People dump and burn illegally for many reasons. Some do so to avoid the expense of proper disposal, because of the extra effort that disposal and recycling takes, or because of a tradition of burning and dumping their garbage. Some items are too large or bulky and the landfill is too far away. Some people actually believe that dumping and burning is proper management.

West Virginia has an estimated 15,000 illegal dumps. There is also a large amount of litter and debris along our highways and river banks that results from improper management of solid waste. The Department of Environmental Protection spends almost $1 million annually on dump and river cleanups. Also, many volunteer organizations, contractors and the Division of Recycling take steps to contribute to illegal dumping that results from improper management of solid waste. The Department of Environmental Protection also provides the following:

- Mandatory Garbage Disposal (WV Code 22C-4-10)

Highways spend time and money cleaning up illegal dumps. Solutions to our disposal problems include:

- ensuring that comprehensive disposal services are available in all areas
- making the public aware of the environmental and legal consequences of improper waste management
- using active enforcement policies
- instilling a sense of pride and personal accountability and understanding that improper waste management is an infringement upon the rights of others.

For more information contact: DEP Division of Land Restoration Visit our Web site @ wvdep.org or call us at (800) 322-5530

PROGRESS
If you’ll help, there’s hope!

Volunteer groups across West Virginia are helping the Department of Environmental Protection manage the illegal dumping crisis. Churches, schools and civic organizations are all involved.

Trash in streams can clog them, causing erosion and other water flow problems.

Litter and trash is unsightly and portrays a negative image.

Wildlife is endangered when animals consume or become entangled in the garbage.

Wastes that are hazardous further magnify water and air pollution problems.

Decaying garbage produces leachate and pollutes water.

Trash in streams can clog them, causing erosion and other water flow problems.

Litter and trash is unsightly and portrays a negative image.

Wildlife is endangered when animals consume or become entangled in the garbage.

Wastes that are hazardous further magnify water and air pollution problems.

Decaying garbage produces leachate and pollutes water.

Trash in streams can clog them, causing erosion and other water flow problems.

Litter and trash is unsightly and portrays a negative image.

Wildlife is endangered when animals consume or become entangled in the garbage.

Wastes that are hazardous further magnify water and air pollution problems.

Decaying garbage produces leachate and pollutes water.

Trash in streams can clog them, causing erosion and other water flow problems.

Litter and trash is unsightly and portrays a negative image.

Wildlife is endangered when animals consume or become entangled in the garbage.

Wastes that are hazardous further magnify water and air pollution problems.

Decaying garbage produces leachate and pollutes water.