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west virginia department of environmental protection

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Office of Environmental Advocate  
Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP)  
601 57<sup>th</sup> Street, SE  
Charleston, WV 25304  
Phone: 1.800.322.5530

Harold D. Ward, Cabinet Secretary  
dep.wv.gov

March 1, 2021

The Honorable Craig Blair  
Office of the Senate President  
Room 229M, Building 1  
State Capitol Complex  
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Lieutenant Governor Blair:

Attached is the quinquennial report for the effectiveness of the Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP) beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2020 pursuant to W. Va. Code §22-15A-5(e). REAP focuses on cleanup efforts from both program staff and volunteers statewide. In a unique partnership, the program empowers citizens to take ownership of their communities by providing technical, financial, and resource assistance in cleanup efforts.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at Edward.F.Maguire@wv.gov or by calling (304) 926-0499, extension 49761.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "E. Maguire".

Edward F. Maguire II, Environmental Advocate  
WV Department of Environmental Protection

EFM/nnd  
Attachment



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The Honorable Roger Hanshaw  
Office of the Speaker of the House of Delegates  
Room 229M, Building 1  
State Capitol Complex  
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Speaker Hanshaw:

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Edward F. Maguire II, Environmental Advocate  
WV Department of Environmental Protection

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Attachment



# REAP

**Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan**  
**KEEPING WEST VIRGINIA CLEAN & GREEN**

**§22-15-5(e) FIVE-YEAR REPORT**  
**FY2016-FY2020**



*Photograph by Carrie Boone, a photo contest winner for the 2020 Roadsides In Bloom Calendar printed and distributed for the Operation Wildflower Program.*



## **OVERVIEW**

REAP has 11 programs including 10 statewide resource programs and an education and outreach branch that is highly active throughout the year with the Youth Environmental Program as well as promoting REAP's active volunteer workforce. Volunteers for the programs and events managed by REAP provided over \$10 million dollars in cleanup labor value for West Virginia. REAP is comprised of three working units, PPOD Unit, Recycling/Litter Grants Unit, and the Outreach and Education Branch. These working units serve specific functions and are also highly integrated to provide teamwork and support to accomplish the high volume of statewide assistance and large events held each year. REAP is undergoing reform of multiple programs and operations to better suit the needs of the State. An internal restructuring of program components has been implemented to increase efficiency and effectiveness with changes ranging from individual job positions and responsibilities to relocation of projects and programs into better suited working units. The restructuring for efficiency includes:

- 1) WV Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) provides solutions including cooperative personnel resources that help conserve REAP funds:
  - a. Transfer of certain REAP financial management responsibilities such as grant auditing to free up time and allow the technical staff of the Recycling, Litter & Waste Reduction Unit (RLWR Unit) to expand on significant impact-driving activities such as research for additional grant funding from both federal and private resources, consulting and providing technical assistance to county and municipality leaders as well as businesses that reach beyond existing REAP grant program assistance; progressive partnerships with other agencies and groups such as the WV Development Office, local Economic Development Authorities, Environmental Protection Agency and other work groups; and have a proactive role in rule revision recommendations. The RLWR Unit has already begun strategizing and prioritizing activities to identify hindrances of West Virginia's per capita municipal solid waste rates.
  - b. WV DEP provides services from the Technical Applications and GIS (TAGIS) Unit. The TAGIS unit has been valuable as REAP modernizes programs with advanced user-friendly interfaces and GIS mapping capabilities. Development of program specific applications will allow for new citizen resources and expanding on program participation.
  - c. Public Information Office provides assistance with public awareness campaigns, graphic and marketing design, as well as media development that will be beneficial for future plans for a commercial campaign to boost volunteerism.
- 2) Redistribution of programs between working units. The Make It Shine Program, Adopt A Stream, and Litter Control Officer Training Programs, that thinned staff in the Recycling and Waste Reduction Unit, has been transferred to PPOD that manages the reclamation of open dumps and Tire Remediation Program.
- 3) The Education and Outreach Branch, Youth Environmental Program Coordinators (YEPCs) are taking on more community development responsibilities. An outdated Recycling Directory last updated in 2009 by the Department of Energy has been worked on by YEPC staff and will be updated annually and released by the WV DEP to provide a useful resource for all citizens in the State to identify recycling opportunities. REAP will now be reporting the accomplishments and effectiveness of the programs and projects managed by the Environmental Education and Outreach branch as this working unit is funded by the various REAP funding sources that they represent and promote.



Prior to 2017, results from REAP funded environmental education and outreach operations, including the Youth Environmental Program, was not included in REAP data and evaluation because the two were separated into different division offices within WV DEP when the operations were transferred from Division of Natural Resources in 2005. The Youth Environmental Program was reunited with other REAP programs in 2017 when placed in the Environmental Advocate's Office.

Evaluation of data and performance review revealed that collection, labeling, and categorization of data upon entry was not correctly representing effectiveness in its former manner. REAP has initiated highly impactful database changes and procedures of data entry to provide accurate representation of progress. We are able to see a downward trend in large open dumps as you will see in this report. Creating new project entry categories will prevent non-open dump projects from being reported as such and further demonstrating a decline in West Virginia's open dump occurrences. PPOD database development began in 2017 and was completed in 2019. The remaining database improvements are occurring at an opportunistic time due to a new statewide contract requiring mandatory changes while migrating from Microsoft Office Programs to Google based programs.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP) strives to cleanup West Virginia and rid the state of unsightly litter. The REAP initiative harbors all of the state cleanup programs within the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection that includes Pollution Prevention and Open Dump, Make-It-Shine, Adopt-A-Highway/Adopt-A-Spot, Recycling and Litter Control Grant Programs, and now Adopt-A-Stream. REAP provides assistance to local governments and private entities for initiating or expanding recycling programs. REAP focuses on cleanup efforts from both program staff and volunteers statewide. In a unique partnership, the program empowers citizens to take ownership of their communities by providing technical, financial, and resource assistance in cleanup efforts. **Figure 1** below is an overview of REAP accomplishments for this reporting period.



Figure 1:

