

## Niagara Region Illegal Dumping Statistics and Trends

Table 1: Illegal Dumping Statistics 2013-2020

Statistics	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 Jan 1 - July 31
<b>TOTAL ILLEGAL DUMPING REPORTS</b>	394	506	530	589	681	755	676	367
<b>ONLINE REPORTING TOOL SUBMISSIONS</b>	42	83	112	129	115	42	103	55
<b>CRIME STOPPERS REPORTS</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11	1	5	8
<b>WARNING LETTERS ISSUED</b>	35	42	39	37	47	140	74	15
<b>COMPLIANCES ACHIEVED</b>	1	2	5	4	4	2	8	10
<b>OFFENCE NOTICES /SUMMONS ISSUED</b>	1	2	7	7	3	2	5	3
<b>REWARDS AWARDED</b>	N/A	1	1	5	4	2	2	2

Niagara Region has continued to track the location and frequency of illegal dumping as a means of monitoring high occurrence areas (hot spots) and measuring success. Further, the Region has continued to encourage illegal dumping reporting through promotion and education materials, offering rewards and utilizing various reporting mechanisms such as the Waste-Info Line phone number, online reporting tool or anonymous reporting through Crime Stoppers.

Since 2013, these promotional improvements, incentives and reporting mechanisms have created a positive impact on the total number of illegal dumping reports we receive year-over-year. As seen in the table above, as residents became more educated on how to report these acts of non-compliance, more residents have reported illegal dumping events. This data does not necessarily suggest increased acts of illegal dumping, but could be an indication of more residents, who have witnessed these events, wanting to be part of the solution. The more eyewitness illegal dumping reports

received, the more likely staff are able to obtain the necessary evidence needed to enforce.

Region staff have jurisdiction to address and enforce illegal dumping issues on public property and roadside. All private property illegal dumping issues are forwarded to counterparts at the Local Area Municipalities (LAMs) for follow up. Table 1 above highlights the enforcement actions Region staff have completed since 2013, with regards to issuing warning letters and fines. Warning letters are issued when minimal evidence is found, such as a suspect's contact information on a piece of mail, but does not contain enough proof to issue a fine. The number of warning letters issued has increased each year since 2013, which has become an effective tool at warning suspects of their crime and help deter non-complaint acts from occurring again. Although the number of fines issued in comparison to the total number of illegal dumping events reported are minimal (due to lack of evidence), staff continue to stay committed to investigating each issue to the best of their ability.

When any suspect information is discovered during an illegal dumping investigation, staff also make every attempt to contact and conduct a site visit to the suspect's address. The purpose of this contact is a tactic to encourage compliance and request the dumper to return and clean up the material. Table 1 above illustrates that acts of compliance continue to increase each year. This is a result of Region staff utilizing their negotiation skills and having a working knowledge of by-law enforcement to persuade suspects to resolve the illegal dumping issue they committed.

Overall, Niagara Region will continue to work with LAMs to improve the way in which we cooperatively address and enforce illegal dumping. By keeping a detailed record illegal dumping events, the Region can continue to analyze trends and pinpoint what improvements have resulted in success or what actions needs to be pursued to direct positive change.