

Why Litter Hurts:

- 535 miles of country roadways in Cowlitz County.
- In 2008 **194,484 pounds** of litter were removed from Cowlitz County roadways.
- Studies indicate that this is only 25%, or one quarter, of all litter on the roads.
- **Litter doesn't just stay put—it floats away, plugs our stormwater systems, harms fish and wildlife and can end up in the ocean.**
- Over \$4 million is spent annually statewide on litter reduction.



Contact Us!

Cowlitz County
Department of Public Works
1600 - 13th Ave South
Kelso, WA 98626
Project Manager: Amy Ammer
ammera@co.cowlitz.wa.us

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Kelso, WA 98626



Cowlitz County
Department of Public Works

Adopt-A-Road Program



Litter Removal Program

(360) 577-3030

www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/publicworks

Adopt-A-Road

In 2011 the Cowlitz County Commissioners asked the Department of Public Works to develop an Adopt-A-Road Program at the request of citizens. This program provides citizens with safety equipment, training, and disposal services for roadside litter pickup.

Adopt-A-Road programs have been very successful. Citizen groups have removed tons of garbage from roadways and improved their communities. Consider the following benefits to individuals, communities, and businesses:



Impact of Litter

What is the cost of litter?

- Litter attracts more littering. 15% of littering is attracted by existing visible litter.
- Property values decrease in areas with high litter.
- People avoid areas of high litter for outdoor recreation.
- Clean up costs to public agencies are high, detracting from the development of other public services.



How Do I Adopt-A-Road?

If you would like to adopt a Cowlitz County Road, the process is simple.

- Set up a group—an individual, family, group of coworkers or other.
- Apply to Department of Public Works. You'll need a group name and an idea of what road you want to patrol.
- You'll be asked to clean at least one mile of road two times per year for two years.
- Department of Public Works will provide safety training and supplies as well as trash pickup and disposal.
- Two signs with your group's name will be placed on the road you have adopted.

BENEFITS

Individual

- Community beautification
- Civic pride
- Good exercise
- Fun!

Community

- Increased aesthetic appeal
- Community pride
- Friendlier community space
- Increased health of fish and wildlife

Organization/Business

- Free advertising
- Cost effective recognition
- Display of organizational citizenship
- Teambuilding activity

