Illegal Dumping at Tribal Churches and Longhouses

What Does It Really Cost?
Yakama Nation Solid Waste Efficiency Study
Tribal Lands and Environment
August 20 – 23, 2012
Received a USDA Grant

• The Yakama Nation Solid Waste Program (YNSWP) received a $68,000 grant from the USDA Technical Assistance Grant Program to conduct a Solid Waste Efficiency Project.
Received a USDA Grant

• The project was directed at improving waste handling and collection methods currently employed on the Yakama Nation

• And changing waste disposal behaviors and practices that adversely affect the waters and lands within the exterior boundaries of the Yakama Reservation and the usual and accustomed rights of harvesting traditional foods at usual and accustomed sites thus insuring that these sites are not compromised due to pollution and contamination from the improper disposal of waste.
Illegal Dumping at Churches and Longhouses

- In addition to the illegal dump sites, Tribal longhouses, churches and community centers have become targets of illegal dumping activity.
- There are 10 drop off sites with dumpsters that are for the exclusive use of the church, longhouses and community centers.
- Unfortunately, many of these sites have evolved into “free” community dump sites with excessive use and dumping of unauthorized and unsupervised household trash, bulky garbage and household hazardous waste.
Unsustainable Disposal Practices

• We knew the current solid waste disposal and collection practices are non-sustainable.
• Large percentage of the resources of the program that must be delegated to the cleanup of illegal dumps and repeat dumpings to address the environmental and health threats posed to the community will consume the program resources and not address the behaviors which are the source of the environmental threats.
Why The Efficiency Study?

• The Solid Waste Program proposed that the lack of information about proper solid waste disposal options undermines the development of sound solid waste management practices. (One of our funding points)

• Funding from the USDA allowed the Solid Waste Program to explore current waste disposal practices and look at options on how to improve the current collection practices at the drop off sites located at the longhouses, churches and community centers.

• A major portion of the funding was designated to the development of a communication strategy that informed and involved the community in proper disposal practices.
Goals of the Project

• Improve efficiencies and opportunities in solid waste handling that resulted in a reduction of waste illegally disposed at tribal longhouses and churches within the exterior boundaries of the Yakama Nation.

• Improve efficiencies in solid waste handling that result in a reduction in the cost of waste collection, transportation and disposal to the Yakama Nation Solid Waste Program.

• Increase the level of participation in curbside subscription by 5% or equal to 100 new garbage collection subscribers.

• Reach 10,000 households, tribal and non-tribal, with information on: proper waste disposal, waste reduction and recycling opportunities; public health and safety threats of improperly disposed waste and the environmental and cost avoidance benefits of proper disposal.
Tasks

• Conducted an assessment of current collection, transportation and disposal practices at the tribal longhouses and churches.

• Looked for improvements to the present practices and reviewed the costs of maintaining the present system.
Tasks

• Developed incentives to encourage increased participation in proper waste disposal, waste reduction and recycling opportunities. The incentives included:

• Introduced 48, 64 and 96 gallon garbage carts as a new level of service and as an alternative to the use of the dumpsters.
Tasks

• Promoted the health benefits of a clean environment.

• Promoted of the financial benefits of not violating the new Solid Waste Codes as a way of encouraging proper waste disposal. Community residents who used the dumpsters for personal use were informed that they could be fined a large sum of money.
**New Solid Waste Codes**

**LEASER OFFENSE**  
90 Days in Jail  
$500 Fine  
Restitution & Costs  
365 Days Permit Suspension  

**GREATER OFFENSE**  
180 Days in Jail  
$5,000 Fine  
Restitution & Costs  
365 Days Permit Suspension  

**ENHANCED OFFENSE**  
360 Days in Jail  
$5,600 Fine  
Restitution & Costs  
365 Days Permit Suspension  

**CIVIL OFFENSE**  
$500 Fine  
Restitution & Costs  
2 Year Permit Suspension

**NO DUMPING**  
ALL VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED  
Up To 5,000 Fine  
Plus Jail Time!  

REPORT IT 865-2933

**WE NEED YOUR HELP TO REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING**  
CONTACT TRIBAL POLICE • 865-2933  
YN SOLID WASTE PROGRAM • 865-5121, ext 6453

**NO DUMPING**  
ALL VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED  
Up To 5,000 Fine  
Plus Jail Time!  

REPORT IT 865-2933

**NEW YAKAMA NATION SOLID WASTE CODES**

**ABANDONED AUTOS**  
Abandoned autos pose a threat to our public health and safety, a negative effect on our environment and to the wildlife. Our children can be hurt using them as a playground and rodents and other animals can turn them into homes. You can have these abandoned or non-operational autos removed from your property offen FOR FREE.  
Or you may even be paid for your vehicle. You must have the proper paper work/title.  
Check the yellow pages for a local permitted towing service close to you.

