



# Kids for Cleaner Ways

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## What Can You Learn at an Illegal Dump?



"I learned many things I had no idea about. I learned that there are things right under our noses that we would never think about," Terra stated.

Elizabeth shared, "I enjoyed learning how dumpsites were started and how the oil, gas and Freon gets in our drinking water. I didn't know that mosquitoes could breed in tires. That night I told my mom and dad about mosquitoes breeding in tires."



These two girls were part of a group from three fifth grade classes who participated in the second annual Illegal Dump Field Trip organized by the Huntingdon County Chapter of PA CleanWays and the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts. Over 160 students and teachers from Juniata Valley, Standing Stone, and Jackson Miller Elementary saw and smelled a dumpsite up close.

The students were led down a trail to the bottom of the dump. There they sat in a clean grassy area listening to a presentation about the energy contained in the dumpsite with a 12-foot high pile of trash on the hillside serving as a backdrop for their speaker.

Then it was time to get dirty. Each student was given a pair of latex gloves and asked to pick something small from the edge of the dump. Though hesitant at first, they soon got caught up in finding the "best" piece of trash. The trash was then marked with a couple of drops of food coloring. The blue food coloring was meant to show the "pollution" of the trash and what that could do to the nearby lake.



The trash was then placed in a bucket and filled with dirt. A second bucket held only dirt. Both buckets had a single hole in the bottom with cotton serving as a filter. Gallons of water were then run through both buckets and collected in containers. Ooohs and ahhs erupted from the cluster of students as blue, "polluted" water streamed from the bucket containing trash. Slightly muddy water came from the bucket with no trash. The

students and teachers saw firsthand the real danger that dumps pose to ground and surface water.

Presenters Jim Garthe and Nichole Cook Monica also explained to the youngsters the threats associated with garbage that holds water. A discarded refrigerator drawer was a great example of trash collecting water and providing a breeding ground for mosquitoes this spring and summer.

Students also received a handout describing ways to deal with garbage. Reduce, reuse and recycle were at the top of the list, and the students were proud to give examples of how they do all three at their homes.

This is the second year the chapter has sponsored these field trips. Any school or youth group in Huntingdon County interested in this interactive, environmental field trip can contact the chapter. (See the website at [www.pacleanways.org](http://www.pacleanways.org) for contact info.)



# Kids Making a Difference!



Kids for Cleaner Ways focuses on young people who are working to make positive change in the environment in some way. You may already be like one of these people creating pockets of change in your community. If not, perhaps one of these examples will inspire you to do something that helps the environment. Remember, each project has its own benefit, and they all add up to a better world. Don't be afraid to start small. Each **small** step helps to make **BIG** change!



## "Rounding Up" Fugitive Tires

One of the most popular kids' programs in counties where there are PA CleanWays (PACW) chapters, is the Fugitive Tire Program. It's a unique opportunity for kids to make a real difference in their community by "rounding up" those ugly tires that uncaring folks have tossed along roadways, down hillsides and into farmers' fields.



Once the tires are "rounded up," they are brought into a designated area, counted, and a few questions are answered about what these hard-working kids learned while participating in this project. "I couldn't believe the other trash that was out there!" exclaimed one girl. A teenage boy asked, "Why would people do this?" After one group finished, they shared, "It feels really good for us to clean up this mess!"

In addition to cleaning up their community, these kids also receive a "bounty" for each tire they "round up" that goes into their group's bank account for support of their programs or projects.

Organized youth groups can register with their county's PACW chapter and participate, usually during April or November. PACW Chapters work with supportive tire dealers, businesses and individuals to help make this program successful. Some youth groups have been participating for six or seven years!

To date, over **2,000 kids** in **145 youth groups** have participated. These volunteers and the adults working with them have "rounded up" **42,000 Fugitive Tires!**

## Open Your Eyes to Litter — Vol. 3 Think Before You Toss

Ever wonder what happens to your trash? Well, **Think Before You Toss** can help you figure that out. If disposed of properly, our trash can be handled in three ways. Most trash goes to a **landfill**—specially designed pits, lined with plastic and gravel to prevent leakage into groundwater. The trash brought there every day is packed down and covered with dirt. Landfills have a limited lifespan, so we don't want to put more trash there than we must.

In some places, trash is burned in **resource recovery facilities**. Here, the trash is burned in furnaces at a very high temperature to make steam and generate electricity.

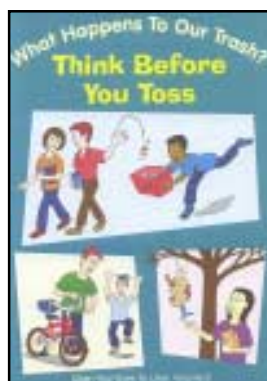
Another option is to **recycle** those things we no

longer want or need. This booklet shows you the many items that can be made from recycled trash.

We can also **reduce** the amount of trash we create, and **reuse** items or make them available to someone else who might be able to use them.


Scientists agree there will always be some kind of trash. There's even trash in outer space! The biggest challenge will be how to manage it safely.