REAP ACCOMPLISHMENTS FY2016-2020

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020**	TOTAL
<i>Volunteer Labor Value WV Cost Savings</i>	\$2,294,217.32	\$2,139,092.22	\$2,494,098.11	\$2,080,800.00	\$1,045,323.20	<b>\$10,053,530.85</b>
<i>Cleanup Volunteer Hours</i>	95,038	86,638	98,077	76,500	38,431	<b>394,684</b>
<i>Active Volunteer Groups</i>	1,749	1,760	1,717	1,836	1,576	<b>8,638</b>
<i>New Groups Recruited</i>	175	139	77	169	99	<b>659</b>
<i>Volunteers Participating</i>	109,202	118,476	122,075	146,550	145,831	<b>642,134</b>
<i>Tons litter/waste collected</i>	5,634.0	3,981.0	3,899.0	3,053.0	2,447.4	<b>19,014</b>
<i>Recycling Volunteer Hours*</i>	11,152	12,982	12,688	32,564	41,148	<b>110,534</b>
<i>Beautificaton/Planting Volunteer Hours*</i>	2,552	3,186	1,939	2,561	1,858	<b>12,096</b>
<i>Other Volunteer Hours *</i>	10,537	4,267	17,622	3,452	3,743	<b>39,621</b>
<i>Dumps Eradicated</i>	1,273	1,419	1,228	1,601	1,006	<b>6,527</b>
<i>Acres Reclaimed</i>	1,368	1,503	811	840	732	<b>5,254</b>
<i>Miles Roadway Cleaned</i>	3,147	2,897	2,509	2,555	1,453	<b>12,561</b>
<i>Miles Stream Cleaned</i>	200	435	259	211	102	<b>1,207</b>
<i>Acres Park Cleaned</i>	167	294	330	261	-	<b>1,052</b>
<i>Miles Trail Cleaned</i>	25	75	41	114	9	<b>264</b>
<i>Flowers/Shrubs Planted</i>	5,461	2,508	2,311	2,266	2,022	<b>14,568</b>
<i>Trees Planted</i>	2,901	1,825	1,637	1,813	2,341	<b>10,517</b>
<i>YEP Community Areas &amp; Schools Cleaned</i>	85	56	43	54	56	<b>294</b>
<i>Recycling/Litter Educational Presentations</i>	237	242	252	248	250	<b>1,229</b>
<i>Operation Wildflower Plots</i>	112	112	72	78	68	<b>442</b>
<i>Tons Scrap Recycled</i>	105.2	124.3	85.1	105.5	17.2	<b>437</b>
<i>Appliances Recycled</i>	65.0	206.0	189.0	97.0	-	<b>557</b>
<i>Waste Tires Collected</i>	245,120.0	302,517.0	211,933.0	143,294.0	126,876.0	<b>1,029,740</b>
<i>Tons Recycled</i>	121.0	157.0	95.0	162.0	176.0	<b>711</b>
<i>Tons Plastic Recycled</i>	7.7	5.2	11.8	8.8	33.1	<b>67</b>
<i>Tons Glass Recycled</i>	1.4	2.1	2.6	2.6	3.9	<b>13</b>
<i>Tons Aluminum Recycled</i>	7.0	7.1	14.3	10.4	17.4	<b>56</b>
<i>Tons of Office Paper Recycled</i>	189.9	125.6	255.9	546.6	269.8	<b>1,388</b>
<i>Recycling Grants Awarded</i>	\$2,200,000.00	\$1,856,210.36	\$1,259,811.69	\$2,021,873.85	\$1,528,114.82	<b>\$8,866,010.72</b>
<i>CED Grants Awarded</i>	\$177,090.46	\$108,341.23	\$96,903.25	\$121,151.00	\$133,261.00	<b>\$636,746.94</b>
<i>Litter Control Grants Awarded</i>	\$71,676.79	\$65,662.23	\$48,268.68	\$85,117.72	\$94,800.00	<b>\$365,525.42</b>
<i>Other Grants or Awards</i>	\$14,645.00	\$14,645.00	\$14,645.00	\$14,185.00	\$14,325.00	<b>\$72,445.00</b>

\*Not included in State Labor Savings

\*\* The COVID pandemic shutdown most field work and events for the majority of the 2020 year causing a decrease across all program accomplishments.



## **Summary of REAP Programs**

### Recycling Assistance Grant Program:

A statewide grant program that encourages recycling for businesses, governmental agencies and individuals. Through education and funding opportunities, the recycling program hopes to reduce the amount of recyclables going to West Virginia landfills. The program offers recycling grants to county, municipal, public or private entities. Grants of up to \$150,000 are available for implementing recycling programs, developing educational campaigns and purchasing recycling equipment. (WV Code 22-15A-19; Legislative Rule 33-10)

### Litter Control Grant Program

Litter Control Grants are offered to local governments with an interest in developing and implementing a litter control program. The annual grants are funded through civil penalties for litter. The Litter Control Grant is a matching fund that assists municipalities and county government agencies with community cleanup and litter enforcement projects. (WV Code 22-15A-3(d); 33CSR41)

### Covered Electronic Devices (CED) Manufacturer Registration and Takeback/Recycling Program:

Senate Bill 746, which became effective June 6, 2008, requires each manufacturer wishing to sell or lease covered electronic devices to register with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection no later than the first day of January 2009 and each year thereafter. The goal of this law is to establish a registration process for manufacturers of covered electronic devices, to determine if manufacturers have adopted or implemented a takeback/recycling program for their products that is free to the public and to award recycling grants to counties and municipalities for recycling or other programs that divert covered electronic devices from the waste stream. (WV Code 22-15A-24 through 22-15A-28)

### The Covered Electronic Devices (CED) Recycling Program:

The CED Recycling Grants were established from the registration fees collected from the CED Manufacturer Program and is made available to municipalities, county commissions or county solid waste authorities to establish collection and recycling programs to divert electronic devices from the waste stream. (WV Code 22-15A-25; Legislative Rule 33-11)

### Tire Remediation and Pollution Prevention and Open Dump (PPOD) Programs:

Through WV Code 22-15A-7, the PPOD Program encourages proper disposal of commercial and residential solid waste and to undertake the identification, cleanup, and reclamation of illegal solid waste dump sites and waste tire piles to minimize or mitigate damage to the environment, natural resources, public water supplies, and water resources, as well as public health, safety, and welfare.

PPOD is also responsible for conducting at least one tire collection event in every county each year through the Waste Tire Remediation Program, in accordance with WV Code 22-15A-8 through 22-15A-14, to remediate waste tire piles. PPOD cleanups are conducted by DEP staff and contractors specializing in open dump removal and reclamation, remediation of waste tire piles and administration of the tire collection/disposal program.

### The Make It Shine (MIS) Program:

Established by Executive Order under Governor Caperton, The WV Make It Shine Program (MIS) is designed to work with businesses, community organizations, other state agencies, local governments, and volunteer groups to facilitate cleaning, beautification and maintenance of public lands in the state. It is the responsibility of MIS to coordinate the efforts of these groups and provide them with the resources to help improve and maintain the quality of life of our citizens, pursuant to Legislative Code 22-1-1 and 22-15A-1. The Make It Shine Program is designed and ever-evolving to help meet many goals of WV Code 22-15A.



MIS sponsors, or co-sponsors, four main events each year: the MIS Statewide Cleanup, the MIS Earth Day Celebration at the Clay Center, The Ohio River Sweep (the largest cleanup of its kind in the US) and the Great Kanawha River Cleanup. In addition to these events, MIS participates in a variety of additional outreach and cleanup events as requested by other agencies, educators, and volunteer groups. MIS sponsors an Environmental Teacher of the Year award to encourage educators to incorporate environmental lectures and activities in the classroom.

Additionally, the Clean Streams Initiative is a partnership between PPOD and Make It Shine. This program enables citizens to adopt and clean up stretches of their local streams. The Make It Shine Coordinator has also been tasked with coordinating Litter Control Officers around the state to identify problems, share information and keep online training up to date.

#### Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) Program and Adopt -A-Spot (AAS) Program:

As a result of WV Code 17A-10-15 (the creation of the Highways Litter Control Fund), WV Code 17-2A-21 authorizing Division of Highways to contract with the WV Department of Environmental Protection, through inter-agency Memorandum of Agreement, and a long-standing partnership and working relationship between the WV Department of Environmental Protection and the WV Division of Highways, this program encourages individuals, civic groups and businesses to adopt a two-mile stretch of highway and pick up litter a few times a year. Adopt-A-Highway groups receive safety training, safety vests, garbage bags, and gloves for each cleanup. The Division of Highways removes the trash collected at each cleanup and honors each group with a set of signs bearing the name of the volunteer group. The signs are placed at the end of each adopted section. Residents age 12 and older are eligible to participate in the program.

Youngsters also have the opportunity to adopt a cleanup site. The Adopt-A-Spot Program is open to residents of all ages interested in adopting up to 1/4 -mile stretch of road in their communities. The adopted spot may be around a local school, near a park, or alongside a local road. Groups will receive signage at their adopted spot. Volunteer participation greatly reduces costs that burdens the State of WV in maintaining a clean state.