**LITTERING**  
Any person who shall dispose of waste measuring less than one cubic yard of volume, anywhere subject to the jurisdiction of the Yakama Nation, except in public waste disposal grounds designated by the Committee, shall be guilty of an offense.

**MAINTAINING A PUBLIC nuisance.**  
Any person who shall permit their property to fall into such condition as to injure the property of others persons or the Yakama Nation or to place another person in fear of what is likely to happen in the future, or allow waste to accumulate in such manner as to constitute a public nuisance, or to cause any odors or noises, or to permit vermin to run loose shall be guilty of an offense.

**ENVIRONMENTAL MALICIOUS MISCHIEF.**  
Any person who shall maliciously disturb, disfigure, injure, vandalize or destroy any property knowing that the conduct created a substantial risk of injury to the environment shall be guilty of an offense.

**WASTE DISPOSAL, FACILITIES, AND OTHER CONTAINERS.**  
Any person who shall operate or use without authorization any solid waste facility and/or container allowed for a specific business or premises, or dispose of waste or solid waste in an uncontrolled container shall be guilty of an offense.

**UNSECURED LOAD ESCAPE.**  
Any person who shall fail to ensure a load and prevent the escape of any waste shall be guilty of any offense.

**VIOLATION OF REGULATIONS.**  
Unless otherwise provided in this Code, it shall be unlawful for any person to intentionally or negligently violate any regulation passed by the Committee.

**PROTECT OUR LAND... SIGN UP FOR GARBAGE COLLECTION TODAY... CALL 248-4213**

**NO DUMPING**  
ALL VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED  
Up To 5,000 Fine  
Plus Jail Time!  

REPORT IT 865-2933
Conducted an Illegal Dumping and Dumpster Report

Tasks two and three of the Solid Waste Efficiency Project were directed at assessing the current waste collection, transportation, and disposal practices currently implemented at the churches, longhouses, and community centers.

The activities conducted for these two tasks included the weekly monitoring of nine (9) high illegal dumping sites.
Churches and Longhouses

- Toppenish Longhouse
- Wapato Longhouse
- 1919 White Swan Shaker Church
- Satus Shaker Church
- White Swan Pavilion
- Satus Longhouse
- White Swan Longhouse a.k.a. Toppenish Creek Longhouse
- Independent Shaker Church
- Toppenish Community Center
Reviewed Our Current Practices

• The Yakama Nation contracts out its hauling. The waste that is collected is taken to the county owned landfill.

• The current practice for the collection of a dumpster is that when full, the contracted hauler is called and the dumpster is hauled away.

• To avoid confusion over which dumpster to pick up and hauling off of half filled loads, a call is made to either the Facility Maintenance or Solid Waste Office who in turn calls the hauler. Solid waste field staff also has the authority to call in a dumpster.
Review of Current Practices

• The 20 and 30 yard dumpsters, which can average four to six tons of waste if properly loaded, are on a call-in service.
• Churches and longhouses that have the smaller 1 ½ to 2 yard dumpsters are on a weekly scheduled pickup and do not need to be called in.
• The Nation is charged a haul fee plus mileage for each time a 20 and 30 yard dumpster is called in and picked up. There is a minimum monthly haul charge for the larger dumpsters whether they are hauled or not.
• Dumpsters that are full of bulky items and not packed down allow for a light load to be hauled. This is a very inefficient and costly haul as a light load means the Nation is paying to transport air. The tipping fee or dump fee is a separate cost and is currently set at $30.89 per ton.
Weekly Monitoring of Dumpsters

Solid waste staff inspected the dumpsters for:

– who were the generators of the waste;
– content of the dumpsters (whether the contents were from the longhouse or household waste),
– how full and/or compacted the dumpsters were when they were hauled
– how often the dumpsters were called in.
Weekly Monitoring of Dumpsters Showed

- Regularly filled or overfilled with a large percentage of household trash.

