

Memorandum

WMPSC-C 7-2026

Subject: Illegal Dumping 2025 Year End Summary

Date: April 27, 2026

To: Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

From: Mariano Singzon, Associate Director, Waste Collection and Diversion Operations

This memorandum provides the Waste Management Planning Steering Committee with an overview of staff's work on illegal dumping in 2025.

The information provided in this memo highlights the outcome of staff's increased efforts in public education, proactive monitoring and investigating illegal dumping and the success with enforcement. The report also outlines planned mitigation measures for 2026 to further strengthen Niagara Region's illegal dumping prevention and enforcement program.

Summary of Illegal Dumping Data in 2025

- In 2025, a total of 1,297 illegal dumping cases were investigated, marking a 26% increase from 1,027 cases in 2024. This increase aligns with expanded proactive monitoring and increased public reporting.
- A total of 414 (32%) cases were initiated through proactive monitoring and investigation in hot-spot areas. A 53% increase compared to 2024.
- A total of 821 (63%) cases were initiated as a result of public reporting through the Waste Info Line, Crime Stoppers, and the online reporting portal. A 14% increase in reports of illegal dumping compared to 2024 attributed to a targeted public awareness campaign.
- A total of 62 (5%) investigations were conducted as a result of reporting by Niagara Region Transportation Services Division and Local Area Municipalities. A 93% increase in reports compared to 2024 attributed to heightened collaborative work under the multi-stakeholder Illegal Dumping Working Group facilitated by waste management staff.
- As a result of the focused activities in 2025, 66 Part I Provincial Offence Notices were issued for illegal dumping related offences compared to 32 Part I Provincial Offence Notices issued in 2024.

- A detailed breakdown of illegal dumping investigations by area municipality and material type can be found in Appendix 1.

2025 Illegal Dumping Enforcement

The Waste Management on-road team consists of four Waste Collection and Diversion Advisors responsible for contract administration, customer service and enforcing the Region's Waste Management By-law, under which illegal dumping is an offence. Staff investigate all reported incidents of illegal dumping on public property and, where evidence identifying the source of the material is obtained, issue a Part I Provincial Offence Notice for contravention of the Niagara Region Waste Management By-law.

To strengthen the effectiveness of illegal dumping enforcement procedures, in 2025 staff completed over fifteen hours of enhanced internal by-law enforcement training. The training focused on issuing Part I Provincial Offence Notices, mock trial preparation, and court disclosure requirements. As a result, staff were better equipped with the necessary authority, training, and resources, leading to an increase in enforcement performance, with 66 tickets issued in 2025 compared to 32 in 2024. The increase in enforcement actions reflects enhanced staff proficiency and confidence in applying enforcement actions and courtroom procedures.

The issuance of a Part I Provincial Offence Notice is subject to specific legislative requirements, including a 30-day prescribed period and in-person contact with the alleged offender. Where these conditions cannot be fully met—such as when in-person contact is not possible, the individual has relocated, evidence is insufficient, or the individual cannot be located—staff issue a warning letter based on the available evidence.

The outcomes of the 66 Provincial Offence Notices are as follows:

- 34 defendants were convicted and sentenced during early resolution, trial, or for failing to appear.
- 16 defendants were convicted as a result of voluntarily paying the set fine associated with the Provincial Offence Notice.
- Nine (9) cases are still active and pending in the Provincial Offences court system.
- Five (5) cases were withdrawn (due to administrative issues).
- Two (2) cases are awaiting trial as of writing this report.

Illegal Dumping Reporting and Rewards

In 2025, the Region implemented a targeted public awareness campaign for illegal dumping which included clear direction on how and when to report illegal dumping. This campaign was designed to improve detection and reporting rates which is reflected in the increase in reported incidents for 2025 by 14% compared to 2024 submitted through the Waste Info Line, Crime Stoppers, and the online reporting portal. Additionally, the Illegal Dumping Working Group was re-established, and staff conducted illegal dumping presentations for local area municipalities incorporating municipality-specific data.

Waste Management staff heightened the collaborative work with Niagara Region Transportation Services Division and Local Area Municipalities to ensure that all roadside illegal dumping incidents were consistently reported and documented, regardless of severity. The enhanced collaboration resulted in a 93% increase in reported illegal dumping incidents among local area municipalities, increasing from 32 incidents in 2024 to 62 incidents in 2025.

To further encourage community participation in addressing illegal dumping, Niagara Region, in collaboration with Local Area Municipalities, offers a reward program. Individuals whose reports result in compliance or a conviction under the Waste Management By-law are eligible to receive a reward of \$50 or \$200, depending on the nature of the violation.

Staff are currently preparing to issue nine rewards to Niagara residents whose reports resulted in successful convictions in Provincial Offences Court. Additional rewards may be issued as outcomes are determined in ongoing Provincial Offences Court proceedings related to 2025 illegal dumping investigations.

Update on Dumping in Public Space Litter Bins and the Annual Litter Bin Blitz

Waste Management staff continue to monitor public space litter bins and respond to reports of illegal dumping in or around these bins. In 2025, 23% (298) of illegal dumping investigations were related to materials illegally dumped in or around public space litter bins.

As part of ongoing proactive monitoring and investigation efforts, Waste Management staff conduct the annual Litter Bin Blitz, during which public space litter bins are audited for illegally dumped materials. If evidence is found during the blitz, staff attempt to issue a Part I Provincial Offence Notice. The 2025 Litter Bin Blitz took place from November 10 to 14, 2025. As a result, seven individuals were issued a Part I Provincial Offence

Notice for illegal dumping, which are included in the total count of Provincial Offence Notices for 2025.

Next Steps

On average, Niagara Region invests approximately \$36,000 annually in staff time to investigate and address illegal dumping incidents. This investment supports investigation, enforcement, education and prevention activities that collectively contribute to protecting public spaces, foster community well-being and promoting long-term compliance. Maintaining a visible enforcement presence, combined with education and community engagement is considered a best practice approach and is essential to deterrence and accountability.

In 2026, staff will continue to maintain a strong presence and collaborate with community partners to address illegal dumping. Key initiatives will include proactive monitoring of known hotspot areas, educating new residents, and engaging with stakeholders to promote compliance and foster community responsibility. Staff have also engaged in collaborative work with Local Area Municipalities to strengthen enforcement on a case-by-case basis to recover clean up cost from individuals that are found guilty of non-compliance with the Waste By-law. Additionally, staff will continue to leverage an app-based Geographical Information System (GIS) tool, enabling real-time data collection and precise tracking of illegal dumping locations, thereby enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcement activities.

Building on the successes of 2025 including increased ticket issuance, strengthened enforcement, and enhanced public education, Niagara Region anticipates improved compliance and more accurate tracking of illegal dumping activity over time.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Mariano Singzon

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Appendices

Appendix 1 Number of Illegal Dumping Reports by Municipality & Material Investigated