MAKING LESS WASTE

Washington residents are recycling more than ever, pushing the municipal solid waste (MSW) recycling rate to 45 percent in 2008. This is our highest rate ever. At the same time, residents and businesses sent 6 percent less waste to landfills in 2008 than the previous year.

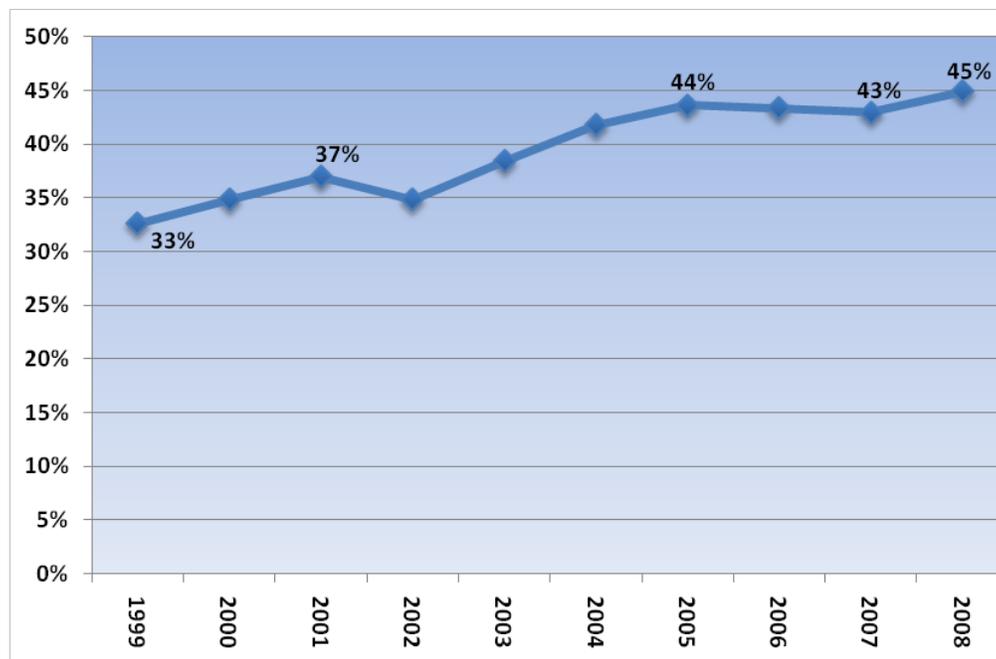
“It’s clear that even during a year when the economic recession began, the recycling industry held steady and folks in Washington continued to be responsible about recycling and reducing their waste,” said Laurie Davies, manager of Ecology’s Waste 2 Resources Program.

More municipal recycling programs are making recycling convenient for many residents by “commingling” materials.

Ecology’s report shows that recycling rates increased for organic materials, electronics, fluorescent light bulbs, and source-separated materials from construction sites, such as gypsum and wood. The report also shows increased diversion of carpet and paint from landfills for recycling or re-use.

Washington’s recycling and solid waste data are available on the Waste 2 Resources website at: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/solidwastedata/. For more information contact Gretchen Newman at 360-407-6097 or gnew461@ecy.wa.gov.

Recycling Rate for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) in Washington: 1999-2008



2009-2010 SCHOOL AWARDS

APPLICATION PERIOD OPEN

All Washington State primary and secondary schools are invited to participate in the 2009-2010 Terry Husseman Sustainable School Awards program competition. The application deadline is February 25, 2010. For more information on the awards program, criteria, or ideas to foster sustainability in your school, visit our website at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/terryhusseman.html or contact Michelle Payne at michelle.payne@ecy.wa.gov or 360-407-6129.

