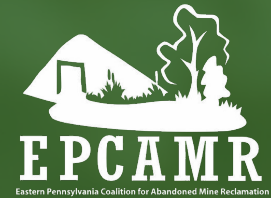




EPCAMR Regional Community Assessment on Illegal Dumping of Tires & Trash





Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation



**Keep PA
Beautiful**

ILLEGAL DUMPING FORUM: LET'S TALK TRASH & TIRES



DATE:
APRIL 11, 2023

TIME:
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

PLACE:
LUZERNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
EDUCATIONAL CENTER, HAZLETON

Agenda

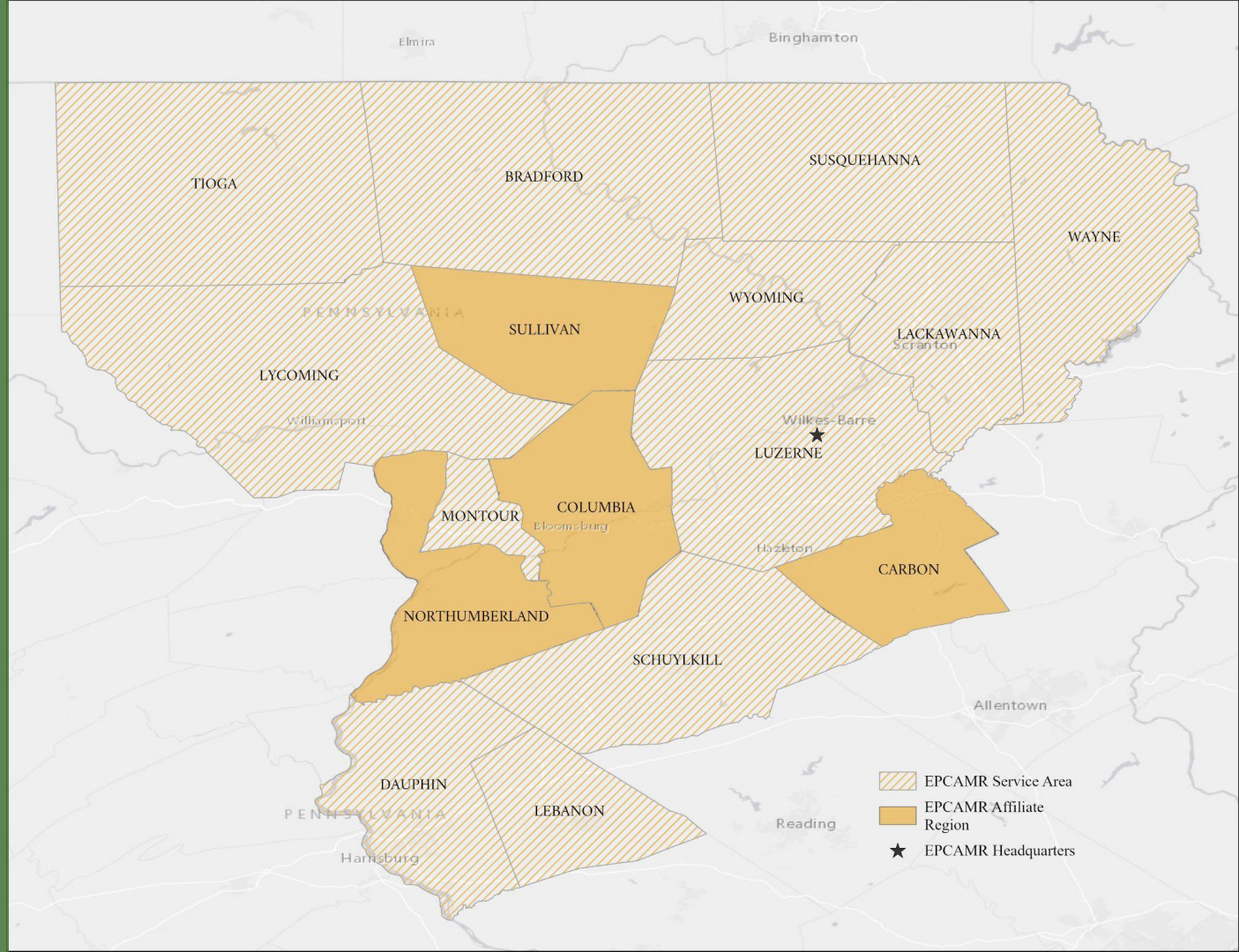
Presentations & Discussion

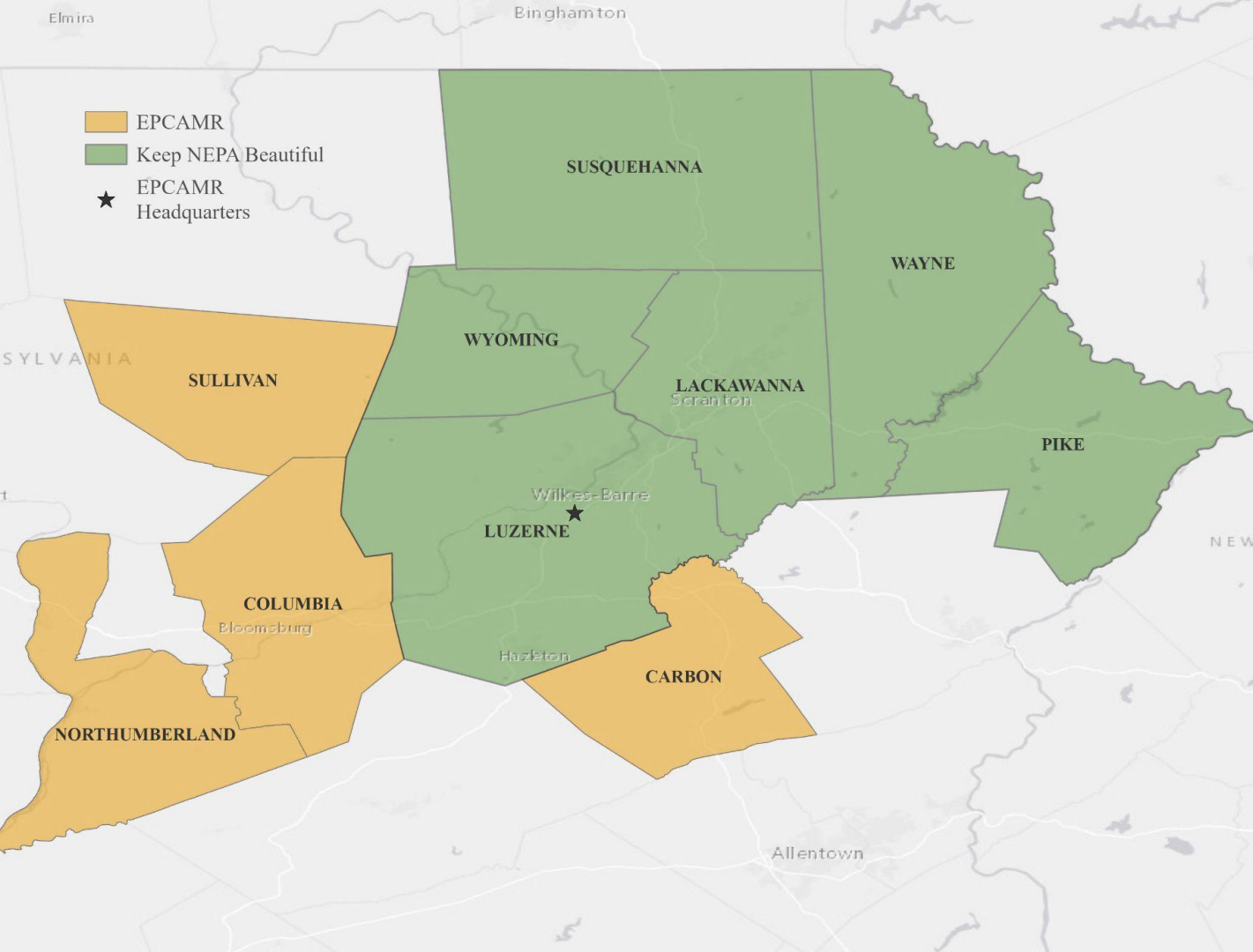
<p>Welcome, Sign-in & Introductions (9AM)</p>	<p>EPCAMR ILLEGAL DUMPING FORUM: LET'S TALK TRASH & TIRES</p>
<p>Opening Remarks (9:15AM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bobby Hughes- EPCAMR Executive Director- Welcome Recognition of Sponsors & Exhibitors Overview of Forum
<p>EPCAMR Community Assessment, Cleanup Efforts, and GIS Analysis (9:15-9:45AM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of EPCAMR's Community Assessment & History of Cleanup Efforts Maria Gered- EPCAMR GIS Watershed Outreach Specialist: GIS Analysis on Environmental Risks of Illegal Dumping in EPCAMR Region Summary of Isabella Bufalino's Student Survey (King's College): Results of Tire Dealers and Used Tire Garages in Luzerne & Columbia Counties
<p>Motor Vehicle Code (MVC) Regulations (9:50-10:05AM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sergeant John Vanathy, Hanover Twp. Police Department Understanding the Motor Vehicle Code (MVC) Regulations on littering/dumping
<p>Introduction to PennEnviroScreen Tool (10:10-10:30AM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jordi Comas, North Central Region PA DEP Office of Environmental Justice Demonstration of PennEnviroScreen GIS tool
<p>Break</p>	
<p>Luzerne Conservation District Mosquito Virus Program (10:45-11AM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keith George- Luzerne Conservation District Deputy Director Discussion on West Nile & James River Virus Program & Cleanups
<p>Columbia County Recycling & Cleanups (11:05-11:25AM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charles Fritz, Columbia County Recycling Coordinator Columbia County Programs related to Recycling & Cleanups
<p>Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau Beautification Efforts (11:30-11:50AM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David "Otto" Kurecian, Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau (CMVB) Assistance provided to communities by the CMVB