#### Operation Wildflower:

Operation Wildflower is a partnership program between the WV Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Highways (DOH). Operation Wildflower has brought beauty and diversity to West Virginia highways for many years. The program has been and continues to be, an asset to the Mountain State. The program began in 1990 under the DNR with a test site on I-64 near Huntington, West Virginia. The success of the site led to the expansion of the program to include donations from garden clubs and the public. Operation Wildflower makes it possible for wildflower sites to be donated in the name of an individual, business, civic organization, etc. A sign near the wildflower bed will honor the name chosen. Available for adoption are 1/2 acre plots for a \$300.00 donation or a 1acre plot for a \$600.00 for a three-year time frame. The REAP office manages participation in the program and the Department of Transportation plants and maintains the site for the period and place an Operation Wildflower sign with the name of the Sponsor's choice. Operation Wildflower plots, along with litter removal, help to beautify WV highways traveled by citizens and tourists alike.

#### Education & Outreach Branch (YEP)

The Youth Environmental Program (YEP) is a statewide environmental education program in its 58th year of existence. Six Youth Environmental Program Coordinators (YEPCs) located around the state promote recycling, Adopt A Highway, Make It Shine and Operation Wildflower programs under REAP through education and outreach to all citizens of West Virginia. YEPCs actively recruit





volunteers into the YEP and provide incentives for over 1,000 youth groups, such as Scouts, 4-H and school groups to actively participate in environmental projects. Their projects include litter cleanups, recycling drives, beautification, tree planting, composting, environmental education, wildlife management, etc. YEP incentives include Youth Environmental Day, Junior Conservation Camp and Youth Environmental Conference in addition to \$15,000 in cash prizes. Under §22-15A-5(b)(1), YEP distributes educational materials to schools based on the goals of litter clean up and proper solid waste disposal. In addition to youth education, the YEPCs also educate citizens of WV by conducting recycling and litter control presentation at senior centers, Lions and Ruritan club meetings, Garden Club meetings, and more. They visit funeral, assisted living and nursing homes to leave brochures for Operation Wildflower. They work with local county Solid Waste Authorities to assist with education and recruiting volunteers for local cleanups, etc.

#### Litter Control Officer Training Program:

The Litter Control Officer Training and Certification Program was transferred back to REAP from Environmental Enforcement in 2017 when REAP recognized that a central support system was needed for all counties. This program provides updates to a training webinar to educate litter control officers (LCOs) on litter laws and exercise of such laws. REAP provides updated content and creates testing for certification. REAP also began the networking portion of litter control officers by hosting training events and open workgroup meetings at the Annual Educational Conference on Litter and Solid Waste. By listening to LCOs' common issues while enforcing WV litter laws, we continue to discover the need to develop resources to aid them in cleaning up our State.

#### Adopt A Stream

The Adopt-A-Stream Program, recently created by SB675 during 2019 regular legislative session, is a cleanup program in its infancy similar to the Adopt-A-Highway program. REAP is seeking improvements to the existing code to correct language that hinders the program. These needed changes were not passed during the last session but are up for review again during the 2021 session. Development of applications, forms, and databases are underway to prepare for new volunteer projects.

### **VOLUNTEER-DRIVEN REAP PROGRAMS**

During the five-year period from FY2016-2020, REAP Program volunteers have provided West Virginia a cost savings of cleanup labor exceeding \$10 Million dollars. Of the three programs responsible for recruiting, reporting, and providing supplies to volunteers, the Adopt-A-Highway/Adopt-A-Spot Program is the largest and most popular program as demonstrated in **Figure 2**.

Figure 2:

**VOLUNTEER LABOR VALUE & WV COST SAVINGS**

VOLUNTEER CLEANUP PROGRAMS	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	5-YR Volunteer Program Total
Make It Shine	\$213,566.58	\$317,982.51	\$230,217.79	\$356,918.40	\$12,484.80	\$1,131,170.08
Youth Environmental Program	\$145,998.72	\$68,070.33	\$78,833.00	\$139,454.40	\$71,481.60	\$503,838.05
Adopt A Highway	\$1,934,652.00	\$1,753,039.38	\$2,185,047.32	\$1,584,427.20	\$961,356.80	\$8,418,522.70
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,294,217.30</b>	<b>\$2,139,092.22</b>	<b>\$2,494,098.11</b>	<b>\$2,080,800.00</b>	<b>\$1,045,323.20</b>	<b>\$10,053,530.83</b>

\*Values above were calculated using the national value of volunteer time hourly rate from independentsector.org for each particular year.

The Adopt-A-Highway Program (AAH) is co-sponsored by the Division of Highways (DOH) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). It was established in the late 1980s under the DNR (now a REAP Program) to improve the quality of our environment by encouraging public involvement in the elimination of highway litter. Its objective is to save taxpayers money by increasing public awareness and to serve as an educational tool by focusing on the consequences which result when littering is allowed to continue unchecked. The program offers volunteers the opportunity to take charge of their environment by making a positive effort to create a cleaner, more aesthetic place in which to live.



(Left: Boone County Career and Technical School participates in the AAH Spring Cleanup Event every year along Route 3. Right: The Gigggenbach Family during cleanup of their adoption along Anthony Road in Greenbrier County.)

REAP has been working on program improvements such as development of a web-based application to help identify adoptable highways in the state which will be key in having the capability to sign citizens up in person at public events. There has never been an interactive map of all the AAH locations in the existence of the program. In an effort to map all the Adopt A Highway location, REAP teamed up with the DEP TAGIS team to roll out a mapping application system. REAP Staff has already started mapping the locations. The mapping system will be available for the AAH groups to map their adoptions in the Fall of 2021.

In 2020, the AAH Program also initiated the use of a QR code for easier public access to our website. The code allows the public to go straight to the AAH webpage by simply using their phone to scan the QR code.

The relocation of the Make It Shine Program and Adopt-A-Stream Program from the RLWR Unit to PPOD Unit will render greater efficiency. The PPOD Unit has been heavily involved in the volunteer cleanup programs as they are the field component for these programs and provide mobilization of cleanup equipment and transportation. The Litter Control Officer Training Program is also ideal as the PPOD Coordinators have the most interface with LCOs and county officials for collaboration of projects.

### **MANAGEMENT OF REAP GRANTS**

REAP has three grant programs, Litter Control, Covered Electronic Devices Recycling, and Recycling Assistance Grant Programs. Duties include management of application processes, grant committee reviews and award determinations, processing agreements, facility inspections and site visits, filing lien recordings to protect assets purchased with grant funds, and recovering unused and misused grant funds.



