



Clean Water, Safe Land, Healthy Lives



Litter Enforcement Month 2013 Final Report

April marked the third annual Litter Enforcement Month (LEM 2013), which works to increase awareness of littering, illegal dumping, and related crimes through public education, officer education, and enforcement. These crimes threaten the integrity of our communities and undermine the beauty and natural resources of the Potomac Watershed. Litter in our communities makes it into our waterways and has been linked to decreased house prices and increased crime. LEM helps solve this trash problem by providing a strong incentive for behavior change.

LEM 2013 was a record year with 15 agencies from 12 jurisdictions, including five new members. Three of these were non-code enforcement agencies, who pick up litter in our communities with the help of inmate and community service work crews. By highlighting our the efforts of both code and non-code agencies in April, Litter Enforcement Month demonstrates the enormous amount our partners do to address litter and illegal dumping. It also compliments the hard work and dedication of the 14,286 volunteers that picked up 574,000 lbs of trash during April's 25th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup.

LEM 2013 Partners: LEM 2013 was hosted by the Alice Ferguson Foundation, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, and the following agencies:

Virginia:

- Alexandria Police, Code Administration, and Sheriff's Office*
- Prince William County Police and Neighborhood Services*
- Fairfax County Police
- Falls Church City Police
- Northwestern Regional Adult Detention Center*
through the Frederick County Clean Sweep Program
- Manassas City Police

Maryland:

- Allegany County Sheriff's Office*
- Montgomery County Police
- Prince George's County Police
- District of Columbia Metropolitan Police**
- Metro Transit Police**
- United States Park Police**

** Asterisks indicate non-code agencies that participated in cleanup efforts.*



The Alexandria Sheriff's Office Inmate Work Detail picking up litter along Mount Vernon Avenue. Photo courtesy of Alexandria Sheriff's Office.



Youth learn about litter before participating in a cleanup at an event put on by the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department's (DCMPD) School Safety Division. Photo courtesy of the DCMPD.

Code Enforcement Efforts:

- 4,642 officers were reminded of littering and related laws.
- All agencies educated their constituents. Outreach included social media, blogs, departmental websites, and road-side signs.
- Several agencies raised awareness at community meetings and encouraged their constituents to get involved in cleanup events.
- In total 615 citations, violations, inspections, and other reports were filed during LEM 2013 (figure 1). There were 83 littering and illegal dumping citations, and over 30% of these were criminal citations (figure 2).

Non-Code Enforcement Efforts:

- Both code and non-code enforcement agencies worked to clean up the Potomac using inmate labor crews and community cleanups.
- In total 16,700 lbs of trash were removed from 17 locations.
- 292 people, including volunteers, inmates, and staff members.

Highlights:

- Prince William County Police and Neighborhood Services joined forces with Keep Prince William Beautiful and several home owners associations to host neighborhood cleanups. They also reached out to the Crime Prevention Council to let neighborhood watches know about LEM 2013.
- The City of Alexandria had more agencies participate than any other county; the Police Department, Code Administration, and Sheriff's Office all actively participated. The Sheriff's Office Inmate Work Detail had four people dedicate a total of 194 hours to picking up litter, close to 50 hour per person.
- The District of Columbia worked to educate, enforce, and cleanup in all seven police districts. Their School Safety Division educated youth about litter and organized cleanups, engaging over a 100 youth in district 6 alone and removing over 200 bags of litter.
- Allegany County Sheriff's Office had seven people pick up 50 tires, 12 bags of litter, and 2,450 lbs of bulk from illegal dump sites.

Moving Forward:

The results reported here represent a fraction of what our partners do throughout the year to keep the Potomac trash free. LEM 2013 efforts will be leveraged by the Alice Ferguson Foundation to expand and improve litter enforcement efforts.

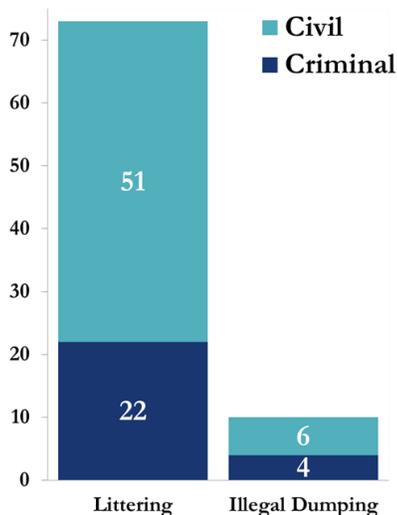


Figure 2. Littering and illegal dumping citations issued during LEM 2013.

Activities will include:

- Reach out to the district attorney's offices and judges about code enforcement agencies' involvement in Litter Enforcement Month.
- Identify opportunities for littering related laws to be valued by the court system; too often these crimes are left unaddressed by the courts.
- Advocate for legislation to improve enforcement of littering and illegal dumping, particularly of common but unaddressed items such as cigarette butts and construction material.
- Explore using online conferencing technology to reach officers about the issues of litter and illegal dumping and their role in the solution.

Thank you to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and our LEM 2013 partners for making Litter Enforcement Month a success.

For more information visit trashfreepotomac.org.

Type of Incident	Total
Main Citations:	
Littering	73
Illegal Dumping	10
Related Citations, Inspections, and other Reports:	
Abandoned Property	25
Graffiti	20
Hording of Materials	11
Litter and Illegal Dumping Inspections and Reports	341
Snipe Signs*	59
Uncovered Hauls	68
Vandalism	24
Other	12
Total:	643

Figure 1. Detailed results. *Snipe signs are advertisements posted in illegal areas.