<p>Columbia County Volunteers (12-12:15PM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tanya Nebroski- Columbia County Volunteer Organizer The need for volunteers and access to resources and projects
<p>City of Scranton Volunteers (12:15-12:25PM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rashida Lewis, NEPA Pan-African Coalition, Lackawanna County The need for volunteers and access to resources and projects
<p>Intro to Office of Environmental Justice and Public Participation (12:25-12:35PM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maria Tevera Vichis, Northeast Regional Coordinator for PA DEP Office of Environmental Justice
<p>Lunch (12:30-1PM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> THANK YOU TO LUNCH SPONSORS (Amazon Northeastern PA Community Fund, Earth Conservancy, The Tire Guys, Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (WVSA), Smith's New & Used Tires, & Luzerne County Visitors Bureau)
<p>Keep PA Beautiful Programs & New Affiliate Announcement (1:05-1:30PM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kylie McCutcheon, Keep PA Beautiful, Affiliate Coordinator KPB Programs Overview Young Ambassadors Program & Camera Loaner Surveillance Program Open Your Eyes to Litter (OYEL) Activity Booklets Rebranding Recent Research Reports Announcement of new Affiliate PG in Northeast PA!
<p>EPCAMR Progress on OYEL Activity Books & Teacher Guides (1:35-1:55PM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laura Rinehimer, EPCAMR Environmental Education Specialist Overview on Progress on OYEL Booklets & Teacher Guides
<p>North Branch Land Trust Litter Free Campaign & Program (2-2:20PM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leah Malarkey, NBLT Environmental Education Coordinator Highlights of the Litter-Free Campaign & Other NBLT PGs
<p>Sierra Club NE Chapter Projects Update (2:25-2:40PM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Markieann Muncie, Sierra Club NEPA Group Political Co-Chair Chapter Project Updates
<p>EPCAMR Volunteer Opportunities (2:45-2:55PM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark Jones-AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), Community Engagement & Development Coordinator Volunteer Opportunities with EPCAMR
<p>Closing Remarks & Special Giveaway to Attendees (while supplies last) (2:55-3PM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bobby Hughes Call to Action Brainstorm List of Recommendations to Solutions and Ideas Write on Note Pads/Note Cards with suggested needs and possible Solutions/Ideas Promote Future Cleanups

