



It's No Secret!
Get Connected!

If you haven't already, it's time to check out our all-new interactive website. Log on to www.KernCountyWaste.com to discover the Kern County Waste Management Department world.

This updated, online resource is packed with vital information on waste management topics including County disposal site locations and hours, acceptance criteria, sewer operations, household hazardous waste, educational opportunities and more. Topics are varied and informative.

Check us out today. Navigate around the site and learn about the programs and policies of waste disposal and recycling in Kern County.

Get connected at home, on your tablet, laptop or cell phone. **KernCountyWaste.com** - an easy, effective way to let you in on the topics of trash.

It's no secret!

Contact Us:

Kern County Recycling Hotline:
(661) 862-8979

Kern County Waste Management Department
Local: (661) 862-8900
Toll-Free: (800) 552-KERN (option 6)
(800) 552-5376 (option 6)
TTY ready: (800) 735-2929
Web site: www.KernCountyWaste.com

City of Bakersfield Solid Waste Division
Local: (661) 326-3114
(Mt Vernon Green Waste Facility & Metro Bakersfield Drop-Off Recycling Centers)
Web site: www.ci.bakersfield.ca.us

California Dept of Resources, Recycling & Recovery
Sacramento: (916) 322-4027
Web site: www.calrecycle.ca.gov

California Materials & Exchange (Cal-MAX)
Toll-Free (877) 520-9703
Web site: www.calrecycle.ca.gov/calmax



Kern County Waste Management
2700 M Street, Suite 500
Bakersfield, CA 93301



Newsletter of the Kern County Waste Management Department

Keeping Kern Cleaner



In early 2001, reports of illegal dump sites encompassing several acres, flooded the Waste Management Department (WMD) offices. In Lost Hills, two dumping areas yielded several hundred tons of trash and more than 125 wrecked cars and trucks. In Wasco, a dump site the size of a football field had been growing for years. Tires were piled off Cottonwood Road, appliances were stacked along Poso Creek and a gully outside of Rosamond held remnants of years gone by. (Photos can be found throughout the newsletter.)

The Department struggled to deal with the growing problem. A couple of guys with a pick up truck were no match for the dumping dilemma.

"The growing problem required action and a new way of doing business," stated WMD Director Doug Landon. "It was clear that illegal dumping was getting the best of us ... all of us. The County didn't have unlimited resources to throw at the problem so we had to be very creative and look beyond government for the answers." The strategy proved correct as the **KEEP KERN CLEAN** program took shape.

WMD enlisted the aid of a local non-profit organization to help tackle the problem. Community Clean Sweep (CCS) had been leading volunteers in Kern River and Downtown cleanup activities since the late 1980s. The group proved eager to help and have remained a partner ever since. "We learned, early on, that volunteers respond better to a nonprofit (in the lead) than to a government agency. So CCS became the 'face' of illegal dumping clean up activities for the County. They have trained and organized thousands of volunteers in hundreds of clean up events." During the last ten years, the **KEEP KERN CLEAN** effort has cleared away more than 1200 tons of illegally dumped trash.

Additional recycling programs and increased monetary remuneration for metals has also played a role in Keeping Kern Cleaner. "We see far less items, with a scrap metal value, dumped these days. Scavengers often sort through the site before we get there or they just aren't being illegally dumped in the first place," continued Landon.

But **KEEP KERN CLEAN** wasn't the only answer to the trashy troubles. In 2007, the Department (in cooperation with Kern County Roads) developed a second program: **KEEP KERN ROADS CLEAN**. This effort encourages individuals, families and groups to adopt a two-mile stretch of County road. Volunteers keep an eye on "their road" and clean up as necessary. To date, several hundred miles have been adopted. "**KEEP KERN ROADS CLEAN** has helped the County Roads Department immeasurably. We couldn't begin to pay for the time and energy of these terrific volunteers. My thanks to them all," said Craig Pope Kern County Roads Commissioner.

(Cover story continued) A tire disposal program (up to four tires can be thrown out each year, without cost, at local landfills) has knocked down the number of tires being tossed in fields. Throughout the County, Large Item Collection Events have curbed the lazy boy chairs landing in fields. In Metro Bakersfield, a Curbside Large Item Collection Program, managed by local waste haulers, makes it even easier to get rid of unwanted sofas and chairs.

"We've even addressed the problem of uncovered loads heading to area disposal sites. The **TARP YOUR TRASH** campaign raises awareness of the mandate to cover loads of garbage while traveling to local landfills." To kick off the campaign, WMD gave away blue tarps and warned customers that un-tarped loads would be grounds for a monetary fine. "Today, tarping has become second nature for the "regulars" at local disposal sites. The increased awareness, the tarp giveaway, and the potential for a fee at the landfill (for un-tarped loads) has made a difference."