*(Left: Bales of plastic and aluminum await transport at the Harrison County Recycling Center. Right: A load of paper on the conveyor at Cabot Station Recycling Center on its way to being baled.)*

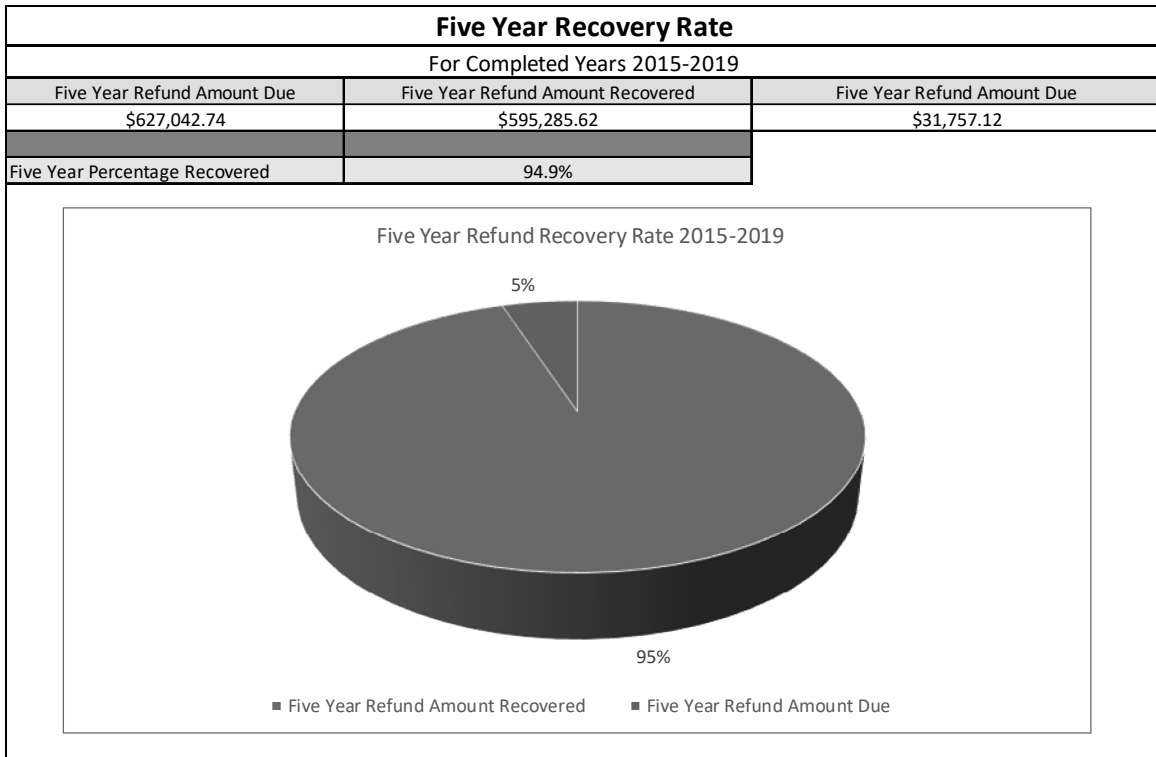
One of the most important functions grant staff performs is providing technical assistance to applicants and grantees, especially county officials. Assistance may include compliance of grant rules, DEP permit requirements, recycling operation consulting, equipment purchases, and troubleshooting hardships. County Solid Waste Authorities, comprised of volunteers, are already heavily burdened with addressing major solid waste issues such as management of landfills and permits. Many new board members may not have the ideal background for tackling issues such as recycling but may be pressed to do so. Hiring paid employees for such programs may give a county program dedicated attention but with the lack of oversight, local programs are still fragile and vulnerable. Strong, viable recycling and litter control programs take years of commitment and consistency for the residents to invest their interest and adopt new standards.

REAP set goals to recover 90% of grant funding awarded that is not used, properly substantiated, or expended on approved budget items to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the Funds. The five-



year term had a grant funding recovery rate of 95% currently (**Figure 3**). The largest portions of the 5% unrecovered are not yet deemed as losses as they are still pending DEP Legal Service processes and proposed repayment plans.

**Figure 3: REAP GRANTS: Management of Efficient Use of Funding**



**The Litter Control Fund**

Pursuant to WV Code §22-15A-4d, this special revenue fund receives fifty percent of litter violation civil penalties. Revenue generated from the Office Paper Recycling Program, a program implemented to encourage government recycling according to 22-15A-5(c), and any revenue from recycling of metals in REAP cleanup projects are also deposited into this fund. Please refer to **Figure 4** for the total amounts available annually for the Litter Control Fund.

Figure 4:

**LITTER CONTROL FUND**

YEAR	Prior Year Funds	Revenue from Civil Penalties	Revenue from Metal & Office Paper Recycling	Total Amount Available per Year
2016	\$11,448.87	\$32,336.83	\$3,521.87	\$47,307.57
2017	\$15,335.78	\$32,862.95	\$0.00	\$48,198.73
2018	\$6,364.57	\$26,588.00	\$13,245.00	\$46,197.57
2019	\$1,376.17	\$22,064.00	\$9,237.00	\$32,677.17
2020	\$5,564.00	\$16,090.00	\$9,221.00	\$30,875.00
		<b>Total Civil Penalty Revenue</b>	<b>Total Recycling Revenue</b>	<b>Total 5-Year Combined Revenue</b>
		<b>\$129,941.78</b>	<b>\$35,224.87</b>	<b>\$190,477.65</b>

Figure 2: The decline in Litter Control Fund revenue beginning in FY2018 is synonymous with House Bill 2303 changes to litter law.

Figure 5:

**Litter Control Grant Annual Requests FY2016-FY2020**

Fiscal Year		Number of Applications Received	Amount Requested
\$3,000 Request Limit	2016	29	\$77,385.79
	2017	25	\$70,537.67
	2018	20	\$56,511.93
\$5,000 Request Limit	2019	32	\$129,757.85
	2020	41	\$164,996.99

House Bill 2303 (passed April 8, 2017 and effective July 7, 2017) increased penalties, further defined litter laws for private properties and waterways, as well as attempting to discourage magistrates or municipal court judges from dismissing charges by requiring them to consult with prosecuting attorneys before dismissal. In this Bill, the civil penalty was changed from “\$200 up to \$2,000” to a blanket “\$2,000”. Multiple accounts voiced to REAP, ranging from Litter Control Officers to Solid Waste Authority officials, conveyed that the civil penalty change resulted in an avoidance from conviction of the applicable citations associated with the Litter Control Fund. The new \$2,000 civil penalty was not a reasonable penalty for magistrates and courts to apply to the lesser litter and open dumping criminal offenses, especially in cases where lack of resident financial resources to afford waste disposal service or transportation to disposal facilities were suspected to be an underlying factor in the criminal offense. Many were observing that the new higher civil penalty was being issued far less frequently than before. The decline in litter control revenue is synonymous with the effects of the changes to litter laws. With the Senate Bill 2303 effective at the top of fiscal year 2018, revenue



declined for the next three years. One Solid Waste Authority personnel who is involved in litter control implementation reported to us that their local magistrates are reluctant to issue civil penalties for minor litter offenses as \$2,000 is a high financial burden on already low-income households. During the same fiscal year, legislative changes increased the maximum grant request from \$3,000 to \$5,000. This welcomed improvement caused a large jump in interest (as shown in **Figure 5**) as more could be accomplished with the new limit, especially for larger municipalities and county projects. SB35 passed to correct the penalty language to “\$200 up to \$2,000”. REAP prepared and dispersed written notification to inform magistrates statewide of the changes to WV Code for each of the passing Bills. Additional bills under review this legislative session propose to alter the litter laws and fines once again.

Despite the minimal revenue available to disburse annually, this small grant program has proven to be a powerful tool in assisting local governments in combating common litter problems and cleanup efforts. Below is a summary of compoundable data of litter impact reported by the Litter Control Grantees from FY2016 through FY2020 in **Figure 6**. This data was not included in the accomplishments in Figure 1. Common uses of the grant fund observed may include fuel expenses, wages paid to litter control officers or cleanup crew supervisors, uniform items, equipment such as trailers, maintenance for vehicles such as tires, supplies, landfill fees for litter collected, dumpster rentals, advertisements, anti-litter campaign materials and litter receptacles. A high priority item as it contributes to further littering, risk to human health, and property devaluation are dilapidated structures. REAP hopes to see a new program focused on this issue alone as West Virginia is littered with structures in need of razing.

