



Tennessee's Positive Approach to Litter Control

TN Litter Grant Program is comprehensive litter collection program that works!

- In 1979, the TN Legislature put a moratorium on litter control/bottle bill proposals to comprehensively study options. Through the "Safe Growth Plan for Tennessee" in 1980, TN Legislature passed a specialty tax on malt beverage and soft drink industries (§57-5-201 and §67-4-402) to fund a comprehensive, county-based litter abatement program (§41-2-123) for the collection of litter along roadways.
- Over a three-year period, TDOT phased into the Litter Grant Program an education component to teach litter prevention. Counties are required to expend 15% to 30% on education programs addressing students, adults, media, government and/or business. Program manual and education guides were distributed (1996) and each county submits an annual plan of work for collection and for litter prevention education. Keep America Beautiful, Inc. and Keep Tennessee Beautiful do not advocate a "product solution" for the litter issue because the issue is social – **littering behavior** – and funds should go for prevention education – **teach the child and retrain the adult** – for responsible handling of all solid waste.
- **TN Litter Grant Program allows prisoners to perform community services.** LGP grant allows prisoners sentenced (§40-23-104 and §40-35-311) to county workhouse to work on county roads to pick up litter and trash. For each day worked, the prisoner's sentence is reduced by two days (§41-2-123(3)). This has three-fold benefit 1) productive community work by prisoners, 2) cleaner roadsides in community, and 3) reduce workhouse crowding
- **TN Litter Grant Program will sunset if mandatory deposit legislation passed.** TN Code §67-4-402 allows in comptrollers notes that taxing authorization for Litter Grant Program will stop on June 30 of any year that state or federal deposit legislation takes effect. The current LGP is authorized until June 30, 2010.