

Public Education Measurement Effort Cigarette Litter Reduction Pilot Study

Attachment B17

Attachment B17. Public Education Measurement Effort – Cigarette Litter Reduction Pilot Study

Cigarette litter is a common problem facing communities as it is often washed off streets and sidewalks into the local stormwater system only to become mistaken food by wildlife or leach contaminants into the water. The City implemented a cigarette litter pilot study in downtown Tacoma encompassing the FD3A drainage basin (42 acres). The objective is to monitor the effect of the public education and cigarette litter collection efforts through analysis of DEHP in the stormwater sediment collected via sediment traps and cigarette litter surveys.

Thirty-three businesses within the study area participated to some degree and of those businesses, 16 agreed to place and maintain cigarette litter receptacles with few businesses declining to participate. The City also installed and maintains 18 “public” cigarette litter receptacles. Personal ashtrays, posters, business cards, and handbill flyers continue to be distributed as part of the public education effort. A website was created to support these efforts and provide recognition to the participants. The results of the cigarette litter surveys to date are as follows:

Survey Date	Number of Cigarette Butts Counted
October 2006	2900
March 2007	3400
August 2007	7800
November 2007	2900
January 2008	3100
March 2008	2156

The study ended with the collection of the sediment traps in March/April 2008. A final report will be completed in 2009 once the sediment trap data is validated.