



TIDY Northern Ireland LITTER FACT SHEETS



In 2006, 13% of streets in Northern Ireland failed to meet the requires standards of cleanliness



Public Perceptions in Northern Ireland:

- Cigarette Litter is the most common form of litter in Northern Ireland. This is closely followed by chewing gum, and then confectionery litter.
- The public regard Dog Fouling as the worst form of litter
- Less than half of the public know that the fine for littering is £50.
- 38% of people believe there are places where it is acceptable to drop litter.
- Only 42% of the population believe they live in a clean country.

Cigarette Litter:

- Cigarettes have been the number one form of litter worldwide for the past 17 years.
- Throughout the world over 4.5 trillion butts are discarded every year.
- Cigarettes butts can smolder for up to three hours when thrown from a vehicle. Globally, every 12 minutes a fire starts due to littering.
- Cigarette filters have been found in the stomachs of fish, birds, whales and other marine creatures, who mistake them for food
- 81% of Northern Ireland's town and city centres are covered with discarded cigarette butts.
- Two thirds of the province's play parks and recreational areas are strewn with cigarette litter.



Litter & Animals:

- Over 69,000 animals were killed or injured by litter last year in Britain.
- The rat population has boomed to 60 million due to the huge amounts of litter. This means there are now almost as many rats as people in the UK.



Land Use Types:

- Peripheral Retail Developments are the worst areas for litter in N. Ireland
- Low Density Residential areas are the best areas for litter in N. Ireland
- 57% of rural areas and 67% of main roads within Northern Ireland are polluted with confectionery litter.

Litter Fines:

- Belfast City Council handed out 1,500 fines for littering in 2006 and employs five enforcement officers and three dedicated litter wardens. Derry City Council handed out 98 fines for littering last year and employs one enforcement officer.

Degradability:

- Degradability depends on climate and circumstances, but under unfavourable conditions estimated time spans can be as long as:-

Plastic bottles - indefinitely

Aluminium cans 80-100 years

Tin cans 50 years

Glass indefinitely

Plastic bags 10-20 years

Cigarette butts up to 2 years

Orange peel/banana skins up to 2 years

For more information, visit our website at www.tidynorthernireland.org