Proposed counties of primary focus

- Carbon
- Columbia
- Northumberland
- Sullivan

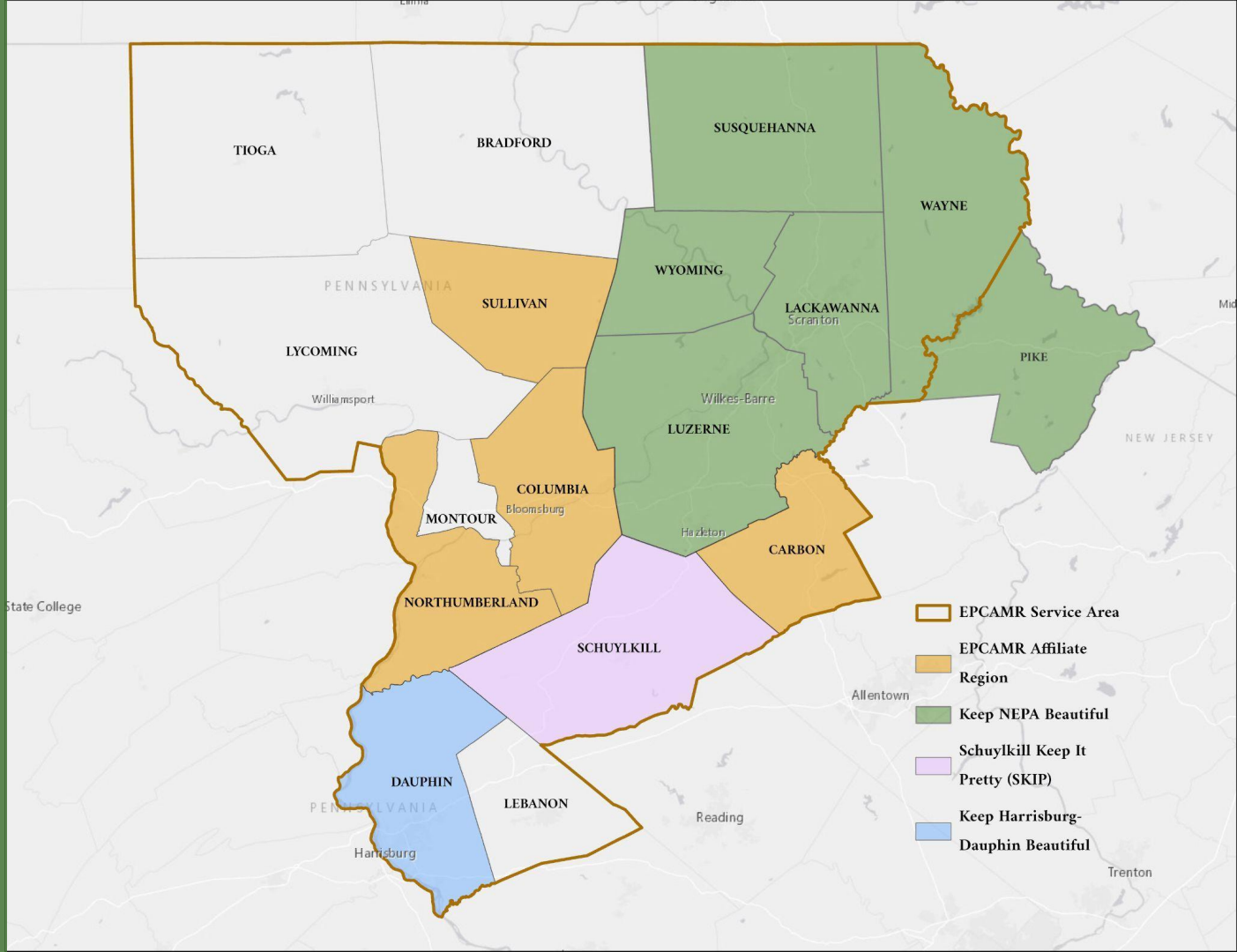




Complementary Supporting Role

Support and partner with “Keep Northeastern Pennsylvania Beautiful,” a KPB affiliate led by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council’s NE Office, based in Luzerne County, and serving 6 counties

Other KPB affiliates within EPCAMR Region



Community Image

Positives:

- Spirit of neighbor helping neighbor (ex: “Valley with a Heart”)
- Good, safe place to raise a family
- Strong work ethic
- High level of volunteerism among community members

Negatives:

- Lack of economic opportunity resulting in “brain drain”
- Mine-scarred landscapes
- Polluted waterways from AMD, stormwater, agricultural impacts
- Perception of the region as “behind the times”
- Apathy towards the environment



Litter Prevention and Abatement

In Northeast Pennsylvania's coal communities, illegal dumping has been a persistent problem for decades.