**Figure 6:**

<b>LITTER CONTROL GRANT PROGRAM RESULTS REPORTED FY2016-FY2020</b>	
Tons Properly Disposed	15,021
Bags Collected without Weight	194
Cubic Yards Collected without Weight	2,804
Litter Receptacles Placed	63
Number of Volunteers	3,535
Number of Cleanup Events	424
Volunteer Hours Reported	9,704
Tons Recycled	1,135
Recycling Containers Purchased	740
Tires Properly Disposed	37,662
Dumps Eradicated	628
Miles of Roadway	1,094
Litter Warnings Issued	341
Litter Citations Issued	155
Litter NOVs Issued	306
Dilapidated Structures Razed	29



In Fiscal Year 2017, recognizing the lack of county implemented litter control programs, REAP acquired the Litter Control Officer Training and Certification program from WVDEP’s Environmental Enforcement and implemented a networking component. In addition to tracking and editing the certification training and testing with up-to-date litter law changes, REAP began hosting conference sessions at the AWVSWA and REAP Educational Conference on Litter Control and Solid Waste. These sessions are dedicated to training local litter enforcement officials with common issues, coaching local governments on how to implement a litter control program, and inquiring about what resources REAP can develop to encourage the growth of locally implemented litter control programs. REAP staff has collected a county contact list that shows a sparse coverage for Litter Control Officers (LCOs) which prioritizes scholarship opportunities for new conference attendees from areas lacking LCOs.

From these Litter Control workgroup sessions each year, a common reoccurring hindrance to litter control effectiveness resonated with staff and attendees. Litter enforcement officials were finding their time and efforts wasted as citations they brought forth to the court systems were being dismissed. After review of one agency’s sampling of citations to demonstrate the extent of this issue as shown in **Figure 7**, REAP would like to compare dismissal rates of other authorized enforcement agencies and explore solutions to improve these rates. Discussions of potential efforts to improve this cause include development of magistrate and municipal court informative training module, researching dismissal rates in different regions and consulting with those magistrates and judges where the issue is prevalent, as well as consulting with legislative committees for solutions.

**Figure 7:**

<b>FY2020 Litter Conviction Data Sampling</b>					
Authorized Enforcement Agency: Division of Natural Resources					
	Total	Conviction	Dismissal	Failure To Appear (FTA)	Pending/Open
<b>Number of Citations</b>	523	262	160	38	63
<b>Percentage of Citations</b>		50%	31%	7%	12%

The litter control fund is also intended for annual disbursement for projected costs of jail or prison inmate litter cleanup programs. Due to the evident deficiency of funds to support such programs across the state, and other revenue options for inmate programs, the Litter Control Grant Program is used as the sole method of this fund to control disbursement for litter control programs and inmate cleanup programs. **Figure 8** summarizes the grant applicants that utilized this fund for programs related to inmate cleanup programs. The Litter Control Fund is insufficient to provide for administrative costs. Supplementation for this fund is provided by various funds that are earmarked for grant opportunities. The Pollution Prevention and Open Dump Program (PPOD), has provided support and resources to further assist in litter cleanup projects and maximize efficient use of the Litter Control Fund such as providing supplies and landfill fees. A summary of PPOD assistance for inmate/day report cleanup programs is provided in **Figure 9**.



**Figure 8:**

**FY2020-FY2016 Litter Control Grants for Day Report and Community Service Programs**

Applicant	Amount Awarded	Purpose
<b>FY2020</b>		
Mingo County Commission	\$3,000.00	To fund Litter Control Officer wages for cleaning open dumps and collecting roadside litter by Southwestern Regional Day report and Mingo County Drug Court.
Preston County SWA	\$2,320.00	To fund Litter Control Officer fuel for litter cleanups by court or community corrections program.
<b>FY2019</b>		
Mercer County SWA	\$3,000.00	To fund tipping fees for the Litter Control Officer using Day Report workes to collect litter and cleanu open dumps.
Preston County SWA	\$2,088.00	To fund Litter Control Officer fuel for litter cleanups by court or community corrections program.
<b>FY2018</b>		
Marion County SWA	\$3,000.00	To fund litter cleanup with Marion County SWA, Marion County Commission, WVDEP, WVDNR and Marion County Day Report Center.
Mason County Commission	\$1,250.00	To fund Litter Control Officer fuel for litter cleanup with the Day Report Center.
Preson County Commission	\$3,000.00	To fund Litter Control Officer fuel for litter pick up program by court or community corrections program.
<b>FY2017</b>		
Jefferson County SWA	\$1,165.13	To fund gloves, insect repellent and bags for litter pick-ups. Works with Jefferson County Sheriff to assist with transportation and supervision of litter pick-ups by individuals required to complete community service and investigate littering and illegal dumps.
Webster County Commission	\$3,000.00	To fund Litter Control Officer salary and benefits employed to supervise volunteers or individuals who are sentenced to community services to pick up trash along road ways and other areas.
Wood County SWA	\$1,212.50	To fund picksticks, wonder gloves and trash bags for volunteer community groups and Wood County Day Report Center individuals performing community service hours.
<b>FY2016</b>		
Lincoln County Commission	\$3,000.00	To fund litter control officer wages to work in conjunction with the Lincoln County Community Correction's Supervisor by monitoring dumpsites and inspecting for evidence to submit to Lincoln County Magistrates.
Marion County SWA	\$3,000.00	To fund educational items and supplies, litter cameras and advertising for the county litter control program. Marion SWA and Litter Control Officers scheduled cleanups to work with DNR with the assistance of Marion County's Day Report Program.
Mason County Commission	\$2,992.50	To fund weekly litter control projects using County Day Report Center and County Drug Court.
Mercer County SWA	\$3,000.00	To fund litter disposal from the County Day Report Center and volunteer cleanups.
Monroe County SWA	\$1,600.00	To fund fuel, maintenance and vehicle insurance for the county Day Report Center cleanup program.
Montgomery, City of	\$2,400.00	To fund structure razing using prison labor.