The story wouldn't be complete without the inclusion of the County Code Compliance Division program. This small troupe of officers work tirelessly, with private contractors, to cleanup sites in rural areas or those with unsafe physical conditions. Chuck Lackey, Director of Engineering and Survey Services, believes that the ability to hire a contractor to clean-up dump sites is an important tool for the Division. "The financial support, from Waste Management, extends the reach and impact of the Code Compliance Division. This is especially true when we can't identify the responsible party - we can get the trash cleared away."

Overlying the mitigation programs is a constant layer of education. Waste Management Department Community Education and Outreach staff spend hours each year talking to people at conferences, fairs, community events and business expos in an effort to educate, educate, educate.

Special Projects Manager Aurora Rush knows that when people get tired of the message, they have finally heard it. "With so much information vying for people's attention, I have to use local media to promote our message. We have put up billboards and bus cards, created TV and radio spots, and developed an interactive website in order to let people know about the programs available to them." WMD also has an educational puppet show program in elementary schools. "THE CLEAN KIDS educates children on topics such as littering and recycling in a fun, easy-to-understand way. Teachers and students love it."

For those involved with illegal dumping mitigation, much has been accomplished. Can tires still be seen along roadways and mattresses in alleys? Sure. But for the most part, Kern is cleaner than it was ten years ago. We can't wait to see what the future holds.

Disposal Site Locations & Hours

Bena Landfill

17 miles east of Bakersfield, off Hwy. 58, at Tower Line Road
Open Daily: 8 AM to 4 PM

Boron Landfill

1/2 mile south of Boron, at 11400 Boron Avenue
Open: Sun, Mon, Tues & Thurs: 12 PM to 4 PM
Sat: 8 AM to 4 PM
Closed: Wed and Fri

Mojave-Rosamond Landfill

5 miles south of Mojave, 1 mile east of Hwy. 14, at 400 Silver Queen Road
Open: Sun, Wed, Fri: 8 AM to NOON
Mon and Sat: 8 AM to 4 PM
Closed: Tues and Thurs

Ridgecrest Landfill

5 miles southwest of Ridgecrest, 3301 Bowman Road
Open Daily: 8 AM to 4 PM

Shafter-Wasco Landfill

8 miles west of Shafter, off Lerdo Hwy. 1 mile north of Scofield Ave at 16721 Scofield Ave
Open Daily Sun: 10 AM to 2 PM
Mon - Sat: 8 AM to 4 PM

Taft Landfill

4 miles no. of Taft, 1 mile no. of Hwy. 119, at 13351 Elk Hills Rd.
Open: Sun, Mon, Wed, Fri and Sat
Sun: NOON to 4 PM
Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat: 8 AM to 4 PM
Closed: Tues and Thurs

Tehachapi Landfill

12001 Tehachapi Blvd., Tehachapi
Open: Sun, Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat
Mon, Wed, Fri and Sat: 8 AM to 4 PM
Sun: 8 AM to NOON
Closed: Tues and Thurs

Kern County Special Waste Facilities:

Metro Bakersfield Facility
4951 Standard Street, Bakersfield
Thursday - Saturday 8 AM until 4 PM

Mojave Facility
17035 Fynnin Street at the Mojave Airport
See KernCountyWaste.com for dates & times.

Ridgecrest Facility
3301 Bowman Road @ Ridgecrest Landfill
2nd Saturday of each month 9 AM - Noon

* County sites are closed on these holidays:
New Year's Day, Easter Sunday, 4th of July,
Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.



Doug Landon

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

It was Abraham Lincoln who said "...Government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the Earth." Underscoring the meaning of that beautiful prose is the **critical involvement of people**. Not just on the receiving end of government but on the giving end as well. I believe the best governance occurs when people are engaged and involved. In Waste Management issues, it's been my experience that the addition of people into problem-solving equations enables us to deliver the most efficient, effective services ... for the people.

This edition of WASTE WATCH brings my point full circle. A little more than a decade ago, the problem of illegal dumping was draining County resources and blighting communities. Illegally dumped furniture, appliances, tires and construction waste were taking over alleys, vacant lots, farm fields and roadsides. There simply wasn't enough time or money to have government staff clean it up.

We had to re-think the problem and re-think the solution. From tabletop discussions to public-private collaborations to volunteer engagement, we have developed solutions that work.