Abandoned mine lands, which have been neglected for years, are often targeted for additional abuse as “dumping grounds” for fly-by-night contractors, disreputable haulers, and residents who want to avoid – or can't afford – disposal & recycling fees.

Illegal dumping poses health and safety risks. It has been blamed in some cases for sparking or contributing to underground mine fires.





Depending on the area, litter education programs are typically conducted by county recycling coordinators, county conservation districts, certain nonprofit organizations, and grassroots community organizations such as “People Against Litter” and the “Bloomsburg Community Creek Cleanup.”

Many groups within the four counties have been participants in “Pick Up Pennsylvania” or other anti-litter activities.

State codes and regulations apply across the region, but local ordinances vary

Existing code related to litter prevention:

- The PA Vehicle Code

(Title 75, Chapter 37 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes § 3709)

- More codes on KPB's site:

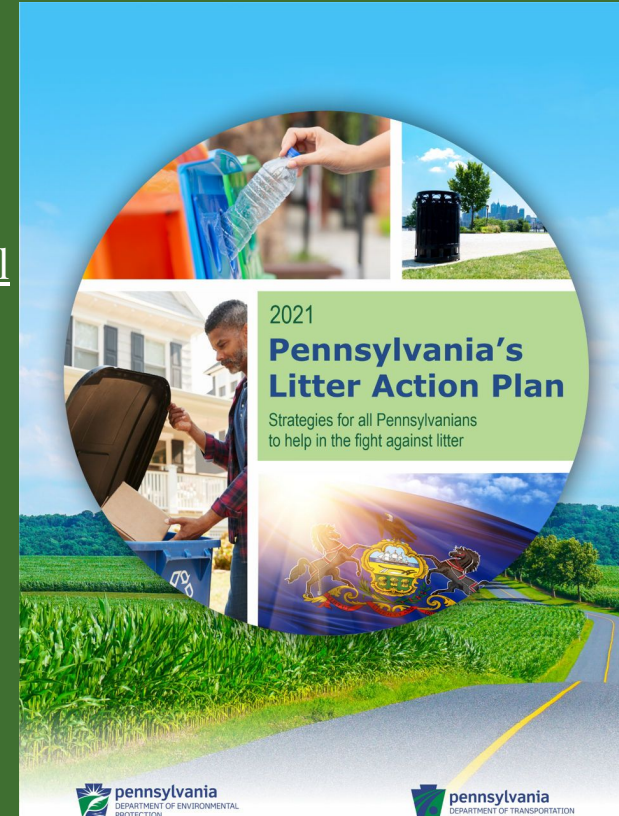
Pennsylvania Littering and Illegal Dumping Laws – Keep PA Beautiful

Examples of local rules:

- Bloomsburg's littering and Dumpster regulations
- Shamokin dumping and littering regulations

Statewide anti-litter programs:

- DEP's Litter Action Plan
- DCED's Pennsylvania Fights Dirty



Community Beautification and Greening

Across the 4-county affiliate territory, many players get involved in beautification and parks/recreation, ranging from county governments to civic clubs and neighborhood groups

Examples:

- [Carbon County Greenways, Trails and Open Space Plan](#), adopted in 2025
- [Mount Carmel Community Garden's Facebook page](#)
- [Master Gardeners of Sullivan County](#)



Waste Reduction and Recycling

Primary contacts for solid waste management are usually the county and municipal public works departments.

Ordinances differ across municipalities, and access to transfer stations, curbside waste collection, and special collection for hard-to-discard items vary based on community population size and other variables.

Example of solid waste ordinance:

- Penn Forest Township in Carbon County ... requirement for each household to purchase a garbage permit or show contract with licensed private hauler



Recycling Programs

The general sense is that participation in recycling programs – among schools, public venues, and even individual residents – has waned in recent years as recycling markets declined and certain communities scaled back their programs. See [Northeast Recycling Council report](#)

Contamination and lack of recycling know-how among the public also limit the programs' effectiveness, according to [industry watchers](#).

