

LITTER CONTROL PLAN

BACKGROUND: Effective collection of roadside litter has been and continues to be a challenge in Beaufort County. While the respective agencies and volunteer groups are making their best effort to collect roadside litter, there are many areas that are neglected.

Current resources for litter control are SCDOT, Beaufort County Day Watch program, and Adopt-A-Highway volunteer groups. If budget allows, outside contractors could also be used to collect litter.

CONCEPT: The apparent cause of the problem with litter collection ineffectiveness is due to the fact there is no single point of contact for Beaufort County. The different agencies and groups are working independently. Another key component is lack of resources to provide coverage on all roads throughout the County.

PLAN: The Beaufort County Public Works Department (PW) will take the lead for county-wide litter control efforts. A central clearinghouse will be established within the Solid Waste and Recycling division. The primary point of contact will be the Adopt-A-Highway volunteer coordinator (Coordinator).

Calls or emails to the litter control hotline will be answered by the Coordinator. The Coordinator will investigate the complaint and prioritize the task based on specific criteria (amount of litter, location of road, etc.). The Coordinator will contact the appropriate resource to make them aware of the complaint and determine if that resource can clean up the litter in an acceptable time period. If the resource cannot complete the task in a timely manner, or if there is no resource designated for that particular location, PW crews will be assigned to pick up the litter. The Coordinator will be responsible for following up to ensure the task has been completed.

GOALS: The litter problem can be divided into two separate issues: (1) the initial illegal disposing of litter on the roadside, and (2) the pickup of litter from the roadside. The goals of this proposed program are to reduce the amount of litter and to improve collection efficiency by creating a more effective method for litter cleanup. The coordinator will not only work with the respective resources for litter cleanup as outlined above, but also work with enforcement officers to locate problem areas and try to identify individuals who are illegally disposing waste. The amount of illegally disposed litter should be reduced by making a more concerted enforcement effort in historically problematic areas.