- Large bulky items were often placed outside the dumpsters which appeared to be a magnet for encouraging more dumping.

- Once the public became aware that the sites were being monitored, we saw a shift in use from “working hours” to nights and weekend use.
Problem Areas

- Dumpsters that are overflowing or blocked because bulky items are placed in and around the dumpster will not be picked up because the driver cannot access the bin.
- Solid waste field staff must travel to the dumpster, pack the excess garbage down in the dumpster, remove any unacceptable items, like tires or appliances, and secure the dumpster for removal.
- Garbage that cannot fit into overly filled dumpsters, which is quite often, must be hauled away and disposed of by the solid waste crew.
- The solid waste staff must make, at a minimum, weekly clean ups at each site requiring a large truck, a track hoe for clean up and packing of the dumpster to achieve a full load.
- This creates a very labor intensive and inefficient effort to manage these dumpsters.
Findings

• The findings from these observations showed that the current system of having open, unattended 30 yard dumpsters at the churches and longhouses allows and may encourage extensive non-church/longhouse use.

• The current disposal practices at the churches, longhouses and community centers can be compared to nine (9) separate transfer stations without any of the benefits of economy of scale, material recovery, waste screening or compaction, cost recovery or any long term changes in disposal behaviors.

•
Findings

• What is also of concern is that while, according to the waste composition study conducted by the YNSWP in 2009, the waste generated from the churches, longhouses and community centers account for less than two percent (2%) of the waste stream, while it requires approximately 25% of the solid waste budget to maintain.

• Devoting such a large percentage of the Program’s resources to monitoring and cleaning up the dumpsters prevents the Program from pursuing other waste handling options.
Finding

• The following cost and tonnage figures show how expensive it is to operate or allow for unstaffed, open 30 yard dumpsters.
• The churches and longhouses that have the smaller 20 yard, gated dumpster or the 1 ½ - 2 yard dumpsters have significantly less volumes of waste and lower costs.
• However, they are also smaller facilities and do not usually hold as large an event as say the White Swan Pavilion or the Toppenish Community Center. However, as noted by the solid waste staff, a large portion of the waste disposed in the dumpsters does not appear to be generated by the churches and longhouses.
## DUMPSTER TRACKING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Tonnage</th>
<th>Tip Fee</th>
<th>Haul Cost</th>
<th>Dumpster Rental</th>
<th>Labor</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toppenish LH</td>
<td>72.33</td>
<td>2,234.27</td>
<td>$2,533.68</td>
<td>$752.04</td>
<td>3,177.78</td>
<td>8,697.77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wapato LH</td>
<td>57.80</td>
<td>1,785.44</td>
<td>$2,322.54</td>
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<td>3,177.78</td>
<td>8,037.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>1910 S. Church S. C.Rd.*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,456.56</td>
<td>$217.92</td>
<td>3,177.78</td>
<td>4,852.26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satus S. Church In. C. Rd.*</td>
<td>3.37</td>
<td>104.09</td>
<td>$1,161.27</td>
<td>$601.56</td>
<td>3,177.78</td>
<td>5,044.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satus LH*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,638.00</td>
<td>$217.92</td>
<td>3,177.78</td>
<td>5,033.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSPavilion</td>
<td>66.96</td>
<td>2,068.39</td>
<td>$2,639.25</td>
<td>$752.04</td>
<td>3,177.78</td>
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<tr>
<td>WS Longhouse Mission Rd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I Shaker Church SP Rd.</td>
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<td>Toppenish CC</td>
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<td>2,535.45</td>
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<td>9,843.51</td>
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<td>91.12</td>
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<td>5,182.21</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>389.80</td>
<td>12,040.89</td>
<td>$20,830.32</td>
<td>$6,301.68</td>
<td>31,777.80</td>
<td>70,950.69</td>
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**TOPPENISH LONGHOUSE 241 ROBBINS ROAD**