Snapshot of recycling in 3 counties in the NE:
[Recycling](#)



Community Stewardship

Across the 4 counties, there are communities with active volunteer bases – especially those more urban locations with colleges/universities, schools, and places of worship that encourage community engagement

The spirit of volunteerism is active in many rural areas as well

Volunteer with EPCAMR [here!](#)



EPCAMR's Enormous Impact & Leverage in our Region

- Over nearly 30 years, EPCAMR and its volunteers have collected and recycled:
 - 8,547 tires
 - 402,486 lbs of trash
- They have worked alongside 1,635 volunteers for a total of 269 hours.
 - According to the current national value of volunteer time, the total value of EPCAMR volunteer time is \$171,783.



Amazon Community Foundation Grant

What we've accomplished so far...in Fall of 2025
through Early February 2026.

- Dundee Rd Cleanup along Nanticoke Creek
- Little Wapwallopen Creek Cleanup
- King's College student survey of Tire Shops & Garages
Disposal & Recycling of Tires
- Communications with Columbia & Luzerne County
potential partners on future cleanup sites
- Applied to become a KPB Affiliate
- Talled historical EPCAMR Cleanup totals of volunteers,
cleanups, hours, & value of volunteers
- Creation of draft Story Map on Trash & Tire Cleanups
- Planning for Illegal Dumping: Talking Trash & Tires
Forum on April 11th
- EPCAMR Volunteer Safety Orange Shirts Printed
- Native Wildflower Seed Mixes Ordered
- Volunteer banner designed by Diamond Valley Marketing

