



TDOT
Department of
Transportation

2017 Annual Litter Grant Report





Annual Litter Grant Report

March 31, 2017

Program Overview

Of the 95,523 miles of highway in Tennessee, 13,807 miles are maintained by the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) and 3,961 of these miles are classified as scenic.

Litter prevention and pickup efforts are critical to keeping roadways safe and maintaining the natural beauty of Tennessee. TDOT spends approximately \$15 million annually on both the programs described in this report and the maintenance contracts that require litter removal before right-of-way mowing.

In 1981, the Soft Drink and Malt Beverage Industries took a comprehensive, proactive approach to prevent their bottles and other trash from becoming litter along Tennessee roadways. As good corporate citizens, the industry lobbied to establish a tax on their products to help fund litter prevention in Tennessee.

Since 1983, the tax revenue from TCA § 67-4-402 and TCA § 57-5-201 has funded TDOT Highway Beautification Office's Litter Grant Program. The law gives TDOT discretion on how to best use the funds to clean up and prevent litter, and matters related to litter, such as recycling or litter in storm water runoff.

Litter Grants are available to all 95 counties. The amount of funding a county receives is determined by a formula based on population and road miles. The Litter Grant Program supports a variety of programs and activities that help reduce litter throughout Tennessee. Through the efforts with collaborative county partners, the Litter Grant Program is responsible for removing an average of 11,300 tons of litter each year. Over the 33 year history of the program (1983 to 2016) this equates to the removal of more than 310,000 tons of litter from our roadways.

This is the annual report required by law regarding the collection and use of funds under the TDOT Litter Grant Program, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016 (FY 2016).

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Accounting

TDOT's Highway Beautification Office maintains a balanced budget for the Litter Grant Program. In FY 2016, tax revenue dedicated to TDOT's litter abatement program totaled \$5,723,799.08, which is down by \$943,200.92 from FY 2015. Table 1 illustrates a breakdown of the \$5,463,246 that TDOT distributed for litter prevention activities in FY 2016.

In FY 2016, TDOT awarded Litter Grant contracts totaling \$4,500,000 to Tennessee county governments. A total of \$3,335,583 was spent removing litter along county, state, interstate,

Table 1: FY 2016 Litter Grant Distribution

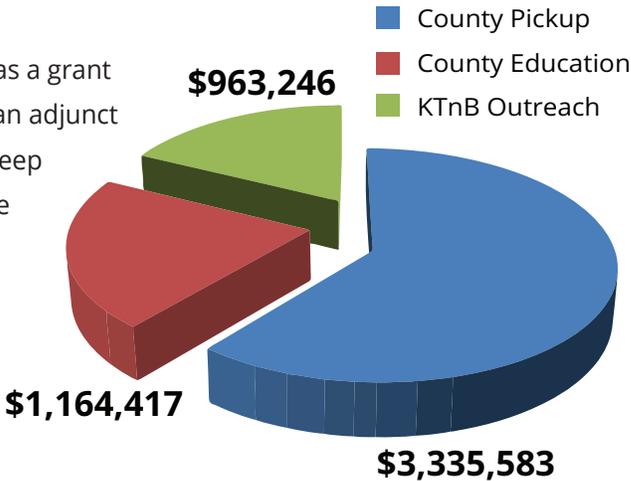
COUNTY PICKUP	COUNTY EDUCATION	KTNB OUTREACH
\$3,335,583	\$1,164,417	\$963,246
Total: \$5,463,246		

and highway within the respective counties.

Litter grant contracts require that 15-30% of the total funding is budgeted for litter prevention

education. This percentage is based on the population and number of road miles in the county. In FY 2016, \$1,164,417 went towards programs encompassing litter pickup and recycling activities. Counties are required to target education in three out of five designated categories: students, public, media, government, and business. The fact that 90% of the funds in this category were spent means that citizens across Tennessee gained valuable knowledge about how litter impacts our quality of life, economic development, and the environment.

The remaining \$963,246 was awarded as a grant contract to Keep Tennessee Beautiful, an adjunct service of the University of Memphis. Keep Tennessee Beautiful is an affiliate of the country's nonprofit steward of litter prevention, Keep America Beautiful. For more information about Keep Tennessee Beautiful, see pages 13-15.