**Period Covered:** 10/09 – 9/10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost Per Haul</th>
<th>Tipping fee/ton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost Per Haul</td>
<td>$105.57</td>
<td>$2,533.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tipping fee/ton</td>
<td>$30.89</td>
<td>$752.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonnage hauled</td>
<td>72.33</td>
<td>$2,234.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Est. Yearly Dumpster Rental</td>
<td></td>
<td>$5,519.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total est. Dumpster Cost</td>
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<td>$8,697.77</td>
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**Route/Maintenance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Min. 1 day week for 52 weeks</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Staff</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment - Bobcat</td>
<td>$13,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Est. Cost for all dumpsters</td>
<td>$28,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Est. Cost per site</td>
<td>$3,177.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Cost for Site</td>
<td>$8,697.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Image showing debris at the site with a note saying “TLH”.*
Toppenish Longhouse

FINDINGS/RECOMMENDATION

Toppenish Longhouse is a high use and high percentage of non-longhouse generated waste. The dumpster is hauled at a minimum twice a month. During the monitoring period, solid waste staff encountered a number of non tribal members utilizing the site. The site is signed informing the community that the dumpsters are for longhouse use only. The site is often over full and requires heavy maintenance two to three times a week.

**Recommendation:** Gate and fence the dumpster for longhouse use only.
## WHITE SWAN PAVILION

Period Covered 10/09 – 9/10

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Hauls</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost Per Haul</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$2,639.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tipping fee/ton</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonnage hauled</td>
<td>66.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$752.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total est. Dumpster Cost</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,459.68</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route/Maintenance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min. 1 day week for 52 weeks</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Staff</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$15,600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment - Bobcat</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$13,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Est. Cost for all dumpsters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$28,600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Est. Cost per site</strong></td>
<td><strong>28,600/9 sites</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$3,177.78</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Cost for Site</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The White Swan Pavilion is supposed to serve special planned events at the Facility. However, overtime it has evolved into an open, unsupervised dump. Observations from the solid waste staff showed the dumpster is primarily used for household waste. It also appears to be a magnet for large bulky wastes. Trash is often overflowing and thrown around the dumpster requiring the staff to travel out to the site to remove the overflow before the dumpster can be hauled. This site accounts for 18% of the dumpster monitoring and clean up costs.

**Recommendation:** The dumpster is not serving its intended use. It is a high health risk and very costly to maintain. The dumpster should be hauled away and only placed when a special event is planned.
White Swan Longhouse and Pavilion in the Background
TOPPENISH COMMUNITY CENTER

<table>
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Route/Maintenance

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Cost for Site</td>
<td>$9,843.51</td>
</tr>
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</table>
TOPPENISH COMMUNITY CENTER

FINDINGS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Toppenish Community (TCC) is a high use and constant illegal dump site. During the timeframe of this report the dumpsters were hauled 32 times. It is possible that the hauls would have been more if the SW crew did not remove the overflow volume and make a separate trip to the landfill for disposal. SW staff is called regularly to clean and tamp down the dumpster prior to being able to be hauled. Its location is close to the city of Toppenish. Like the Wapato Longhouse, it appears that the TCC dumpster serves as an overflow for the city’s residents. Its open and unstaffed operation is a magnet for large volumes of bulky, illegally dumped waste. The solid waste staff has stopped fully loaded trailers from dumping at this site. The site has been posted and Tribal Police have been supportive in responding to illegal dumping calls.

Recommendation: This site should be gated and locked for community center use only.
Toppenish Community Center

![Notice Signage](image.png)

- **No Dumping!**
- **This Dumpster Is For The Community Center Use Only**
- **All Violators Will Be Prosecuted**
- **Up To $5,000 Fine Plus Jail Time!**
- **No Public Dumping**
- **Report It! 865-2933**
- **For Garbage Pickup Please Call YWS 248-4213**

*NOV 7 2011*
Securing the Toppenish Community Center
Findings

- The churches, longhouses and community centers are in need of regular garbage collection. Unlike many businesses that utilize 30 yard dumpsters for garbage collection or special projects, these facilities are woven into the daily cultural practices of the people of the Yakama Nation.

- They have served and continue to serve as gathering places for significant life events and practices. Feasts, Pow Wows, and funerals, along with weekly services all require the handling of waste.

- Developing the appropriate level of service for the churches and longhouses and a permanent solution to illegal dumping has been elusive.
TODAY’S ACTIVITY

• What was Measurable:
  – Reduced dumping at the Churches and Longhouses
  – Reduced the number of hauls
  – Fuller loads
  – Down to one a month pick up
  – Reduced the staff time associated with cleaning the sites – down to once a week