

Washington State Litter Facts

The following items are littered on interstates, state routes, and county roads each year.

- 488,000,000 cigarette butts
- 840 tons of organic material
- 773 tons of construction demolition debris
- 749 tons of glass beverage containers (1,873 cubic yards)
- 671 tons of paper products – including 94 tons of paper packaging, 92 tons of newspaper and magazines, and 102 tons of fast food items
- 505 tons of metal and plastic automotive parts
- 470 tons of other metal scrap
- 403 tons of tires and rubber automotive parts
- 331 tons of furniture, mattresses, and appliances
- 58 tons of plastic lids and fast food containers
- 14 tons or 800 cubic yards of PET plastic beverage containers

What Youth Have to Say About EYC

“When we drove by places where we had picked up litter, it was a great feeling to know I was a part of making it cleaner.” *Spokane Crewmember*

“EYC helped me to learn about how I can make a difference regarding the environment.” *Tacoma Crewmember*

“What I liked the best was meeting new people and getting the experience to work, picking up trash, working as a team.” *Yakima Crewmember*

For more information on the Ecology Youth Corps program contact the EYC Coordinator nearest you:

Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 – 160th Ave SE
Bellevue WA 98008-5452
Phone: 425-649-7048

Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
PO Box 47775
Lacey WA 98504-7775
Phone: 360-407-6351
Fax: 360-407-6305

Department of Ecology
Central Regional Office
15 West Yakima Ave Ste #200
Yakima WA 98902-3387
Phone: 509-454-7209

Department of Ecology
Eastern Regional Office
N 4601 Monroe
Spokane WA 99205-1295
Phone: 509-329-3506

EYC Website:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/eyc>

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Jobs For Youth



Doing Our Part to Keep Washington Clean

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What is Ecology Youth Corps?



A Youth Employment Program

The Ecology Youth Corps (EYC) is Washington State's largest youth employment program. Every year up to 350 teens are hired statewide to provide an important service to their community. Youth who are hired receive a paycheck and gain valuable job skills, safety awareness, an environmental education, and work experience to add to a resume.

A Successful Litter Pick-Up Program

EYC has removed litter throughout the state of Washington since 1976. Our crews pick up approximately 1,200,000 pounds of litter a year and recycle just under 200,000 pounds of materials.

An Environmental Education Program

In addition to providing an all important community service, EYC youth learn about the environment. Many crews have the opportunity to go on educational field tours of landfills, compost facilities, wildlife centers, materials recovery centers, and waste-to-energy plants. Crews may also have special environmental education lessons on litter prevention, waste reduction and recycling, salmon and endangered species, sustainability, and other environmental issues and solutions.

There are two types of EYC crews that operate during the year:

Summer Youth Crew members range from age 14-17 and pick up litter along the shoulders of interstates, state highways, city and county roads, and interchanges, as well as in public off-road areas such as parks, school-grounds, and fish and wildlife areas. These crews generally work one 4-week session, with a complete turnover of crews occurring mid-summer.



Median Crew members are 18 years and older and are responsible for cleaning more challenging roadway areas such as medians, complex interchanges, and high traffic areas. These crews work mainly in spring and fall and occasionally in the summer.



Safety is our #1 Priority

Our EYC Supervisors undergo extensive training in a week-long orientation and safety program where they learn first aid and CPR, hazardous material recognition, highway safety procedures, defensive driving, and emergency preparedness. Youth are also trained in safety procedures before and while working. Routine safety meetings are held throughout the week, and EYC Administrators visit each crew regularly to ensure all crews are operating at optimum safety levels.

How is the Ecology Youth Corps Funded?

The Washington Waste Reduction, Recycling and Model Litter Control Act, RCW 70.93.180, provides funding for the Ecology Youth Corps through a litter tax levied on various manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers throughout Washington State. Items taxed are products that tend to become litter such as fast food and beverage containers, tobacco products, paper products, non-drug sundry items, and others.

