

# ***Local Government Grant Program Annual Performance and Accounting Summary Report***

**Fiscal Year 2015**



*Representative Litter Pick Up events and Recycling collections related photos (historical)*

*Prepared by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality*

**December 2015**

## Introduction

This report summarizes the litter prevention and recycling program expenses and activities conducted in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 by the local government recipients of the annual litter and recycling grants.

The Commonwealth of Virginia collects three "litter" taxes to support litter prevention and recycling program activities in Virginia. The three taxes are comprised of a beer and wine coolers tax, a soft drink tax, and a retail establishment fixed fee of \$10 or \$25. Collectively referred to as the "litter taxes," the revenues collected are deposited into the Litter Control and Recycling Fund (Fund). Since 1981, over \$52 million has been paid into the fund to support litter control and recycling programs. The annual uses of these funds as specified by legislation are:

- 95% - No-match grants to localities (Local Government Grants); and
- 5% - Grant administrative costs - Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

The guidelines for these grants are overseen by the Litter Control and Recycling Fund Advisory Board (Board) and DEQ provides program and financial administration of the annual grants. The Board meets annually (up to two meetings) to track the status of the Fund and the progress of the annual grant program. The Board is appointed by the Governor and consists of five members as follows:

- Three (3) members shall represent persons paying the taxes which are deposited into the Fund and shall include one member appointed from nominations submitted by recognized industry associations representing retailers; one member appointed from nominations submitted by recognized industry associations representing soft drink distributors; and one member appointed from nominations submitted by recognized industry associations representing beer distributors.
- One member shall be a local litter or recycling coordinator.
- One member shall be from the general public.

At the conclusion of each grant year, the Local Government Grant recipients must submit Performance Reports and Accounting Reports to DEQ on the activities and expenses for which the grant funds were used. The data contained in this report was compiled from the information submitted by the grant recipients and certified by one of their authorized agents.

## Funding for Fiscal Year 2015

In FY 2015, **\$1,885,540** was disbursed from the Fund to **311** of **324** localities. Litter grants are calculated by population and road miles and do not take into consideration how much money the local government receives from other sources in support of its programs. The number of local governments applying for the grants varies from year-to-year.

Many localities use other sources of funds to augment their grant award. Programs reported over **\$12.7 million** in cash from local funds, private sources, and other revenues.

*The local Litter Prevention and Recycling Programs may be managed or operated by a single locality (city, county, or town), or by a group of localities (referred to as a "cooperative program").*

*Single local governments: 157  
Co-ops: 50  
Total grants disbursed: 194  
Total localities served: 311*

In addition to cash, a number of localities rely upon in-kind services to carry out their program activities. Local programs value their in-kind donations at **\$7,836,297**.

In FY 2015, local governments matched the **\$1,885,540** awarded in grant funds with **\$22,789,287** from other sources of money and in-kind services. This represented a funding match of **1208%**.

## Performance Details 2015

### Staffing and Volunteer Support Level:

Most programs have at least one full- or part-time employee who is typically assisted by volunteers. Volunteers play a critical role in each program's success. At a standard rate of **\$24.49** per hour, the value of the service provided by volunteers during Fiscal Year 2015 was **\$6,140,238**.

### Clean Ups:

Each year, local programs sponsor a variety of clean-up programs where volunteers donate their time to clean up areas where litter is present or where illegal dumping of solid waste has occurred. A total of **5,759** clean-up events, utilizing a total of **46,862** volunteers, cleaned **58,270** cubic yards of litter in FY 2015.



Wise County Girl Scouts picking up litter, Norton.

**Youth Education:**

The majority of local programs included a youth education component. These activities included presentations and workshops in schools, involvement in "Ecology Clubs" and other educational events such as Earth Day celebrations. Last year, the Local Government Grant recipients reported that **2,002** presentations, workshops, or other educational events for young people were conducted. The total number of youth attending these activities was reported as **69,477**. The total number of Ecology Clubs reported for FY 2015 is **95** with **2,150** members.



**Public Education (Not Reported as Youth Education):**

Community outreach is a major component of many of the local litter and recycling programs. Community outreach activities may include booths, presentations, and unstaffed displays, such as bulletin boards and posters. Litter and recycling program managers reported that they conducted **590** workshops with an estimated **33,857** people in attendance. There were **380** staffed displays or events that were viewed by approximately **500,538** people. Program managers reported that in FY 2015 there were **2,800** unstaffed displays in Virginia.



