

## ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING LITTER CONTROL AND BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS IN IOWA

This study prepared for Keep Iowa Beautiful (KIB) by Franklin Associates, Ltd., reports the costs for litter control on federal, state and local government lands in Iowa. A review was also conducted on current litter-related legislation in Iowa and the surrounding states. The report is intended to guide KIB and others with benchmark information and a base of measurement for the program's effectiveness over the next several years.

### Survey Methodology and Results

For the litter control cost analysis, surveys were sent to public entities across Iowa, including school districts, universities, federal, state, county and city staff as well as solid waste planning area commissions.

By far, the highest litter program costs are for schools and universities on a per student basis. School and university buildings are often used for public events such as plays, concerts or sporting events that can generate sizable quantities of litter not directly related to the size of the student body.

Volunteer hours accounted for at least 20 percent of total hours on litter abatement efforts for the following entities: school districts, cities of all sizes, country roads, ditches, state parks and preserves. Volunteer hours contributed through the Adopt-A-Highway program were estimated to account for more than 90 percent of all the Iowa Department of Transportation labor hours. For most of the public entities surveyed, 90% or more of total hours was spent on litter collection.

### Statewide Estimated Cost of Litter

The total estimated cost of litter prevention, collection and enforcement in the state of Iowa was \$13.5 million annually. Most of this money was spent cleaning up litter, while less than \$300,000 was spent on prevention, education and enforcement. This statistic shows that litter control efforts are focused on reacting to litter, not preventing it.

Of this \$13.5 million statewide, almost \$13.2 million was spent at state facilities, while \$326,000 was spent at national facilities.

### Results of State Litter Legislation Review

Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois were reviewed.

### Regulatory Review Matrix / Penalties

<b>Iowa</b>	Litter—misdemeanor, along the highways, the penalty is \$35 plus court costs. For state lands, max penalty is \$500 fine and
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	may have to gather litter. Dumping—max penalty is \$5,000 per day of violation.
<b>Minnesota</b>	Litter—first offense is a misdemeanor, second—fine of \$400 to \$700 and may have to pick up litter or jail time. DOT can bill for illegal dumping. Civil penalty of two-five times the cost of collection and disposal.
<b>Missouri</b>	Litter—Class A misdemeanor—max up to one year jail or up to \$1,000 fine. Dumping—fine of \$1,000 per day of violation and/or cleanup of dumpsite.
<b>Nebraska</b>	Litter—misdemeanor Class one-three depending on number of offenses. Max of up to one year in jail and/or \$1,000 fine. Dumping—same as litter.
<b>South Dakota</b>	Litter—Class two misdemeanor and possibly a civil penalty fine up to \$1,000 and litter patrol the area. Dumping (10 lb. to 2,000 lb.)—Class one misdemeanor. Dumping (>2,000 lb.)—Class six felony and possible civil penalty of up to \$10,000/day violation.
<b>Wisconsin</b>	Litter and dumping—fine maximum of \$209. DOT littering has a fine up to \$500.
<b>Illinois</b>	Litter and dumping—first offense is Class B misdemeanor, second offense is Class A misdemeanor, third offense and on are Class 4 felonies. Penalty includes fine (\$75 Class A) and possibly litter pickup.

All of the states have Adopt-A-Highway programs for collecting litter along roadsides. State, county, park or local maintenance is usually responsible for cleanup of litter or illegal dumpsites on the public lands in their jurisdiction. In Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota and Illinois, littering violators are punished through picking up litter in some cases. In Illinois, the Department of Corrections uses inmates to collect litter along interstates. In Iowa, the Department of Natural Resources is responsible for collection and disposal of illegal dumping on any state lands. The collection and disposal of litter and illegally dumped garbage are mostly funded by whichever department is in charge of maintaining the violated public lands.