**Figure 9:**

**Pollution Prevention and Open Dump Assistance for Inmate/Day Report Programs**

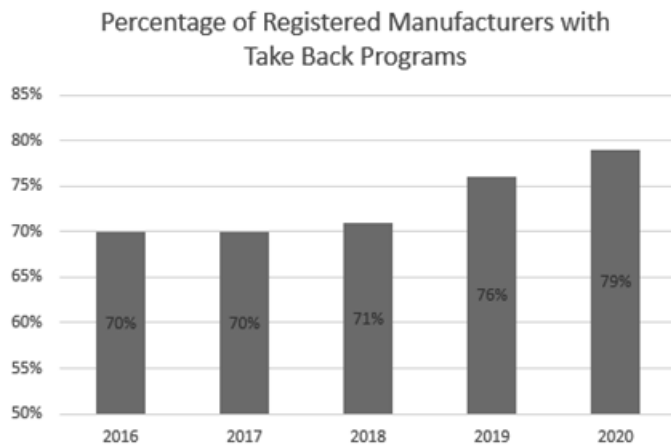
<b>Eastern District</b>						
County	Day Report	Community Service - Home Confinement	Inmate	Enforcement	PPOD Assistance	Description
Berkeley				Berkeley County SWA	bags, gloves, pickers	Provide supplies.
Hampshire	x			Sheriff's Office	bags, gloves and supervisor wages	Provide supplies and pay for supervisor to be onsite. County covers disposal.
<b>Northern District</b>						
Harrison				Officer	bag, gloves	Uses an officer part-time to do litter enforcement.
Lewis	x			DNR		DNR is in process of establishing cleanup using Day Report.
Marion	x			Litter Control Officer	bags, gloves and disposal	Provide bags, gloves and pickers.
Preston				Litter Control Officer	bags and gloves	Full - time Litter Control Officer through the Sheriff's Office.
Taylor	x			Day Report Center	bag, gloves and pickers	Provide bags, gloves and pickers.
<b>Southern District</b>						
Boone	x			Sheriff's Office	bags, gloves and pickers	Starting a more cleanup oriented Day Report Crew. County Commission, County Assistant Prosecutor, DEP and DNR are working toward that goal. Current Sheriff is heading up roadside cleanup efforts
Fayette	x			Litter Control Office and Solid Waste Authority	bags, gloves and disposal	SWA employees and Litter Control Officer works with the Day Report Center 2 to 3 days a week and conducts a monthly tire collection
Logan	x			Day Report Center	bags, gloves and disposal	Day Report does some litter roadside cleanup along with a Make It Shine Project annually. Have not cleaned in quite some time.
McDowell			x	Stephens Facility (DOC)	bags, gloves and disposal	County worked with the state run Stephens Facility (DOC) to have a crew picking up litter along all major roadways. Have recently lost the supervisor and are in the process of revamping the program. Have not cleaned any for quite some time.
Mercer	x			Day Report Center Litter Control Officer	bags, gloves	Mercer County Day Report does some roadside pickup along with an occasional open dump. The Litter Control Officer cleans open dumps, heads up volunteer cleanups and conducts a monthly tire collection
Mingo		x		Commission over Home Confinement	bags, gloves and disposal	County Commission is in the process of reconstructing their litter crew. They work home confinement but may possibly hire displaced workers in a similar fashion to the Human Resources Development Foundation. Work on a limited basis.
Monroe		x			bags, gloves and disposal	Weekend Community Service crew occasionally cleans roadsides.
Nicholas	x			Day Report Center	bags, gloves and disposal	Day Report does most of work on weekends cleaning roadsides.
Raleigh	x			SWA Litter Control Officers (2)	Disposal only	Uses Day Report occasionally to clean up small open dumps in conjunction with the SWA Litter Control.
Wyoming	x			Commission	bags, gloves and disposal	Uses Day Report to man two crews. On crew is headed by the SWA and the other by Day Report. Most active of all counties in the southern district. Down to one crew due to pandemic
<b>Western District</b>						
Kanawha	x			Sheriff's Office	bags and gloves	Provide supplies
Cabell	x			Western Regional Day Report	Bags and gloves	Provide supplies
Lincoln			x	Lincoln Community Corrections	Supervisor wages and truck charges	PPOD grant funding
Mason	x			Western Regional Day Report	bags and gloves	Provide supplies
Putnam	x			Day Report Center	bags and gloves	Provide supplies
Wayne	x			Western Regional Day Report	bags, gloves, disposal	Provide supplies
Wayne (2)				Wayne County SWA	Bags, gloves, worker wages, truck charges	PPOD grant funding



**Electronic Manufacturer and Takeback Program & CED Recycling Grant Program:**

Annual registration fees paid by Electronic Manufacturers of Covered Electronic Devices offered for sale in West Virginia with a motion picture display screen measuring at 4 inches or more diagonally provides the revenue for the CED Recycling Grant Fund. As registration and takeback programs increase, the tonnage recycled by these approved takeback programs (such as mail-in recycling programs) continues to go down as shown in Figure 10 a and b.

**Figure 10a:**



**Figure 10b:**



The majority of manufacturer takeback programs report “0” pounds recycled in West Virginia. Consumers are not utilizing the free recycling program for their electronic devices, most likely due to lack of awareness. Currently, manufacturers do not have any incentives or repercussions for recycling 0 pounds of their devices. The grant program has lost revenue from E-Manufacturers opting for mail-in programs which qualify them for the cheaper \$500 registration fee instead of the former \$5,000 annual fee. REAP recognized the need to have a dedicated employee to the Electronic Manufacturer and Takeback program to explore these deficiencies as well as research successful electronic recycling programs in other states. The personnel issue was corrected in late 2020 when programs were transferred to the PPOD unit, freeing up a position to be posted with dedication to only the Recycling Unit and E-manufacturer program. REAP plans to have a statewide advertisement campaign to make the public aware of the existence of these brand recycling programs that are free to the consumer.

**Tire Remediation Program and Pollution Prevention Open Dump (PPOD) Program**



*(Pictured Above: During the Tug Fork River Tire Tug of War cleanup in Williamson during the Fall of 2019, PPOD and volunteers removed over 2000 tires from a stretch of river no longer than 100 yards.)*

Since 1999, PPOD has completed over 17,000 projects and has removed over 200,000 tons of solid waste and 5,033,136 tires from our state's streams, mountains, and valleys. PPOD continues to fight an ongoing battle, ridding our landscape of illegally disposed of solid waste. Throughout the years, methods have evolved but this mission has stayed the same.

In recent years, PPOD has taken on many more responsibilities relating to keeping our state clean. PPOD conducts the state's Tire Remediation Program, providing West Virginia's residents with a means to legally dispose of waste tires. PPOD not only encourages counties throughout the state to develop litter control programs using alternative sentencing by the courts, but also provides financial, material, and logistical support to these programs. In recent years, PPOD has begun identifying sections of our state's streams in need of cleanup work. Working with local volunteer groups and PPOD contractors, the program has removed thousands of tires and hundreds of tons of waste from streams throughout the state. PPOD has also taken on the task of assisting counties, municipalities, communities, and volunteer groups with conducting localized community cleanups, providing logistical, financial, and technical assistance. In addition to PPOD's cleanup efforts, the program also works with counties and communities to promote litter control and legal disposal of solid waste and tires. The program's project managers also work closely with WVDNR Law Enforcement officers to identify problem sites and try to gather evidence leading to the conviction of those responsible for the illegal dumping. The following list provides insight into the projects and programs to which PPOD provides financial, logistical, and/or technical support. It is important to keep in mind that these responsibilities

span every county in the state, and the efforts are conducted with a program staff of only five employees.

- Responding to citizen complaints and identifying project sites
- Maintaining toll free phone and internet dump complaint systems
- Conducting illegal dump/waste tire pile remediation projects
- Planning and implementing the state’s Tire Remediation Program
- Organizing and managing the WV Make It Shine Program
- Supporting volunteers participating in the WV Make It Shine Program
- Organizing and managing the Adopt A Stream Program
- Supporting volunteers participating in the Adopt A Stream Program
- Supporting county litter crews
- Planning and supporting local volunteer cleanups
- Organizing the state’s participation in Ohio River Sweep
- Supporting volunteers participating in the Ohio River Sweep
- Organizing the Great Kanawha River Cleanup
- Supporting volunteers participating in the Great Kanawha River Cleanup
- Coordinating with law enforcement to prosecute illegal dumpers
- Training county litter control officers

### **Illegal Dumping**



*(Before and After photos of an open dump cleanup on Reamer Road located in Kanawha County)*

Many factors contribute to the proliferation of illegal dumps. Events such as the closing of a local landfill or transfer station, the closure of a road, or even a pandemic can lead to an increase in illegal dumping. As one would expect, there is a direct correlation between the economic situation in an area and the number of illegal dumps found in that area. Geographic location and population density also have a direct effect on the number of illegal dumps found in an area. Access and proximity to landfills also have an effect on the number of illegal dumps in an area, given no easy and affordable

means to dispose of large items, citizens are more likely to illegally dispose of their waste. Changes in laws/regulations may also contribute to illegal dumping. For example, several years ago, the WV Legislature passed a bill that banned the disposal of electronic devices in sanitary landfills. As a result, television sets immediately became one of the most commonly dumped items in the state. Only after the ban was repealed did we see a reduction in the number of televisions being illegally disposed of. Our state's law enforcement officers often express frustration that county magistrates are unwilling to level fines and penalties against perpetrators, and many times the cases are dismissed. As a result, these officers are less than enthusiastic about pursuing those responsible and repeat offenses are common. Without being held responsible by the courts, many offenders continue to illegally dispose of their solid waste, usually just moving to a different site in the area while taking care to remove any identifying information from the waste that they are dumping.