Prince William America Recycles Day Event (2013) – Guess the number of aluminum cans in the bale (*photo by Katherine Ransom*)

### **Assign-A-Highway Programs:**

The Assign-A-Highway program continued as a litter prevention/clean-up initiative in the Commonwealth. Under this program, area judges offer probationers the opportunity to work with the locality's litter program to clean up assigned sections of roads and highways during their probationary period. For FY 2015, grantees reported **39,878** cubic yards of litter were collected by **5,316** probationers along **26,389** miles of roads.

### **Program Grant Funding Allocations:**

Local governments that received grants for FY 2015 were asked to estimate the percentage of their grant funds used specifically for the litter prevention program activities and the percentage of their grant funds used specifically for recycling program activities. Approximately 54% was reported as being used for litter prevention while 46% was reported as having been spent to support recycling.

**Summary of Highlighted Data Comparing Fiscal Year 2015 to Fiscal Year 2014**

	<b>FY 2015</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>
Funds Distributed from Litter Tax	\$1,885,540	\$1,894,675
Total Localities Funded	311	308
Locality Cash Match Total	\$12,199,965	\$12,877,291
Locality In-Kind Match Totals	1,569,978	\$768,383
Number of Volunteer Hours Worked	217,135	306,849
Clean-up Events	5,759	5,783
Volunteers	48,862	51,631
Cubic Yards of Litter Collected	40,211	104,751
Youth Presentations, Workshops, or other Educational Events	1,875	1,939
Youth Attending	67,746	100,951
Ecology Clubs	95	81
Ecology Club Members	2,150	1,538
Number of Probationers	5,316	9,229
Number of Road Miles Cleaned	26,389	33,775
Cubic Yards of Litter Collected	39,878	20,704

**Cash Match Fund Breakdown:**

Local Cash	\$12,199,965
Private Sector Cash	\$ 325,193
Other Cash	\$ 243,929
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,769,087</b>

**In-Kind Match Breakdown:**

<b>All Other Fund Sources (In-Kind)</b>	
Local In-Kind	\$1,569,978
Private In-Kind	\$ 103,314
Other In-Kind	\$ 21,477
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,694,769</b>

**Expenses:**

Litter Prevention & Recycling programs used their grant funds for expenses in the following categories:

<b>Use of Grant Funds</b>	<b>Category Expenditures</b>	<b>% of Use</b>
Salaries, Wages, and Fringe Benefits	\$ 843,171	44.6%
Essential Supplies	\$ 490,868	25.9%
Contractual Services	\$ 329,705	17.4%
Travel	\$ 17,705	1.0%
Other	\$ 210,446	11.1%
<b>Total Grant Funds</b>	<b>\$ 1,891,895</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Staffing:**

<b>Employed Staff</b>	
Number of Employees (Full- & Part-Time)	866
Number of Hours Worked	806,436

**Program Promotion:**

The Fund guidelines require reporting on the kinds of materials the litter program managers distribute; however, the quantity does not need to be reported. In addition, litter program managers cannot use their grant funds for advertising although advertising may be donated and is included in this report as an in-kind match.

<b>Types of materials distributed</b>	<b>Number of localities reporting</b>
Litter Bags	90
Pencils	85
Stickers	67
Coloring Books	67
Other*	86

\*Other e.g.: Bookmarks, buttons, certificates, cups, gloves, hand sanitizer, key chains, litter grabbers, magnets, memo pads, pocket ash trays, recycling bins, rulers, tote bags, water bottles, wrist bands, etc.

<b>Types of Communication</b>	<b>Number of localities reporting</b>
Brochures	78
Websites	107
Emails	82
Newspapers	79
Newsletters	56
Public Service Radio Announcements	31

Facebook	67
Public Service Television Announcements	28
Twitter	19
Other*	36

\*Other e.g.: banners, blogs, bumper stickers, booklets, calendars, fliers, post card mailers, presentations at public town meetings and other interest groups, school and government marquees, signage, and You Tube.

**Total estimated amount of grant funding used to support litter prevention and recycling:**

% of grant funds used for litter prevention program activities (value of this allocation)	54%
% of grant funds used for recycling program activities (value of this allocation)	46%

Note: The percentage of funding utilized for litter and recycling is subjectively based upon estimates provided by the grant recipients. These percentages also are based only on the grant funds awarded to localities by DEQ. This percentage of funding does not take into account any other monies that the local governments may have received from other sources or had budgeted for these programs from their general operation funds.

To obtain additional information about the litter and recycling grants program, go to <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/LandProtectionRevitalization/RecyclingandLitterPreventionPrograms/LitterPreventionandRecyclingGrantPrograms.aspx> or contact [steve.coe@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:steve.coe@deq.virginia.gov) or (804)698-4029.



South Holston Lake Litter Pick-up, Bristol, Virginia