2009 WAS BANNER YEAR FOR ECOLOGY YOUTH CORPS

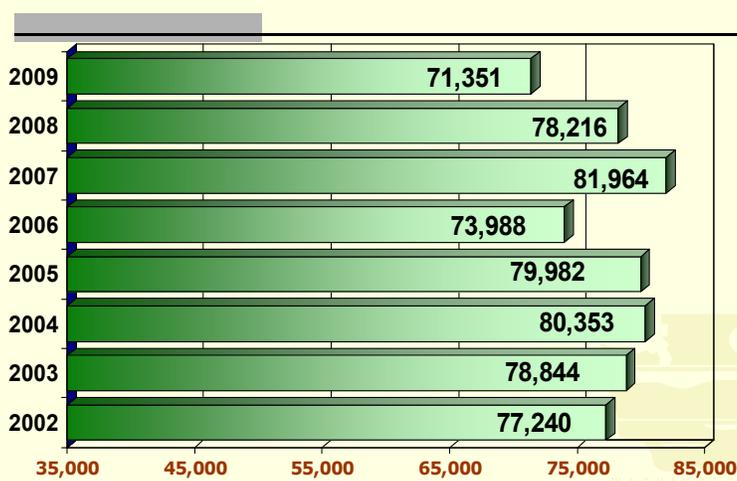
DESPITE REDUCTIONS IN FUNDING, ECOLOGY YOUTH CORPS (EYC) CREWS ATTAINED RECORD OUTPUTS

The Ecology Youth Corps statewide operating budget was reduced by over one-third effective July 1, 2009. This meant that for most of our operating season, we had to field fewer crews than the usual level for the past decade. In fact crews worked the fewest hours in 2009 of any year in the '00s.

Third, road sets were extended, through a different way of deploying cones, so equipment moved less frequently.

These changes, along with the hard work of our youth and adult crews, resulted in a record number of total pounds collected and total pounds recycled.

HOURS WORKED BY YEAR



Most pounds collected of any year in the decade despite the fewest hours worked in the decade – that’s a productive year! Miles cleaned per hour worked was the highest of the decade, another barometer of operational success and improvement.

On the subject of recycling, here is another notch in the EYC belt. We are tracking our carbon footprint and we like the result. As you can see in the above recycling chart, crews recycled nearly 400,000 pounds in the past two years, including 237,000 pounds of scrap metal and 41,000 pounds of aluminum. Our vans and trucks are not fuel-efficient: we used 46,000 gallons of fuel in 2008 and 2009.

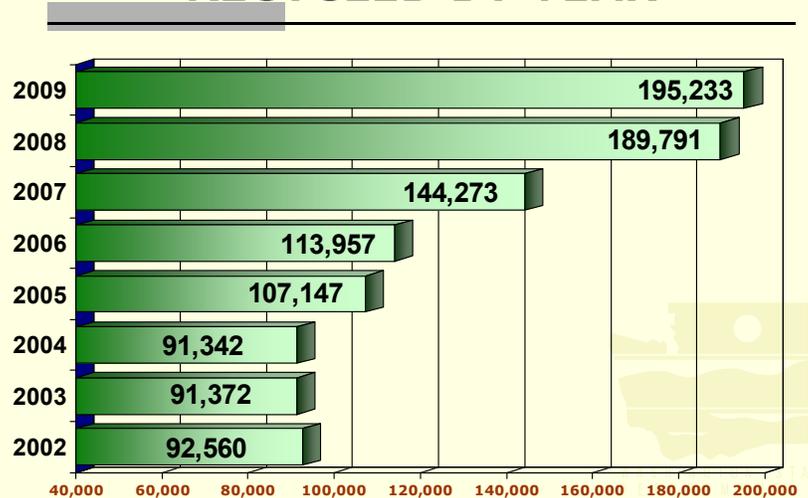
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Of course, fewer crews and less money did not translate to fewer roads to clean. EYC made several policy changes to keep our level of service high and get as many roads as possible cleaned.

First, we adopted new litter pickup standards in order to extend our range, leaving smaller, less visible litter behind. As dirty as the roads may look at 60 miles per hour, those of us in the field know that in reality a lot of litter is not visible until you are standing in the grass looking for it. People do not complain about litter they cannot see!

Second, we significantly reduced time spent on training and education, over 45 percent reduction from 2008 levels.

POUNDS OF MATERIAL RECYCLED BY YEAR



However, during that same two-year period, our recycling efforts offset 62,000 gallons of fuel use according to WA State Recycling Association conversion estimates. Thus EYC actually enjoyed a fuel credit of 16,000 gallons.