FY 2016 Litter Funding Distribution by County

Table 2: FY 2016 Litter Funding Distribution by County

Anderson _____	\$44,400	Hamilton _____	\$108,900	Morgan _____	\$33,700
Bedford _____	\$43,200	Hancock _____	\$33,700	Obion _____	\$41,500
Benton _____	\$34,800	Hardeman _____	\$38,600	Overton _____	\$37,100
Bledsoe _____	\$33,800	Hardin _____	\$40,400	Perry _____	\$33,700
Blount _____	\$62,400	Hawkins _____	\$47,500	Pickett _____	\$33,700
Bradley _____	\$55,000	Haywood _____	\$35,100	Polk _____	\$33,700
Campbell _____	\$40,800	Henderson _____	\$40,600	Putnam _____	\$49,700
Cannon _____	\$33,700	Henry _____	\$43,500	Rhea _____	\$35,100
Carroll _____	\$41,100	Hickman _____	\$41,300	Roane _____	\$44,400
Carter _____	\$42,400	Houston _____	\$33,700	Robertson _____	\$47,400
Cheatham _____	\$36,500	Humphreys _____	\$35,000	Rutherford _____	\$95,100
Chester _____	\$33,700	Jackson _____	\$33,700	Scott _____	\$33,700
Claiborne _____	\$41,000	Jefferson _____	\$44,300	Sequatchie _____	\$33,700
Clay _____	\$33,700	Johnson _____	\$33,700	Sevier _____	\$58,300
Cocke _____	\$41,100	Knox _____	\$144,600	Shelby _____	\$230,700
Coffee _____	\$43,800	Lake _____	\$33,700	Smith _____	\$33,700
Crockett _____	\$33,700	Lauderdale _____	\$35,300	Stewart _____	\$33,700
Cumberland _____	\$52,500	Lawrence _____	\$49,200	Sullivan _____	\$71,900
Davidson _____	\$154,600	Lewis _____	\$33,700	Sumner _____	\$70,300
Decatur _____	\$33,700	Lincoln _____	\$43,800	Tipton _____	\$44,700
Dekalb _____	\$33,700	Loudon _____	\$40,600	Trousdale _____	\$33,700
Dickson _____	\$45,400	Macon _____	\$35,600	Unicoi _____	\$33,700
Dyer _____	\$40,400	Madison _____	\$55,200	Union _____	\$33,700
Fayette _____	\$43,100	Marion _____	\$34,100	Van Buren _____	\$33,700
Fentress _____	\$34,000	Marshall _____	\$37,200	Warren _____	\$41,900
Franklin _____	\$42,300	Mauzy _____	\$54,400	Washington _____	\$61,000
Gibson _____	\$48,900	McMinn _____	\$46,900	Wayne _____	\$38,400
Giles _____	\$44,100	McNairy _____	\$39,900	Weakley _____	\$45,200
Grainger _____	\$34,500	Meigs _____	\$33,700	White _____	\$36,800
Greene _____	\$57,800	Monroe _____	\$44,900	Williamson _____	\$74,100
Grundy _____	\$33,700	Montgomery _____	\$70,600	Wilson _____	\$60,900
Hamblen _____	\$40,300	Moore _____	\$33,700	TOTAL _____	\$4,500,000



Pounds of Litter Removed by Fiscal Year

Dedicated county governments are on the frontline of litter cleanup and litter prevention. The positive impact of the Litter Grant Program is amplified because local government partners invest additional resources and citizens contribute tens of thousands of volunteer hours to promote these efforts.

Through the FY 2016 Litter Grant Program, county governments removed over 20 million pounds of litter from over 400,000 miles of Tennessee roadways and 7.3 million pounds of that roadside debris was recycled.

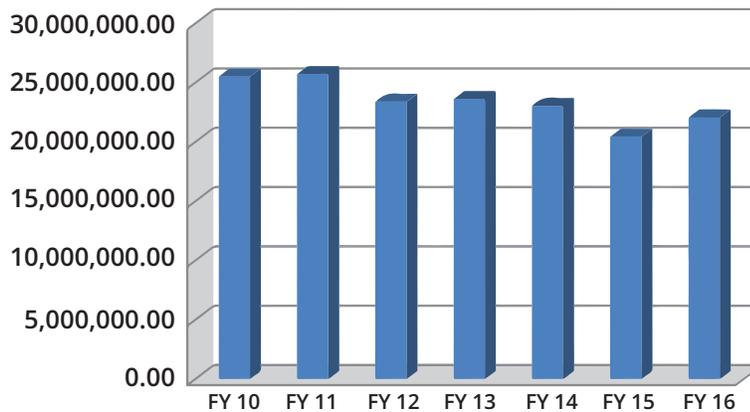
Additionally, county governments used funding from the Litter Grant Program to cleanup more than 4,000 illegal roadside dumps in FY 2016.