*(Before and After photos of open dump located on Route 16 of Calhoun County)*

Since the inception of the PPOD Program, efforts have been made to accurately collect and store cleanup statistics. Up until 2017, all PPOD data was stored in the Environmental Resources Information System (ERIS). In 2017, PPOD developed and began to utilize a web-based application that has allowed the project managers to record data, store before and after photos, complete trip reports, etc., from the field using their iPads. All data entered in the application is stored in an Oracle database. In addition to project data and statistics, PPOD also maintains a complaint database which contains the complainant's contact, information as to the nature of the complaint, as well as information regarding the complaint's final disposition.

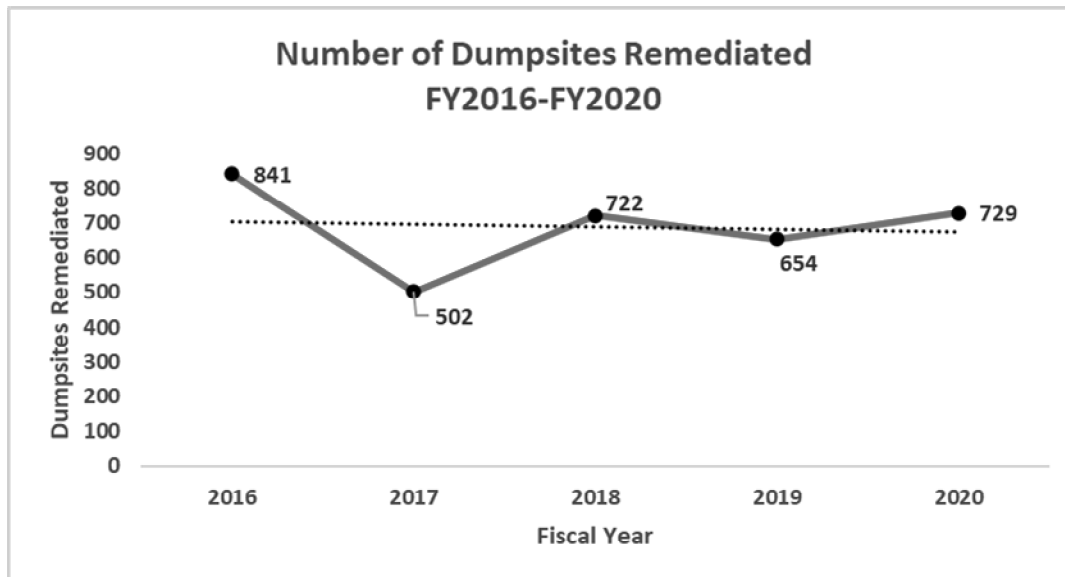
The identification and remediation of illegal dumpsites is subject to a multitude of variables. What may seem to be a simple process (find dump, clean up dump), sometimes is not so simple. Factors such as weather, funding, staff availability, and current events have significant effects on the number of dumps remediated each year. For example, cold, snowy weather for extended periods during the winter hamper PPOD's ability to conduct cleanup projects. Conversely, warmer weather during the winter allows for cleanup projects to continue at a regular pace. A change of management in 2017 changed PPOD operating procedures and resulted in a significant decline in the number of projects completed

during that year. Something seemingly as insignificant as an increase in the price paid for scrap metal can lead to an increase in the number of projects completed due to an increase in the number of tires being dumped by people scrapping tires (scrap yards will not take a vehicle with the tires still attached). Whether a result of increased time at home, or the result of financial hardships, the recent pandemic has also seemed to increase dumping activity.

Perhaps one of the most significant effects on the total dump numbers is the change in how PPOD defines a dump. In the early days of the program, large dumps (those containing more than two tons of solid waste) were commonplace. PPOD has managed to eradicate a large number of these dumps. As a result, the program is now able to focus on smaller “hotspot” sites. In the past, these smaller sites would have been simply overlooked when dealing with the larger problem areas. Though they may be greater in number, the amount of waste in these sites is significantly lower. Many times, several of these smaller dumps can be completed under one project, significantly reducing the contractor cost per dumpsite.

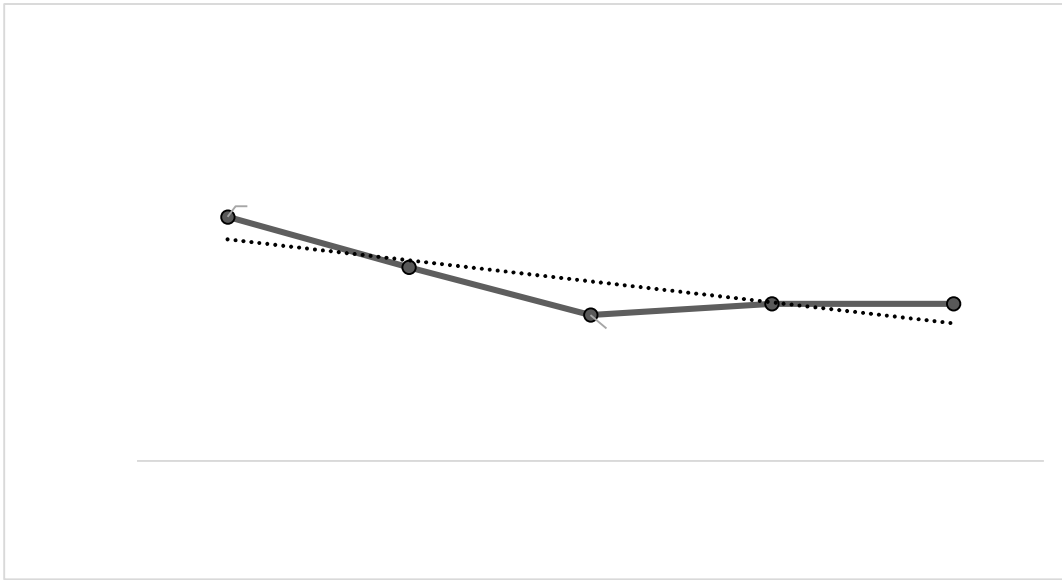
The effect of these variables and the resulting fluctuations in dumping activity make it hard to meet any sort of reduction goals on a consistent basis. However, as evidenced in the graphs shown in **Figure 10** and **Figure 11**, the program has been able to sustain an overall downward trend in both total number of dumps remediated, and in the total number of “large dumps” remediated.

**Figure 10:**



The graph above represents the total number of dumpsites remediated by PPOD in fiscal years 2016 to 2020. The significant decrease in 2017 was the direct result of policy changes that mandated that PPOD quit actively identifying illegal dumpsites, and only remediate sites that were reported by the public. The jump shown in 2018 is the result of that policy being lifted, allowing the PPOD project managers to begin locating dumpsites, forcing the program to play “catch up”. The policy decision to only remediate sites generated by a complaint did not consider that, in some areas, the residents are accustomed to the sites, or they are also dumping on the sites, or the sites are so remote that no one will bother to phone in a complaint. PPOD attributes the rise in 2020 to the ongoing pandemic.

**Figure 11:**



The chart above shows the downward trend in the number of “large dumps” remediated by PPOD in fiscal years 2016-2020.

