

# HALIFAX

## Illegal Dumping Enforcement Update

Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee

May 2, 2024

Solid Waste Resources

# 2021 By-Law Amendments

- Positioned municipality to address illegal dumping complaints
  - Incorporated sections of NS Environment Act and CBRM By-law
- Accountability
  - Reverse-Onus: Person identified is responsible for the waste.

# Implementation

- Added 1 new FTE in Fall 2021
  - Develop subject matter expertise
  - Safe Work Practices
  - Education + Enforcement approach
- Launched promotional campaign
  - November 2021



# Education & Outreach



## Strategies to Deter Illegal Dumping

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Illegal dumping is the un-authorized disposal of materials in private commercial waste bins, on private property, crown or municipal land or other unoccupied land. Dumpsites can vary in size and contain a variety of material including, but not limited to construction and demolition debris (wood, shingles), furniture (sofa, chairs), appliances, household waste, vehicle parts and tires.

### If your waste bins are outside:

- Place bins in a well-lit area where they are in view of staff or tenants.
- Post signage showing that the 'area is being monitored'.
  - Use minimal print that is able to be read from approx. 10 ft away.
  - Post signs at a height where they can be read, but not easily defaced.
- Install an enclosure with screening and a locked gate around bins.
- Cameras can be a strong deterrent if your budget allows.
  - Cameras should be as close to the monitored site as possible, while remaining inconspicuous.
  - Keep any photos or video to share with the enforcement officer.
- Motion sensing lights may also help to deter illegal activity, and provide better lighting for cameras



### Identifying Illegal Dumping Activity

- Use the same type of bags for all waste from your property, including clear bags for garbage

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# Illegal Dumping Enforcement Statistics

	2022/2023	2023/2024
Cases Investigated	504	619
Primary Location	HRM Parks/ROW – 38% Residential Curbside – 31%	HRM Parks/ROW – 49% Residential Curbside – 17%
Insufficient evidence to action	244	326
Primary material type (frequency)	Household waste – 74%	Household waste – 76%
Education/Warning issued	97	121
Voluntary clean-ups by accused	54	46
Summary Offence Tickets Issued	27	35

# Success Outside the Numbers

- Collaboration and partnerships
  - Parks and IMO
  - Halifax Regional Police and RCMP
  - Halifax Airport Authority
- Property owners
  - Implementing best practices
  - Reduction in repeat offences



# Drive-thru Litter Receptacles

- Effective April 1, 2022
  - Over 200 locations
- High rate of compliance on re-inspection



# Secure/Tarped Loads

- Focus on waste facility
- Joint check-point with RCMP
- Pick-up trucks
  - ~52% compliance rate



## Prevent Litter and Keep our Roads Safe



**When transporting waste for disposal, material must be covered and secured to prevent litter.** Material blowing off the back of an open vehicle is considered littering and creates unsafe road conditions.



# By-Law Revision

- Definition of illegal dumping:
  - Include smaller quantities of waste (i.e. single bags)
  - Broader interpretation of where illegal dumping can take place
- Simplification of the description of 'person responsible' and information required to be provided to the investigating officer.

# Questions

**SHANNON BETTS**

**MANAGER - POLICY & ENFORCEMENT**

**SOLID WASTE RESOURCES | PUBLIC WORKS**