Table 3: Litter Removal by Fiscal Year

Fiscal Year	Pounds	US Tons
FY 12	23,382,890.00	11,691.45
FY 13	23,618,931.57	11,809.47
FY 14	23,033,511.83	11,516.76
FY 15	20,440,956.86	10,220.48
FY 16	22,064,623.83	11,032.31

The volume of litter removal in FY 2016 and previous years, as illustrated by the graph below, demonstrates the power of partnerships and the year-after-year success of these joint endeavors.

Litter Removal by Fiscal Year



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Citizen's Litter Prevention Hotline

Tennesseans care about preserving the scenic beauty of their communities.

TCA § 54-1-401 authorizes TDOT to establish a system for citizens to report acts of littering from motor vehicles.

Table 4:
Litter Hotline Reports by Fiscal Year

Year	Reports
2012	3,680
2013	3,082
2014	2,848
2015	2,646
2016	2,460

When citizens notify TDOT of a littering incident, a letter is mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle along with a car trash bag or portable ashtray and other anti-litter information. The letter gently reprimands alleged offenders by discouraging litter behavior and informing

them that littering is against the law and punishable by a fine.

The entire program is anonymous. Records are not kept regarding individuals who make the report or those receiving a letter. The Citizen's Litter Prevention Hotline is an educational tool to remind those who engage in littering that their actions are hurtful to the state and to their community.

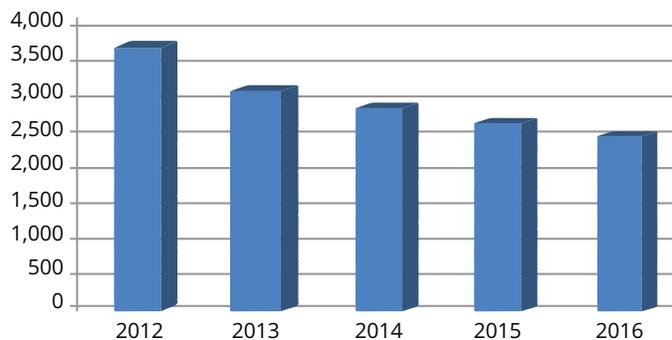
TDOT maintains the toll-free hotline at 1877-8-LITTER (877-854-8837.)

Citizens can also report a littering incident online at www.tn.gov/tdot/article/litter

The information that is necessary to report a littering incident includes:

- License plate number (Tennessee plate only)
- Type and make of the vehicle
- Day and time the incident occurred
- Location where the incident occurred
- Type of item tossed or blown from the vehicle

Litter Hotline Reports by Fiscal Year



County Highlights

Throughout the state, county partners work hard to keep Tennessee beautiful and litter free. Every county makes significant contributions to the statewide reduction of litter and TDOT appreciates these important efforts. Some of the notable accomplishments of our Tennessee county partners are highlighted below.

Campbell County

For several years Campbell County has had much success with its “Can It” project, a program designed to bring awareness to litter issues through the use of art. This project also addresses one of the main causes of litter, the lack of access to trash receptacles. Campbell County uses litter grant funds to purchase paint supplies and 20 gallon galvanized trash cans that are given to each high school art class for students to create artwork with an environmental, anti-litter theme. Painted



trash cans have been auctioned off to the general public; the proceeds go directly back to each art class. To get more Campbell County businesses involved, the campaign now includes sponsorships from local businesses. Each business that provides sponsorship receives a one-of-a-kind litter-related piece of art to display at their place of business. This is Campbell County’s way of saying “Can It” to litter.



As a high percentage of litter comes from unsecured loads, Campbell County aims to bring awareness to this issue with the “Tarp it or Ticket” campaign. Litter grant funding allows the county to purchase tarps that are given to individuals in violation of T.C.A. code 39-14-507 (commonly referred to as the Tarp Law). When an individual is pulled over for violating the Tarp Law, instead of receiving a citation they are given a tarp labeled “Tarp it or Ticket, sponsored by TDOT”.

This program aims to encourage people to tarp their loads with a positive feeling about litter control, rather than the negative one that comes with receiving a citation.

County Highlights (continued)

Chester County

Chester County Solid Waste and Recycling Department Recycling Coordinator and Chester County Solid Waste's recycling mascot, Chester the Chipmunk, travel around to schools with a recycling trailer to teach over 1,000 students annually about the importance of litter reduction and recycling. Students, ranging from preschool through high school, tour Chester County's recycling facility, attend recycled art programs, and compete in recycling competitions.

