



## Community Development Grant Success Story

# Using Surveillance to Deter Illegal Dumping at Recycling Collection Centers

Annually, local law enforcement officers in Ohio investigate a growing number of cases regarding illegal dumping at recycling drop-off locations. If these cases are taken to court, violators could receive a fine, or in more serious cases, could face jail time, probation and/or community service.

### Challenge

Illegal dumping at recycling drop-off sites continues to be a substantial problem for communities, particularly for the more remote sites in rural areas. Not only does the illegal dumping offset available space designated for recyclable materials, but it can also render the existing materials as unrecyclable or unusable.

With an increase in recycling the last several years, the Lawrence-Scioto Solid Waste District has also experienced an increase of contamination, such as: tires, furniture, gas tanks, mattresses, yard waste and other non-acceptable items.

### Solution

The Lawrence-Scioto Solid Waste District responded to this problem by installing surveillance cameras at recycling centers at two locations. The state-of-the-art surveillance cameras include HD video quality, night vision, 360-degree rotation and license plate recognition software. A \$20,000 community development grant from Ohio EPA's Recycling and Litter Prevention (R&LP) program helped pay for the start-up costs associated with the surveillance camera program. "The cameras have proven to be a tremendous asset in the successful prosecution of our cases," said Dan Palmer, Director of Lawrence-Scioto Solid Waste District.

### Resources

Through the R&LP community development grant, Ohio EPA can offer grants of up to \$50,000 per applicant for the purchase of equipment, materials and supplies for on-going litter collection efforts conducted on public lands and waterways, and surveillance cameras for litter law enforcement efforts. Community development grants focus on financially supporting infrastructure development that targets illegal dumping and inappropriate disposal of litter. For more information about Ohio EPA's community development grants, please visit [epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/Grants.aspx](http://epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/Grants.aspx) or contact Chet Chaney at (614) 728-0043.



*Unauthorized dumping of solid wastes such as furniture, mattresses and household trash at recycling centers is becoming a significant issue for many communities.*

### Project Specifics

#### Location

Lawrence and Scioto Counties.

#### Details

Purchased surveillance cameras.

#### Funding

\$30,000 (\$10,000 from the solid waste district and \$20,000 from the Ohio EPA's Recycling and Litter Prevention grant program).

#### Environmental Impacts

Deters illegal dumping at recycling sites.

#### Economic Impacts

Due to the success of this program, surrounding solid waste districts are assessing their illegal dumping issues and are considering starting their own surveillance programs.