If you live where there's a PACW chapter, call them for copies. Otherwise, call us or send \$1.50 and your address to request a copy of this 22-page book. It is designed for grades 4-6 but




# Waste Watching at School



When students at St. Boniface school in Erie, PA, began a school wide Empowerment Theme, each grade wanted to choose something to work on that would really make a long-term difference in their school. So, each class toured their school and the school grounds with a “different pair of eyes.” 

Because their school is on a busy street, one grade wanted to impact the traffic situation near the school. Another class wanted to attract hummingbirds and butterflies to their large environmental area and chose to create a garden.

After the third graders completed their tour, they chose **GARBAGE!** These kids were amazed at the amount of trash produced every day in their classrooms and especially in their cafeteria. Their goal was to reduce waste and increase recycling. 

To begin their School Wide Recycling & Watching Waste Program, the students took field trips and invited environmental experts in to help them learn about these topics and what they might do to make a difference. They also invited the head of the cafeteria in to discuss ways they could work together to reduce waste there.

With all this information, the kids then brainstormed lists of ways that waste could be reduced, especially in the cafeteria. Some suggestions were:

- Ask your family to only pack foods you will eat.
- Bring food in reusable containers.
- Look for “garbage-less” snacks. (Buy big packages or boxes of snacks and then pack them in reusable containers each day. Also saves \$\$\$)

Next, the students made posters explaining how to reduce

waste and went with a partner to the other classrooms and “sold” their ideas to the kids there. Their plan was only going to work if everyone “bought into” it!

They also made flyers that went home in the Family Folder on Fridays, to share what was happening at school to reduce waste so that families could support them to be successful.

After the program began, the cafeteria staff served single-serving pudding cups they had received. The kids noticed how much additional waste this produced and went to talk with them. The cafeteria staff agreed to stop using them and requested large cans of pudding that could then be spooned onto the trays.

After monitoring the garbage cans in the cafeteria, the third graders noticed that

lots of kids threw away the food they didn’t like that was served on the hot lunch tray. Again, they talked with the cafeteria staff and discovered that students could say “no, thank you” to some of the food choices they didn’t want to eat.



Cafeteria staff listens to students’ concerns about waste.

Although their program is in its beginning stages, these St. Boniface students, their teachers, and cafeteria staff are excited about the reduction of waste already. They’re seeing the results of working together to reduce waste!

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## Cleaning up Getty Park for 5 Years

For the past five years, residents of a group home in Indiana County have been cleaning up the trash that other people leave behind in a local park they have adopted.

Each month from April to October, different residents of the

Community Living and Learning Center put on their gloves and vests and then head to Getty Park. Once there, they work together to fill their cleanup bags with the bottles, cans and paper litter they find scattered about. These caring people, with a variety of different disabilities, average three to four bags of trash at each cleanup.

This adoption is only one of the over 150 road, park, waterway or area adoptions that kids and adults have organized through PA CleanWays!!! Everyone’s efforts come together to make a real difference in Pennsylvania’s beauty and cleanliness. Thanks to all of you!

# PA CleanWays, Inc.

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## PA CleanWays – Where We're Located

PA CleanWays' mission (or goal) is to empower people to eliminate illegal dumping and littering in Pennsylvania. We currently have local chapters or pre-chapters (chapters just beginning) in 22 Pennsylvania counties.

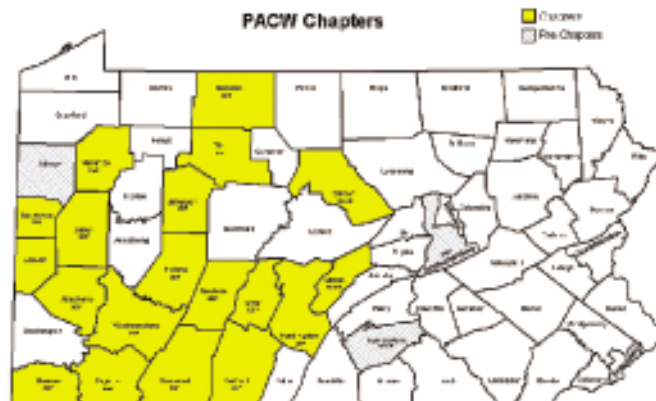
PA CleanWays helps people and organizations adopt any roads that PennDOT does not plow or keep repaired and other areas, such as trails, waterways and parks. In order to minimize the cost of cleanups and adoptions, PA CleanWays works hard to find free bags, safety vests, trucks to haul the trash and landfills which will take the trash for free or at a reduced rate.

Where it is possible, we help people find ways to get rid of problem disposal items, such as tires, batteries and appliances, which are often found in illegal dumps on back roads or in vacant lots. We also work to teach people about the right way to dispose of all items and to understand what happens to people, animals and our

environment when they don't dispose of these things properly.

Look on the map to see if there is a chapter in your county. Often, when folks in one county hear about the successful cleanups that are happening in a nearby county or that other caring individuals and groups want to start a road adoption program, they come to us and want to know how they can have a PA CleanWays chapter in their area.

Staff from the PA CleanWays office make presentations to people who are interested in starting a chapter.



### Visit Our Website!

Log onto our website and you will get contact information for all of our chapters. The people who work or volunteer in these chapters will be happy to visit your school or youth group and share our information. Ask about how **you** can get involved!  
[www.pacleanways.org](http://www.pacleanways.org)

