



## Alamance County Litter Removal Call to Action

### Background Facts:

- In 2021, 13 million pounds of litter was collected across the State of NC and over \$19 Million was spent on its pickup
- In 2021, over \$1.5 Million dollars were spent on collecting litter in areas that included Alamance County:

Division 7 (Alamance, Caswell, Guilford, Orange and Rockingham counties)	561,570 lbs collected in 2021	\$1,502,725.26 spent in cleanup costs during 2021
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### Why should you care?

- Litter cleanup has a positive effect on businesses and the local economy. Not only is it unsightly, litter costs millions of public and private dollars to clean up and can have a negative impact on tourism and how people perceive the state while they travel.
- The presence of litter in a community decreases property values by 7%.
- Litter has environmental consequences. Wind and weather, traffic, and animals move litter into gutters, lawns and landscaped areas, alleyways, and parking structures. Litter near storm drains are likely to wash into local waterways, with potential for serious environmental contamination.
- Animals are innocent victims affected by litter every day. Researchers estimate that over one million animals die each year after ingesting, or becoming entrapped in, improperly discarded trash (in the US or worldwide?).
- Plastic litter is the most common killer of animals, and marine animals are the most notably affected. Each year over 100,000 dolphins, fish, whales, turtles, and more drown after becoming entangled in or digesting plastic litter.

### What can you do?

- **PLAN an EVENT:** The 2022 Spring Litter Sweep is taking place April 16-30. Litter Sweep is the N.C. Department of Transportation's biannual statewide roadside litter removal initiative. Residents throughout the state participate in local efforts to help clean up North Carolina's roadways. In addition to volunteers, NCDOT maintenance crews devote one week of their time to pick up litter and collect orange bags placed on the roadsides by volunteer pickups. Volunteers are provided cleanup supplies, such as reversible orange/blue trash bags, gloves and orange safety vests, from their local NCDOT County Maintenance Yard office.
- **JOIN a GROUP:** New Leaf Society would like to encourage all Alamance County citizens, municipalities, businesses, and organizations to JOIN the Litter Sweep Alamance. The goals include demonstrating our community pride, care for the environment, stimulant healthy neighborhoods, accomplishing a common good for all, while creating new friendships. This call to action is to make way towards





reversing the trend of littering and help keep all of Alamance County clean and inspire others to spring into action.

- **SECURE your LOAD:** Approximately 16.4% of litter in America is caused by improperly covered trucks and cargo loads.
- **GET INVOLVED:** North Carolina Department of Transportation offers opportunities for the public to get involved: Adopt-A-Highway; Litter Sweep; Sponsor-A-Highway; and Swat-A-Litterbug. The detail can be found at [ncdot.gov](http://ncdot.gov)
- **ENCOURGE your CONSTITUENTS:** Declare a proclamation to encourage those in your municipality to make a conscious effort to keep their community clean and beautiful.

### **Litter Deterrents:**

- Under [North Carolina's anti-littering law](#), individuals may be fined and face community service for intentionally and unintentionally littering.
- Intentional littering in the amount of 15 pounds or less is a Class 3 misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$250 to \$1,000 and up to 24 hours of community service. Unintentional littering in the amount of 15 pounds or less is an infraction punishable by a fine of up to \$100 and up to 12 hours of community service.

### **For Litter Supplies, CALL to order and register your event:**

[Alamance County Litter Sweep](#) – Elizabeth Bratton, Coordinator, (336) 570-6815

[City of Burlington](#) – Public Works Dept., (336) 222-5009

[NC DOT](#) – Program & Outreach Coordinator's Office, Litter Management, (919) 707-2974

### **Questions for New Leaf Society at [info@newleafsociety.org](mailto:info@newleafsociety.org)**

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New Leaf Society is a private, non-profit, volunteer-driven, organization focused on beautification and community partnerships in our communities. Partnerships are like the elements for growing a tree. You need the right soil, enough water, plenty of sunlight, good roots and the results can be a strong tree.

### **Sources:**

[https://kab.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/LitterinAmerica\\_FactSheet\\_LitterOverview.pdf](https://kab.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/LitterinAmerica_FactSheet_LitterOverview.pdf)

<https://www.ncdot.gov/initiatives-policies/environmental/litter-management/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.texasdisposal.com/blog/the-real-cost-of-littering/>