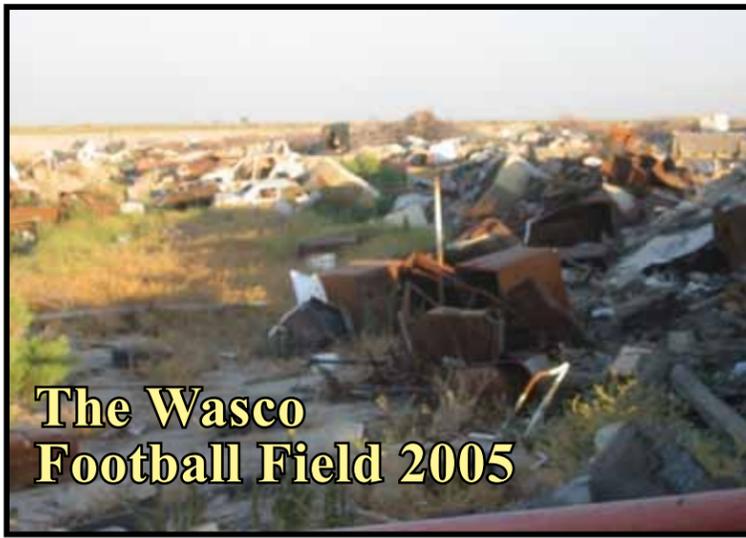
1. **KEEP KERN CLEAN**, our flagship program, inspires volunteers to cleanup illegally dumped trash in communities from Boron to Lost Hills;
2. **KEEP KERN ROADS CLEAN** encourages individuals and groups to adopt and keep clean a two-mile stretch of County road;
3. **CODE COMPLIANCE CLEAN UPS** is a collaborative arrangement with the County's Code Compliance Division and private clean-up crews to tackle more difficult or extremely rural dump sites;
4. **TARP YOUR TRASH**, an ongoing education program, encourages residents to tarp trash loads en route to area landfills;
5. **LARGE ITEM COLLECTION, RECYCLING and TIRE PROGRAMS** including FREE curbside Metro-Bakersfield pick-up of up to two (2) large items per month (managed by local trash haulers), acceptance of four (4) tires per year at local landfills, and recycling options that either pay for unwanted items or accept it without cost, have cut down on the incidence of illegal dumping.

These programs have evolved out of a problem-solving spirit of hundreds of residents wanting to do the right thing on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of people living in Kern County. In a very real way, this type of community involvement is the very best type of governance ... of the people, by the people and for the people.

President Lincoln was on to something.

Illegal Dumping MITIGATION

This illegal dump site, near Wasco, was dubbed "The Football Field" because of its size.



The Wasco Football Field 2005

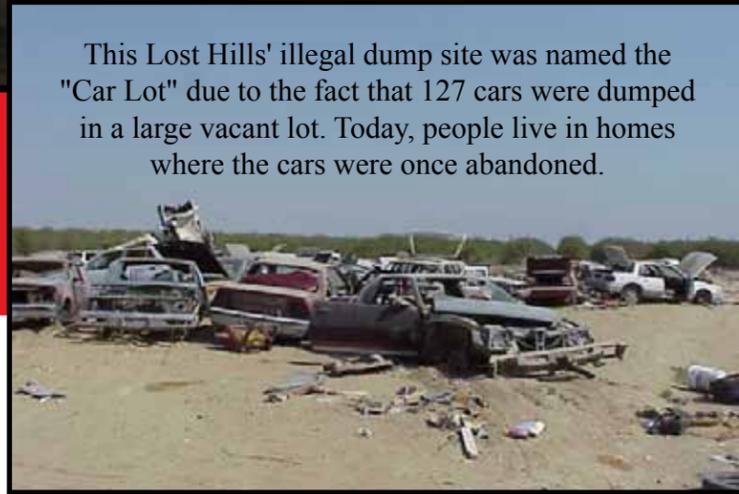


Wasco 2011

This Lost Hills' illegal dump site was named the "Car Lot" due to the fact that 127 cars were dumped in a large vacant lot. Today, people live in homes where the cars were once abandoned.



Lost Hills' Car Lot 2001



Lost Hills 2011



Poso Creek 2004



Poso Creek 2011



People & Partnerships

Without volunteers and resource donations, illegal dumping mitigation would be but a dream. Thousands have joined the effort to clear away hundreds-of-thousands of pounds of trash - illegally dumped throughout the County.

In addition to the volunteers, Kern County Waste Haulers continue to play a major role in clean-up activities. Without their help, through the donation of equipment, trash bins and waste hauling, our impact would have been much less.

We want to thank: **American Refuse, Benz Sanitation, Howard's Garbage, Price Environmental, Superior Sanitation, Thomas Refuse, Varner and Sons, Varner Bros. Inc., and Westside Waste** for their commitment to illegal dumping mitigation. They are crucial to our success.



Fish & Game 2006

The Fish & Game Site is property located off 7th Standard Road near Bakersfield. Appliances, tires, furniture and household trash were dumped on more than 100 acres of state owned land. This effort was a wonderful example of teamwork. After the clean-up, Fish & Game staff were able to fence off the property and make it an official Ecological Reserve. It has remained trash-free ever since.



Fish & Game 2011