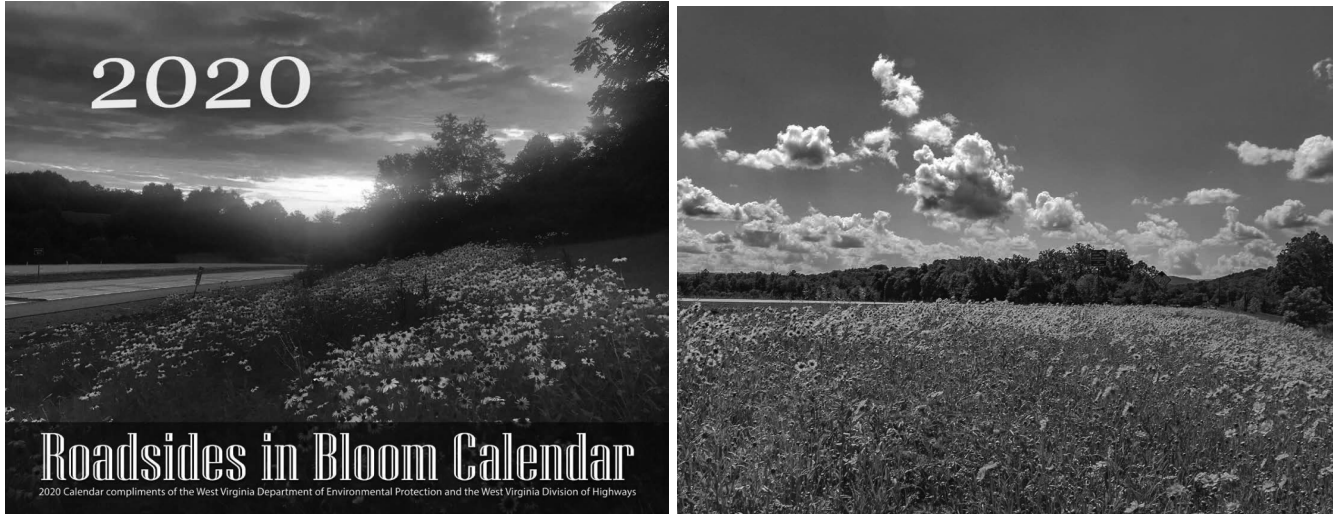
### **Additional Program Improvements**

#### **Operation Wildflower:**

In 2019, the DEP undertook a soil sampling project with DOH in order to determine the best variety of flowers for each site. The DOH collected the samples and DEP collected and analyzed data provided by the WVU Extension soil testing service. A report was written up by DEP to determine the optimal soil conditions for the wildflowers and what the soil conditions were at the various plot locations. The results indicate that the proper nutrients are available in an abundant amount but not readily absorbed by the plants. The soil is nonporous, and water is unable to percolate adequately throughout. The recommendation resulting from this experiment is to increase soil porosity which can be accomplished by tilling the soil and mixing it sufficiently with a more porous form of soil, or aggregate, such as wood chip.

The DEP is also working with DOH on wildflower seed contracts that give more leeway on the types of seeds the DEP and DOH orders each year. DEP has been working on maximizing yields for each plot in recent years to increase success and beauty of highway scenery.

The DEP hosts a photo contest for a Roadsides in Bloom calendar each year. It is given away free to every WV resident who requests one. There is an abundance of out of state requests that we cannot process each year. Discussions have been held to begin accepting a small donation fee for out of state requests for the calendar. This revenue could fund new plots along the roadside as well as more equipment for DOH.



*Photographs for Roadsides in Bloom Calendar by contest winners Janna Vaught (left) and Charmagage Vecchio (right) depict successful Operation Wildflower plantings adding beauty to West Virginia landscape and highways traveled.*

In 2019, DEP initiated a mapping system for all the OW plots after working with DEP TAGIS on development. That is now available for DOH to use to see where all the plots are located. It will better serve the public by knowing the locations of all the plots.

### **Education and Outreach**

REAP and the Department of Education have seats on the Recycling Coalition of WV, Inc. State Steering Committee. This committee also includes members from the Solid Waste Management Board, DEP’s Youth Environmental Program, private and non-profit recyclers, waste management, and solid waste authorities. This committee focuses on education through Department of Education approved lesson plans, teacher and classroom incentives and awards, statewide publications, contests and special events. Information can be found on the Recycling Coalition of WV’s website at [www.wvrecycles.com](http://www.wvrecycles.com).

REAP updates, distributes, and keeps stock of REAP program brochures for resource awareness, Litter Law brochures, children’s educational activity books, recycling and managing waste booklets and guideline booklets for the litter control grant, covered electronic devices recycling grant and the WV Recycling Assistance grant program.

REAP has a strong presence throughout the state to educate and inform the State’s youth and general public. REAP Staff attends many events throughout the state to promote environmental goals and make the public aware of our resources. The most effective educational program is the Youth Environmental Program. YEP has district coordinators that promote REAP programs and encourage recycling, waste reduction, litter prevention and cleanup, and other environmental issues. YEP Coordinators conduct educational presentations for schools within their districts and are working on mass educational curriculum plans that may be implemented by Boards of Education to make the mission highly efficient.

YEP now manages the Environmental Teacher of the Year Award as an incentive for educators to implement lessons and activities relating to our mission as well as the annual Earth Day Event at the Clay Center.



The Education and Outreach branch has been in discussion with REAP management on taking on additional community development roles to drive more impact throughout the state. One new project performed by the Education and Outreach team was updating the Recycling Directory content to assist the Department of Energy in a new publishing. The Department of Energy has transferred this project to WV DEP and this citizen resource will be updated annually after implementation.



*(Youth Environmental Program Coordinators attend both classrooms and host or work special events to provide educational presentations to students around the State.)*

## **GOALS FOR THE NEW TERM**

1. REAP needs a stronger role in providing input into changes to legislation. Some negative impacts may be able to be avoided if participation in work group efforts for relevant Legislative Committees is increased.
2. Public awareness advertising campaigns for CED takeback programs available to consumers.
3. Research other Electronic Manufacturer Registration programs to explore how other states are addressing the issue at hand.
4. High profile campaign to increase volunteerism, encourage citizen law accountability. Release more frequent articles bringing light on the state of litter issues. Partner with other agencies including Department of Tourism, Department of Commerce, DNR, Counties, municipalities.
5. WVDEP analyze YEP percentage of education and outreach work applied to other Divisions within DEP, although minimal, and provide a pro-rated financial support for Education and outreach.
6. Streamline data management and output data. Further refine personnel duties to have a cohesive reporting process for measuring effectiveness and progression of statewide issues, recommendation of annual program refinement according to analysis.
7. Develop campaign and educational material templates that can be replicated and customized to any county or municipality to use on a local level.
8. Consulting with mandated municipalities in noncompliance with recycle mandates, learn hindrances and encourage recycling programs.
9. Explore dismissal rates and consult with those magistrates of high-rate areas.
10. Identification that the existing database platform for recycling and litter grants lacked functions necessary to track landfill diversion goals and develop citizen resources such as interactive recycling directory maps triggered priority for development of databases on new platforms.



## **REAP RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Explore mandatory recycling facility reporting to establish a state recycling rate.
2. The State of West Virginia is in need of a dilapidated structure razing program.
3. Addition of dedicated law enforcement (example of DNR officers dedicated only to enforcement of environmental codes) to focus on reduction of litter violations including monitoring of mandatory garbage disposal.
4. Improve accountability of court systems for compliance of environmental protection code.
5. More accessible locations to legally dispose of solid waste (think transfer stations)
6. Dedicated enforcement for tire regulations either by DEP Environmental Enforcement (EE) inspectors or DNR officers.
7. Explore mandatory tire disposal fees to be paid by everyone at every tire shop in the state.