

Tackling Illegal Disposal



Rural communities across the country struggle with how to reduce the dumping, littering, and burning of trash. In Vermont, dumping and burning trash is illegal and many towns have developed local ordinances to help them enforce against these actions which can bring serious health and environmental risks to the community. The District supports its member towns through outreach around these issues, working with communities to maintain former illegal dump sites, and offering Green Up Day grants for member towns to help cover the costs of their events.

Adopt-A-Site Program

The Adopt-A-Site program works with groups in member communities to clean up illegal dump sites and then monitor them to maintain community ownership and reduce repeat dumping. Adopt-A-Site signs (see graphic above) noting that the former illegal dump site has been “adopted” by the community are erected once the sites are clean.

Although we did not work with any new sites in fiscal year 2008, District staff continued to monitor the 16 former illegal sites in 10 member towns: Barre Town (two sites), Berlin (two sites), East Montpelier (two sites), Hardwick (one site), Middlesex (two sites), Northfield (one site), Plainfield (one site), Tunbridge (one site), Williamstown (three sites), and Woodbury (one site). Staff report that most sites were clean, with only a few items of trash to remove overall.

Fiscal Year 2008 Facts & Figures

16 Adopt-A-Site illegal dump sites were monitored and maintained.

20 member communities requested and received **Green Up Day Grants**. Each town received \$227.

Green Up Day Grants

The District continued to offer Green Up Day Grants to member communities to help with the costs of Green Up Day cleanups. In fiscal year 2008, \$227.27 was available to each member town and 20 towns requested the funding. A total of \$4,545.40 was distributed to member towns through the program this year.

Illegal Burning Prevention

The District continued to offer its illegal burning educational materials to member communities in fiscal year 2008. Copies of the brochure and fact/quiz card are available and towns and individuals may order copies via our online order form on our Web site or by calling the office. Additional information for Member Towns is also available on our Web site under the Member Town section.