EYC Haiku

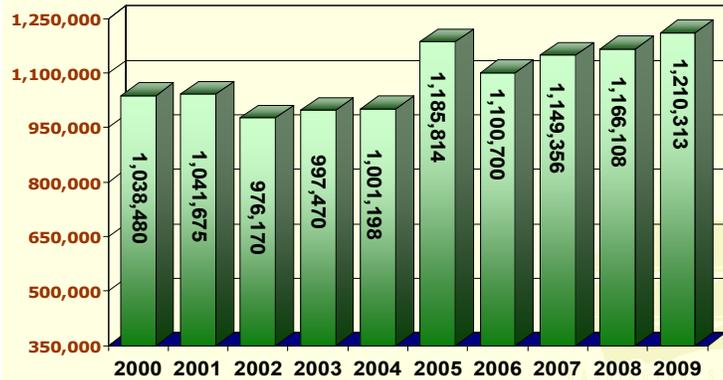
By Esteban Miguel Guillemos

What a great program!

Cleaning roads, recycling tons.

It's the EYC.

POUNDS COLLECTED BY YEAR



WSDOT IS GOING GREEN WITH PAPER

Seemingly small steps add up to big results in WSDOT's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint.

One way WSDOT supports sustainability is through its use of environmentally preferred paper. For an agency as large as WSDOT, a switch from zero to 100 percent recycled-content paper significantly reduces carbon dioxide emissions. Each time we buy one ream of 100 percent recycled-content paper, we prevent five pounds of carbon dioxide emissions from being released into the atmosphere (Source: A Brighter Planet newsletter). In fiscal year 2009, WSDOT bought the equivalent of 16,538 reams of 100 percent recycled-content paper. Through this action, WSDOT prevented 82,690 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions.

WSDOT's supply officers have helped the agency get ahead of legislative action that directed state agencies to buy 100 percent recycled-content paper for printing and copying by Dec 31, 2009. State agencies also must reduce printing and copy paper use by 30 percent beginning no later than July 1, 2010. During the September 2009 Supply Management Conference in Spokane, Bill Ford, Assistant Secretary for Administrative Operations, recognized two regions for their outstanding efforts to comply with House Bill 2287, Paper Recycling and Conservation Act.

Ford presented Harry Speelman, Southwest Region

Supply Officer, with a certificate of accomplishment for cutting paper purchases by almost 10 percent. Mr. Ford also recognized Dave Thompson and Anita McElfish, Eastern Region Supply Officers, with two certificates. One was for a 95 percent reduction of virgin paper purchases, and the second for a 46 percent increase in 100 percent recycled-content paper purchases.

Using recycled paper is only part of the strategy. Since 100 percent recycled-content paper is more expensive than other paper types, WSDOT employees are also looking for ways to reduce their overall paper use. Putting the idea into practice, the HQ Purchasing & Materials Management Office began a pilot project to see how they could reduce paper use. They reviewed their processes and found ways to transition to electronic filing instead of making paper copies. For example, they stopped handing out printed evaluation forms after training classes and directed attendees to a Web-based form instead. In one year, they reduced their paper use by 62 percent and were able to surplus file cabinets that were no longer needed.

"The bottom line is don't print it if you don't need to," said Dave Davis, WSDOT Purchasing and Materials Manager.

(Continued on next page.)

WSDOT PURCHASING (CONTINUED.)

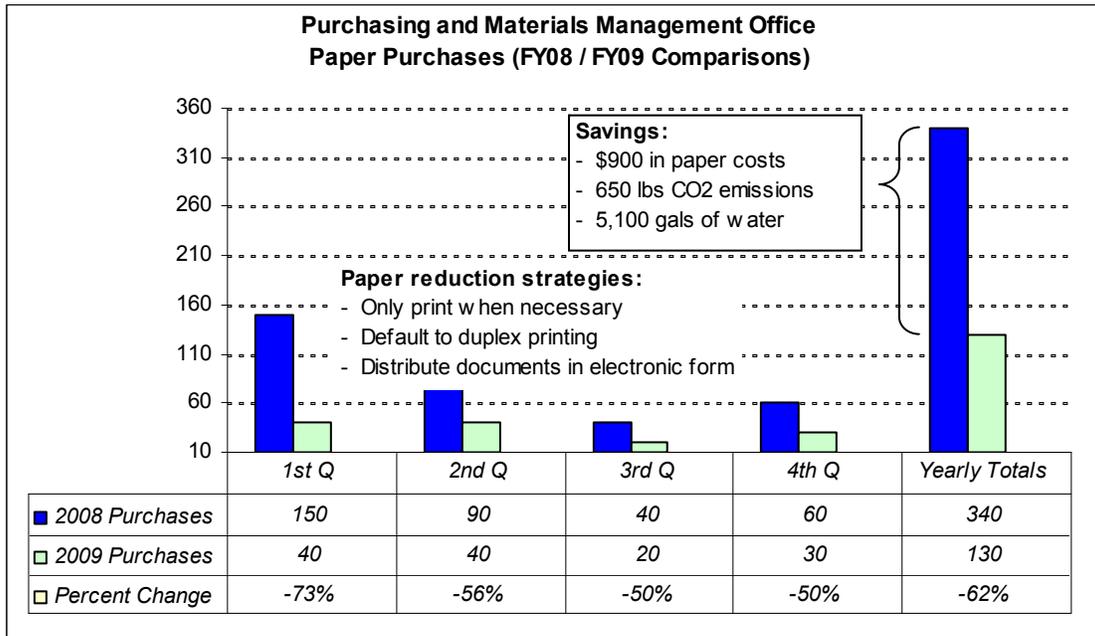
“By asking ourselves if we really needed to make paper copies, we were able to find ways to streamline our processes and eliminate unnecessary paper use.”