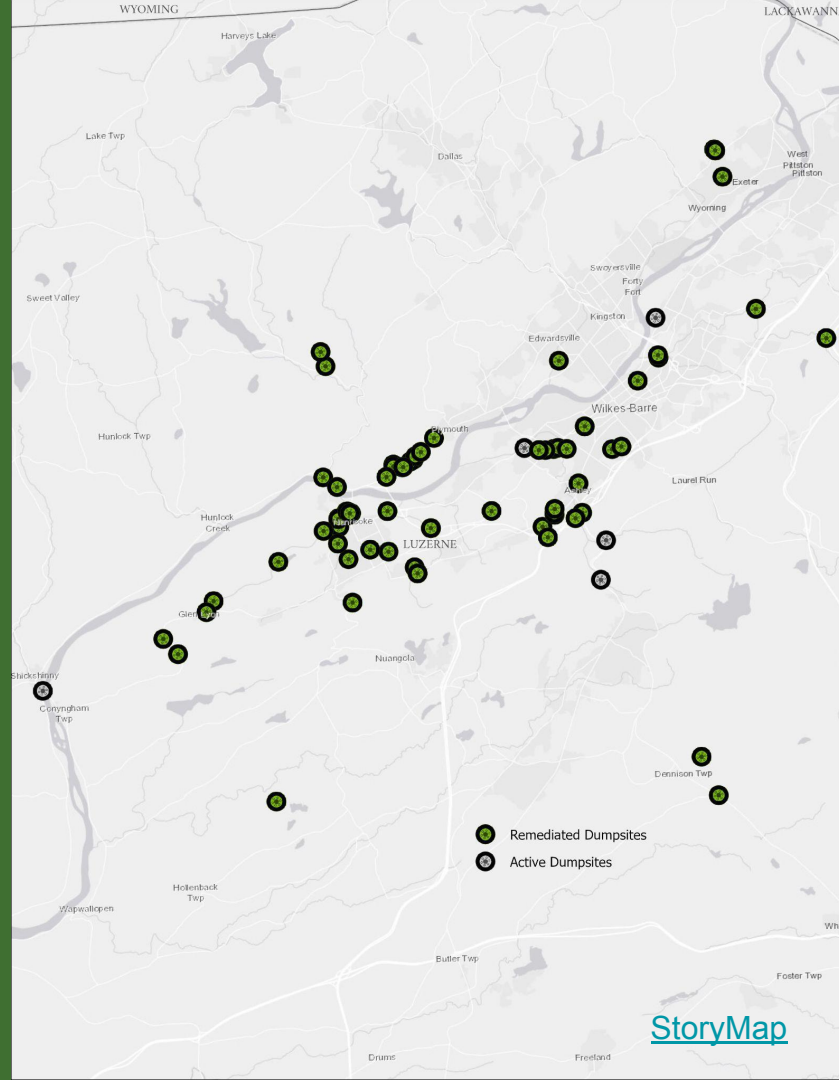
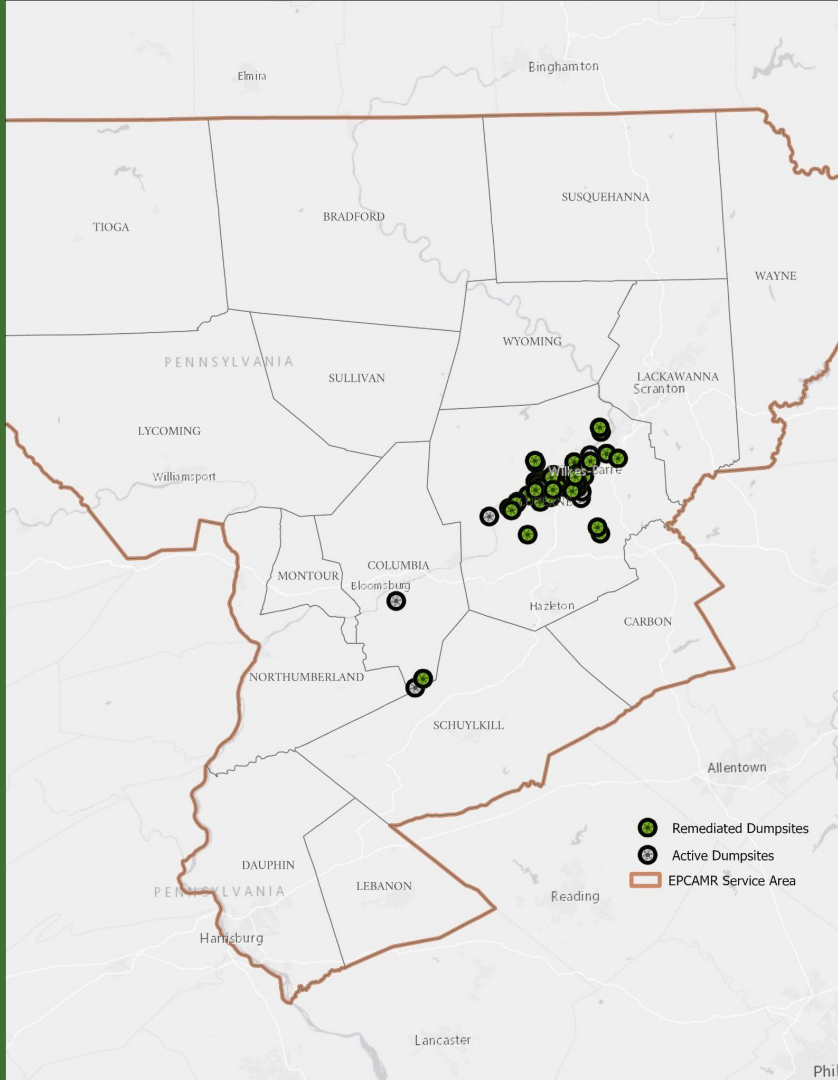




