

Member inquiry: Illegal dumping at gates

On January 13 we asked:

Our good friends in North Frontenac are wondering how municipalities address illegal dumping at the gates of drop-off sites, be it landfills, recycling depots or transfer stations. If any programs are using cameras perhaps they could share their experience with that option.

Please answer by hitting "Reply" and we will pass along the information.

Here are the answers we received:

We have attendants go through bags of garbage. If a name is found a letter is sent as this is a violation of our waste site bylaw. To date there have been no recorded repeat offenders. We are also later this year looking at cameras and would be interested in other member information.

dylinna@bellnet.ca (*Wollastion Twp*)

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It is best to ensure that the area is very well lit. A good quality camera with lots of mega pixels and positioned properly is required to get a good photograph of the vehicle's license plate.

Al.Tomek@cityofnorthbay.ca

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I use cameras at our landfill. We have a landfill looter that has been caught on video. Please pass along my contact information if anyone would like any specifics on our cameras or my experiences with them. kalward@city.stratford.on.ca

Kate Alward, Engineering and Public Works Department, Waste Reduction Coordinator, City of Stratford, Phone: 519-271-0250 Ext. 279

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We don't have cameras at the gate but we do have them on site. If the person leaves garbage behind at the gate, we look through the garbage and look for contact information, which we then pass on to our by-law division for enforcement. Most of the time, it is something that we cannot trace like a mattress.

Greg Preston, City of Orillia, Tel: (705) 325-2444 GPreston@orillia.ca

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The County of Simcoe began a pilot project in the summer of 2011 to monitor a closed landfill entrance for illegal dumping that was approved by the County's Surveillance Camera Committee. As the site is remote the decision was made to install a game camera and see whether it was possible to get photos of residents illegally disposing their waste. A sign was installed at the entrance stating "Property Under Surveillance" along with a No Dumping sign on the gate. The camera operates by motion and heat sensors. Once something is detected the camera takes a photo using an infrared flash so that the camera is undetectable.

On the first visit the camera was installed at what seemed to be a good height up the tree. The site was then monitored for illegal dumping and once the next illegal dumping occurred a site visit was conducted to view the images, however, it seemed the perpetrator found the camera and

removed the memory card and batteries. With assistance from the County's Forestry department the camera was installed much higher on the tree and appropriately to view the area in question. Since the adjustment of the camera height, several people responsible for illegally dumping were visited by the County's Municipal Bylaw Enforcement Officers. This pilot project has proved its success and the County will continue to monitor the site in the same fashion.

*Jenny English, Site Supervisor - Closed Sites, County of Simcoe - Solid Waste Management,
Phone: 705.726.9300 x.1166 Mobile: 705.795.2100 Jenny.English@simcoe.ca*

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We use cameras at our sites and have been working with bylaw to address the issue of illegal dumping. I would be happy to speak with anyone in regards to this if they would like to contact me directly via email, or my cell 705-774-4703

*Ms Debi Allen, Waste & Landfill Coordinator, Township of Seguin
dallen@sequin.ca*

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At our landfill in Halton Region, we've never had a serious illegal dumping issue. Our entrance is lit and is on the side of a major road, which both likely help deter would-be illegal dumpers... or cause them to go somewhere else. We did install a camera later on as well and have not had ANY occurrences of illegal dumping at the gate since (not that we had a lot before, as I mentioned). We also have a security guard patrol the Site 1 - 2 X/night. When we operated recycling depots (Igloo type) in rural areas, illegal dumping was a much bigger issue that we were never able to resolve effectively. We had the usual "No Garbage", "No Illegal Dumping" signage, we opened bags and obtained addresses, we tried cameras and even posted a security guard for a short period at a couple of locations (which was the most effective but very costly) but we eventually went to rural curbside collection and closed the depots. One comment on the cameras - although I think they help as a deterrent and give you some info on time and vehicle type, obtaining a licence number is virtually impossible in the dark. Hope this helps. If you have any questions, please e-mail at art.mercer@halton.ca or call at 905-825-6000, ext. 8207.

*Art Mercer, Supervisor of Landfill Operations
Halton Waste Management Site*

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Bob Moore, Drummond/North Elmsley

We have installed signs and cameras at the gates and no longer have any problems with gate drop-offs. The signs at other places (dead end roads) indicate the By-Law and possible fines.

bob@drummondnorthelmsley.com

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Muskoka struggles with this issue every summer. Unfortunately, I do not have many solutions, illegal dumping is fairly rampant and we have tried signs which don't seem to do much. Now going camera route, more effective than signs but some still openly defy by-laws.

Mark Pringle, Manager of Solid Waste, District Municipality of Muskoka, 705-645-2100 ext 1466

mpringle@muskoka.on.ca

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Niagara Region has not installed video cameras at any of the gates to its landfills or recycling facility to monitor illegal dumping. Any illegally-dumped material that is left at the gate of the landfill site is collected by the Region's landfill site operator and brought into the site, for disposal. Illegal dumping is not an issue at our recycling facility.

If illegal dumping has become an issue in the past, the Region has hired a security company to monitor the particular landfill site. When the word got out that there was a security company monitoring the landfill site, it has deterred illegal dumping.

There is also wording in our Waste Management By-law re. fining someone who is caught illegally dumping at any facility:

<http://www.regional.niagara.on.ca/government/bylaws/default.aspx#waste>

Brad Whitelaw, The Regional Municipality of Niagara, Tel: 905-685-4225 ext. 3316,

Email: brad.whitelaw@niagararegion.ca

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It's hasn't been big issue for the Community Recycling Centres. It maybe happens two or three times a year at best. It could have something to do with the cameras or that we have three of our sites open seven days a week. When or if it happens, if it's a big load of waste we usually call By Laws to investigate and if it's one or two bags we will look the other way and take it to the top and dispose of it properly."

Region of Peel.

Trevor.Barton@peelregion.ca