Students of all ages participate in the week long Recycling Bowl. The class in each grade that collects the most recycling from home wins a pizza party and a game day.

Students also participate in the Recycling Poster Board Contest. Students are asked to draw a litter prevention sign to display along the fence at the Solid Waste Department for the public to see when they drop off their recycling.



Chester County Solid Waste & Recycling Department has made it possible for all Chester County schools, county offices, and over 70 local businesses to recycle. Paper, aluminum, and cardboard receptacles have been distributed and are picked up on a regular basis. Having better access to receptacles helps decrease the chances of those items being littered.

County Highlights (continued)

Hamilton County

Hamilton County uses Litter Grant Funds to partner with the Scenic Cities Beautiful Commission. Every year, the Hamilton County Mayor attends a county school principals meeting to promote litter prevention education. Through this partnership, over 40,000 students experience some form of litter prevention education.



The Litter Prevention Education Coordinator offers presentations to classes of all ages, after-school programs, 4-H Clubs, and recreation centers across Hamilton County. These programs teach what defines litter, identifies the causes, and promotes proper handling of discarded waste. Teachers can request that programs be tailored to match the current curriculum to encompass more broad topics. A Recycling Toss program has even been incorporated in physical education classes!



In partnership with the Hamilton County Department of Education Character Education Program and Fairway Outdoor Advertising, the Scenic Cities Beautiful Commission hosts an Annual Anti-Litter Billboard Art Contest. The theme for FY 15/16 was "Hamilton SHINES: Please Don't Litter". The contest is open to all school aged children; private schools, home-schooled students, churches, and youth organizations are all invited to participate. One winner is chosen from each category: elementary, middle, and high-school. The winning artwork is displayed on a billboard as close as possible to the winning student's school.

Giles County

Giles County Solid Waste and Recycling Department use Litter Grant Funds to teach students about the negative impact litter has on the health of the environment. The Litter Grant Education Coordinator and the "Don't Litter" mascot, Freddie the Frog, help drive this lesson home by exploring creative ways to reuse common household items.



The recyclable sorting program, Recycle Relay, gives students a hands-on, interactive look at what common household items can be diverted from landfills. After an educational presentation by Freddie the Frog, students are broken up into teams to see who can properly sort bins the quickest. The goal of this program is to get the youth involved with sorting at home and to grow up to be conscious consumers.

Wondering where all of the kids hang out after school in Giles County? You can find them at the Pulaski Recreation Center Box Car Drive In. In partnership with the Pulaski Recreation Center, students get to make their own car out of recycled items and enjoy a movie in their personally designed box car.

Keep Tennessee Beautiful

Keep America Beautiful honored TDOT with a National Partnership Award for work with Keep Tennessee Beautiful (KTnB) in FY 2016. This is an award for state Departments of Transportation



and demonstrates that TDOT is recognized as a national leader in litter prevention. In addition, KTnB won a State Affiliate Diamond Award for their FY 2016 work, highlighted by an ongoing partnership with TDOT in such programs as the Tennessee Litter Grant Program, Great American Cleanup, and America Recycles Day.

In addition to litter cleanup, litter prevention education is also an important component of litter control. Education efforts save money because when the littering behavior is stopped, it lessens the expense of litter cleanup.

TDOT provides Litter Grant funds to all 95 counties in Tennessee, so the majority of funding for litter abatement efforts goes to local government partners. However, KTnB is the cornerstone of TDOT's litter prevention education and outreach program. KTnB has statewide education and outreach responsibilities, with the goal of stopping littering behavior.

KTnB provides expertise in litter prevention education, litter law enforcement, community enhancement through beautification, and volunteer recruitment and management. TDOT spends a significant amount of money each year on litter pick up and prevention activities. In order to reduce those costs, Tennesseans must recognize the negative impacts of litter on their quality of life, the negative effect on the scenic beauty of Tennessee, and the financial costs associated with litter.

TDOT acts as a liaison with the Governor's Office, which appoints the 14 members of the KTnB Advisory Council. The Advisory Council guides the work of KTnB and ensures that the Governor's priorities are accomplished.

Keep Tennessee Beautiful (continued)

1. Keep Tennessee Beautiful hosted the 2016 Great American Cleanup Kick-off event in Memphis. Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup Program is the nation's largest community improvement program. State and Community Leaders, Representatives, KTnB Affiliates, and many KTnB partners participated.