You too can “go green” by following these simple steps:

- Buy only 100 percent recycled- content paper.

- Set your copier’s default to duplex print.
- Develop new processes to electronically store documents instead of printing and archiving paper copies.

Reduce, reuse, recycle - we can all do this to save money and the environment.

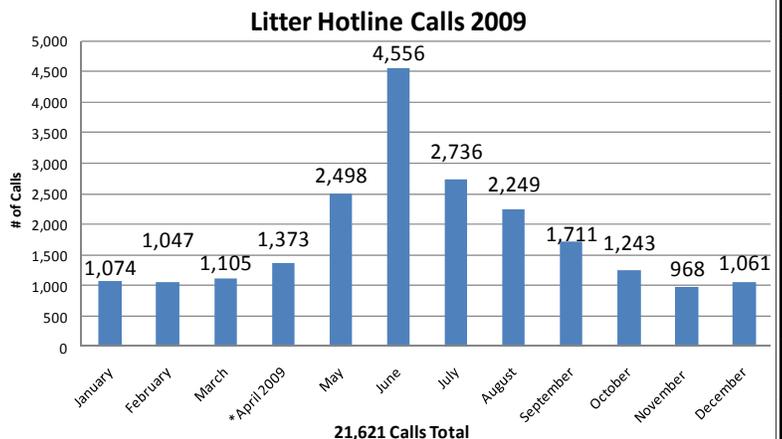


LITTER HOTLINE RECEIVES HIGHEST CALL VOLUME IN 2009

For eight years, the 866-LITTER-1 toll-free Litter Hotline (part of the “Litter and It Will Hurt” Campaign) has been a great way to give the average person an outlet if they see someone littering. Each year, the Hotline has grown in popularity and call volumes have increased. On average, the Hotline receives about 14,000 calls, resulting in 10,700 litter letters sent per year. Litter letters are educational letters sent to registered owners of reported vehicles, letting them know the fines for littering. This past year brought the most calls received in the Hotline’s history, topping over 21,621 calls. During the month of June 2009, the Hotline logged the highest volume in a month at more than 4,500 calls. Only 2,490 litter letters were sent, however, because many litter reports were inaccurate.

Overall, the Litter Hotline has accrued over 125,000 calls, and sent over 90,000 litter letters since 2002. Online litter reporting has also steadily increased, since this method was created in 2006, but not at the levels of the hotline.

Credit for the Litter Hotline’s popularity is largely due to advertising. In the past, the “Litter and It Will Hurt” Campaign funded television, billboard, and radio ads. Budget cuts have put the Campaign and advertising on hold, but the Litter Hotline is still in operation. If you would like to watch or listen to past advertisements, please visit the Litter website at www.litter.wa.gov/c_media.html.



READ THIS NEWSLETTER ONLINE!

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If you see news happening, or if you make news yourself, please let us know. You can submit articles or notices to the editor by regular mail or by email. We eagerly await your news.

Newsletter Editor: Layne Nakagawa

Newsletter Assistant: Jean Maust

Dept. of Ecology
W2R
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
layne.nakagawa@ecy.wa.gov
360-407-6409

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Olympia, WA 98504-7600

