2015 Year in Review

More than 500 groups and communities participated in clean up efforts in 2015

Approximately 170 tons of tires were removed from hillsides, alleys, empty lots, rivers, streams and ravines of Pittsburgh

3,385 tons of material was sent for composting from the City of Pittsburgh

Over 16,000 tons of material was sent for recycling from the City of Pittsburgh

With the help of a grant, City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny Cleanways placed cameras to catch illegal dumping in Beltzhoover

Graffiti Busters cleaned up 6,877 graffiti incidents, saving the City more than $65,000

32 sections of the riverfront were cleaned up by volunteers

128 illegal dump sites were cleaned up by volunteers and community members

29,425
Volunteers participated from neighborhoods, organizations and Universities

+1.6 million
Pounds of litter and debris removes from illegal dump sites, litter and the riverfront

90,000 hours
Volunteers devoted more than 90,000 hours to cleaning up illegal dumpsites and litter.

2015 Annual Report

This 2015 annual report provides an overview of waste management, blight and property issues, including litter, illegal dumping and graffiti in the City of Pittsburgh. It also includes proactive initiatives, programs and activities to address these challenges and enhance the overall quality of life in our City.

The Clean Pittsburgh Commission's vision for the City of Pittsburgh is to be one of America's cleanest and cared for cities. We at the CPC work to be the driving force behind making this vision a reality by bringing together local government, organizations, institutions, and residents to combat quality of life issues.

2016 Clean Pittsburgh Commission Members

Sarah Alessio Shea - Pennsylvania Resources Council **CPC Chair**
Joe Divack - At Large Member, Community Advocate **CPC Vice Chair**
Patty Chavez - Pittsburgh Public Works **CPC Secretary**
Alicia Carberry - At Large Member, Community Advocate, **CPC Treasurer**
Justin Stockdale - Pennsylvania Resources Council
Kyle Winkler - Pittsburgh Bureau of Environmental Services
Mark Mariani - City of Pittsburgh Department of Permits, Licenses and Inspection
Myrna Newman - Allegheny CleanWays
Melissa Rosenfeld - Pittsburgh Public Works; Anti-Litter Coordinator
Erika Deyarmin-Young - At Large Member, Waste Management
Dianne Swan - At Large Member, Rosedale Block Cluster
Aftyn Giles— City of Pittsburgh Department of Innovation and Performance

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For more information:
Sarah Alessio Shea, Chair
Phone: (412) 733.7156; Fax: (412) 488.7492
Email: info@cleanpittsburgh.org

A look a the focus areas and highlights of the Clean Pittsburgh Commission

Litter and Illegal Dumping Roundtable —On July 9, 2015, members of the Clean Pittsburgh Commission, in partnership the Department of Innovation and Performance hosted a Litter and Illegal Dumping Roundtable.

The Clean Pittsburgh Litter and Illegal Dumping Roundtable is the one in a series of innovation-based discussions allowing the City to hear from non-profit and civic leaders, academics and government officials on the topic of litter and illegal dumping in the City of Pittsburgh.

The purpose of the Roundtable was to bring together key players in the region on these topics to work towards a common strategy to combat these prevalent and longstanding issues.

Presentations from the following Clean Pittsburgh Champions kicked off the event and would later transition to an in-depth discussion about these topics:

- Sarah Alessio Shea, CPC Chair and Education Coordinator at Pennsylvania Resources Council; *Overview, litter index, illegal dumping, data gathering*
- Justin Stockdale, Western Regional Director of the Pennsylvania Resources Council; *High cost of litter, many hands in the work*
- Melissa Rosenfeld, City of Pittsburgh Anti-Litter Coordinator and Myrna Newman, Executive Director of Allegheny CleanWays*; Enforcement Procedures and Issues*
- Dr. Erik Garrett, Duquesne University; *Why do people litter, behavior changing campaigns*

Mayor Bill Peduto was in attendance and addressed the group, charging the Clean Pittsburgh Commission to bring recommendations to his staff by Labor Day.

On August 25, 2015, the CPC submitted a response, with recommendations including:

- Allowing for 501©3 non-profits organizations to enter into (suggested 3-5 years) "Stewardship Agreements" with the City of Pittsburgh allowing the organization, including its staff and volunteers, to perform work on City owned property with full support from the City
- Increasing support for efforts to educate and enforce City Code relating to quality of life violations (i.e litter, illegal dumping, property maintenance, etc) through creation of a Streets & Walkways Education and Enforcement Program (SWEEPs)
- Standardizing and sharing of quality of life violation data between all City Departments and made available to the general public

The Clean Pittsburgh Commission and the Mayor's office continue to have open discussions on ways to implement the recommendations that were a result of the Roundtable, as well as addressing other areas of concern in the effort to combat litter and illegal dumping in the City of Pittsburgh.

Neighborhood of Focus: Hilltop District— Starting in 2014, the Clean Pittsburgh Commission began our first ever effort of having a Neighborhood of Focus. The second neighborhood of focus for the CPC will be the Hilltop District, specifically Beltzhoover, for 2015 and 2016. The goal for the Neighborhood of Focus is for the CPC to work directly with stakeholders in this community and via the represented organizations and City departments on the Commission mobilize efforts around beautification and quality of life issues.

Over the past year, CPC members and member organizations like Allegheny Cleanways have helped to provide clean up of 56 illegal dumping sites, removing approximately 215 tons (430,000 pounds) of debris, including 1,528 tires. Community organizations have also made an effort to educate and empower residents to combat the litter and illegal dumping issues. Buster the Recycling Racoon even made an appearance at Beltzhoover's Annual Community Festival.

The CPC looks forward to continuing to work in these areas over the next year.

Litter—Since 2006, volunteers of all ages have been participating in twice annual Redd Ups throughout the City of Pittsburgh. These organized clean-ups work because of a network of dedicated community leaders.

Post Redd Up result surveys give us a pretty good idea of the thousands of participants who take to the streets and collect hundreds of tons of litter for public works departments in Pittsburgh and elsewhere to pick up collected litter bags, discarded tires and trash and transport them to legal dumps.

Illegal Dumping—The CPC, City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny CleanWays saw significant strides made in the combat of illegal dumpsites throughout the city. Thanks to the efforts of Allegheny CleanWays, especially their Dumpbuster program, volunteers and staff were in our neighborhood of focus, Beltzhoover, every day to address the issues of illegal dumping and to provide residents the resources to combat the issue impacting their neighborhood.

Through the help of a grant, Allegheny Cleanways and the City of Pittsburgh were able to place cameras (6 total) at popular illegal dumpsites to help identify and cite individuals participating in illegal dumping activity.

Graffiti— Seventeen years ago, the City of Pittsburgh instituted a graffiti removal program known as the "Graffiti Busters". The "Graffiti Busters" is managed by the Traffic Division of the Department of Public Works and its function is to remove graffiti damage from public buildings and places as reported and from private property on a case-by-case basis. Over the past five years, these efforts have saved the City $314,290.

Recycling— Recycling is mandatory for every resident, business, office and institution in the City of Pittsburgh (City Code 619). The City's Bureau of Environmental Services provides curbside recycling collection for residences, multi-family units and non-profit institutions that complete a service agreement form with the City.

We have continued to see great recycling participation numbers by residents of the City of Pittsburgh, thanks to the simplicity of the Together Green, single-stream recycling program.

Neighborhood Special Recycling Collection— A special recycling collection was held in June of 2015 in the (then) neighborhood of focus Hazelwood. The CPC worked with PRC to recycle 6,488 pounds of electronics and 92 tires from neighborhood residents and vacant lots during the event!