King's College Winter 2025 Survey of Tire Dealerships & Garages

Results

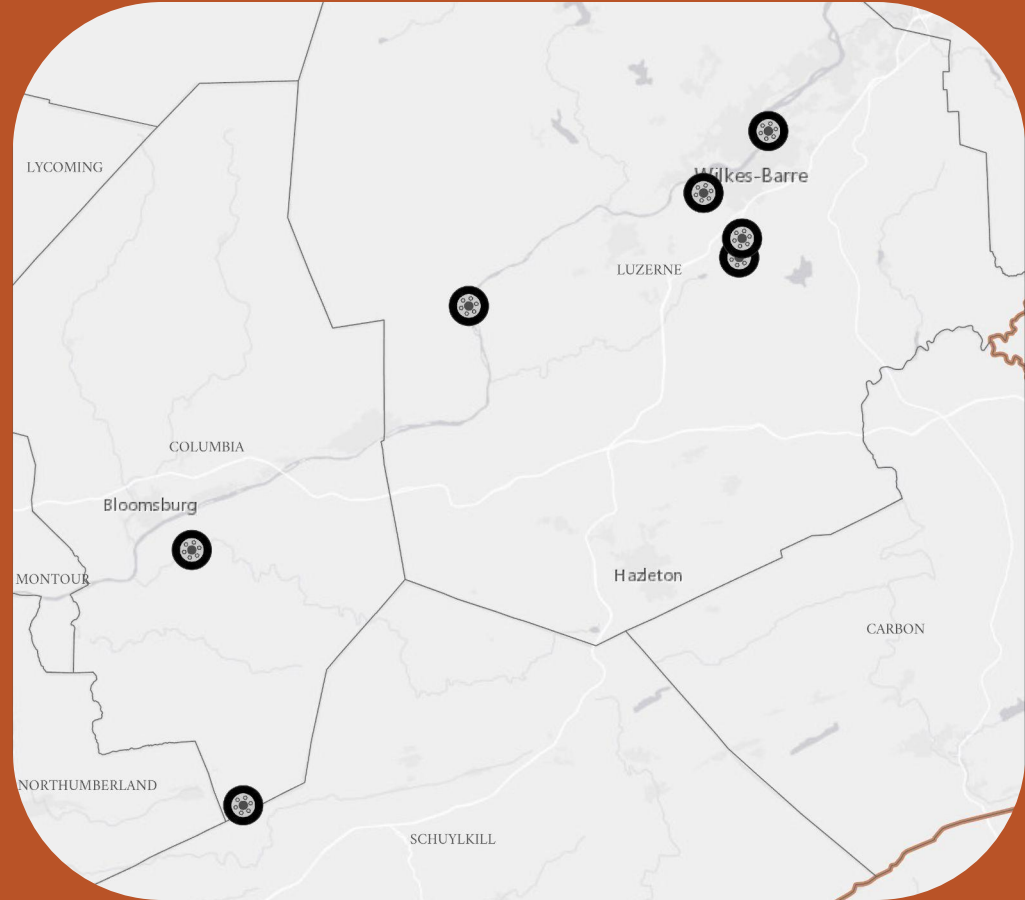
- 9 businesses responded
- Larger garages have reputable recycling companies, smaller ones may not
- Most community members are not interested in finding new ways to recycle tires
- Reception was often rude & dismissive of student survey



Amazon Community Foundation Grant

Moving ahead in Spring/Summer 2026

- Survey of more site locations (Site assessment survey)
- Pine Run Headwaters Cleanup on PA DCNR Crystal Lake Tract
- Solomon Creek AMD Boreholes Cleanup
- Shickshinny Creek Watershed Cleanup along Utility ROW along SR 11
- Snake Rd., Deer Rd., Tomhicken Rd., and Sugar Notch Run Cleanups
- Town of Bloomsburg Cleanup
- Illegal Dumping: Talking Trash & Tires Forum around Earth Week in April 2026
- Expansion of used and new tire dealer survey online



Thank You to Our Sponsors!



● Closed

Amazon Northeastern Pennsylvania Community Fund

US\$250,000 · Luzerne & Columbia Counties, Pennsylvania

This fund will help you start or expand a community project in Luzerne or Columbia County. This initiative is part of Amazon's long-standing commitment to being a good neighbor by supporting and helping deliver innovative programs that will have a lasting impact in communities where Amazon has a presence.

[View the list of awardees](#)



Illegal Dumping: Let's Talk Trash and Tires

A discussion about illegal dumping in Northeastern Pennsylvania, its health risks, and strategies for effective enforcement and prevention.

- When: April 11, 2026
- Where: LCCC Educational Conference Center
- Exhibitors:
 - Keep PA Beautiful
 - PA DCNR
 - PEC Northeast Office
 - North Branch Land Trust
 - Nanticoke Conservation Club
 - Earth Conservancy
 - Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority
 - And more!





Affiliation Benefits

- Statewide network of peer organizations
- Access to tools & resources
- Brand affiliation
- Opportunity to apply for grants
- Communication with other Affiliates
- Open Your Eyes to Litter Booklets for Youth and Teacher Curriculum Guides (updated by EPCAMR)
- Camera Loaner Program





EPCAMR KPB Affiliate Advisory Committee

- Luzerne Co. Conservation District
- Carbon Co. Conservation District
- Columbia Co. Conservation District
- Sullivan Co. Conservation District
- Northumberland Co. Conservation District
- Pennsylvania Environmental Council
- Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority
- Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance
- Catawissa Creek Restoration Association