2. KTnB received a \$20,000 grant from Keep America Beautiful's 2016 Cigarette Litter Prevention Program. With this grant, they were able to provide ash receptacles, pocket ashtrays, cup holder ashtrays, and educational materials to all 14 Welcome Centers in Tennessee. KTnB traveled across the state to visit each Welcome Center to educate visitors on the importance of properly disposing cigarette waste, and distributing the portable receptacles.



In addition, these funds were used to provide cigarette prevention materials to Keep Jackson Beautiful, Keep Williamson County Beautiful, and Keep Greene County Beautiful. Because cigarette litter is the number one littered item in America, TDOT and KTnB strive to educate people about how cigarette waste impacts the environment and inspire individuals to think twice before throwing butts on the ground.

Keep Tennessee Beautiful (continued)

3. Keep Tennessee Beautiful presented a new “Love Where You Live Award,” which is given to an individual in Tennessee who has made a tremendous effort to keep the state beautiful. The 2016 recipient of this award was Gay Webb of Cocke County. Mr. Webb worked tirelessly and heroically for many years to revive and clean the Pigeon River, which affects so many in the Cocke County area. There is now zip lining, rafting, and ropes courses that help populate the area.



4. Ready. Set. Grow!: KTnB’s first ever 5K event was a great success! Thirty runners and walkers competed to have a tree planted in their honor at Maury County Park on Arbor Day. Partners included The Boys and Girls Club of Maury, Maury County residents, Drs. Ericka and Michael Montelione of Premier Chiropractic, and a volunteer who came all the way from Williamson County.



Special Litter Grants

In 2012, TDOT established an additional multi-year (FY2014 – FY2016) funding opportunity totaling \$1,000,000 in grant funds for special litter projects that go beyond routine maintenance. Each project was eligible for an award amount between \$25,000 and \$100,000.

TDOT invited any local government, community organization, or non-profit entity to apply. Eligible projects included any activity (pickup or education) that would cleanup or prevent litter in Tennessee. Recycling programs were also eligible.

The recipients of the Special Litter Grant received a three year grant contract that ran through June 30, 2016. All of the projects are now completed.



TDOT expects to offer a new round of Special Litter Grant funding in FY 2018. Through the program, TDOT hopes to attract a variety of applicants with fresh perspectives and innovative ideas for reducing litter and increasing public awareness of its harmful environmental, social, and economic impacts.

The City of Lebanon

The City of Lebanon used their Special Litter Grant Funds to partner with the Lebanon Special School District to expand the recycling services and promote environmental education activities in the local schools. The special Litter Grant included \$60,000 in State funding and a \$12,000 local match.

For the first time, recycling services were offered to four elementary schools and two middle schools, reaching a population of roughly 3,500 students and staff. Receptacles were purchased for each building, and a contractor was hired to remove and track the amount of materials collected. School administrators and teachers developed a curriculum to teach students about the importance of recycling and preventing pollution. Elementary school students were treated to an environmental themed performance by author Guy Gilchrist. Kindergarten, first and second grade students also received a free recycling coloring book.



Conclusion

Tennessee's transportation system is recognized as one of the best in the nation. Our roads lead to the places you love. We connect neighbors to neighbors, we connect families, and we connect workers with employers. Litter abatement is just one way that the Tennessee Department of Transportation is focused on stewardship and sustainability efforts to protect the drivers, natural beauty, and cultural resources of this great state.

Litter hurts our quality of life.

Litter impacts roadway safety. Not only is litter a hazard to drivers, it also presents a danger when mowing the right-of-way.

Litter impacts community image and criminal activity. Litter can send an unintentional message that citizens do not care about their community which could foster other criminal activity endangering public safety and property value.

Litter impacts the health of the environment and water quality. Paper, plastic, and aluminum pose a threat to wildlife, soil, and water quality. Trash travels into storm drains with each rain event and flushes into local waterways. In fact, 18% of litter ends up in streams and waterways as pollution. Accumulated trash results in serious environmental contamination and can cause blockages that create hazardous flooding conditions.

Litter impacts potential income through tourism and business recruitment. Tennessee is a tourism friendly state and litter detracts from the scenic beauty of the state, which can have negative financial consequences for private enterprises and the state. A community with excessive litter may have a more difficult time recruiting new business and industry.

TDOT's Litter Grant Program is an outstanding example of working with citizens, businesses, and government partners for the good of Tennessee. TDOT's Highway Beautification Office is continually working to build new partnerships and initiate new outreach to educate motorists that littering is preventable.





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