



Community Designation Resource Guide

Enforcement

This guide provides information about one of 15 Clean California Community Designation criteria – 10 of which are needed to earn the designation. Litter enforcement programs are best handled locally because each community is unique, and the litter problems within communities will vary. A community establishes policies and adopts ordinances that create a standard for cleanliness. The laws, ordinances, and policies form the “backbone” of enforcement as they convey expectations but may be scattered throughout different codes relating to health, solid waste, and parks. Enforcement may not be considered a priority, or officers may not be aware of the environmental, economic, social, and health impacts of litter and illegal dumping. Strategies for an effective enforcement program include:

- Review existing litter laws and update for consistency with state laws if needed.
- Make sure ordinances are clearly written and easy to understand.
- Create a simple guide or chart covering the litter laws for use by enforcement officers.
- Conduct community meetings to engage neighborhood, business, and civic leaders and educate them on the impacts of litter and littering behavior.
- Support enforcement of litter laws.
- Utilize technology to identify litter hotspots and catch litterers and dumpers, including camera-based enforcement strategies.
- Conduct community cleanups to raise awareness and improve the community image.

Enforcement is not the answer to the litter problem, but it is a key component, along with education, public awareness, and abatement or eradication of litter conditions.

Consistency in enforcement is necessary to measure litter reduction. Litter prevention is the responsibility of a multi-sector stakeholder group, so enforcement is best accomplished through a collaboration of government, businesses, nonprofits, neighborhood leaders, and elected officials. Establish a litter action plan providing ideas for each sector to engage the entire community with Zero Litter as the goal.

Check out these resources!

- CA Illegal Dumping Technical Advisory Committee [Toolbox](#).
- Alameda County [Illegal Dumping Initiative](#), including recordings from the statewide Illegal Dumping Conference.
- [Being a Good Neighbor: A Guide to Reducing Litter, Managing Trash and Encouraging Recycling](#), a guide for businesses.
- [Pennsylvania Litter Action Plan](#)
- [Caltrans District 7 Litter Abatement Plan Summary](#).

Additional resources are available at <https://keepcabeautiful.org/>.

