

---

 Department of Local Affairs


## Colorado Waste Tire Program

The Colorado Waste Tire Program, as created by state statute and administered by the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), is intended to encourage the disposal, recycle or reuse of illegally dumped tires and to encourage the recycling or reuse of waste tires. The program has a three-pronged approach:

1. The Tire Cleanup and Processing Grant for Counties and Municipalities;
2. The Recycling Incentives Program for Purchasing and Using Recycled Waste Tire Products in Public Projects; and,
3. The End User and Processor Partial Reimbursement Program.

### Waste Tire Cleanup and Processing Grant Program for Counties and Municipalities

The Colorado General Assembly passed legislation in 1995 (HB 95-1238) C.R.S. 24-32-114 (1) (a), concerning the cleanup of stored or illegally disposed waste tires. The General Assembly further amended the Waste Tire Cleanup Program in 2001 (HB 01-1018). The statutory authority for the Cleanup Program is designed to provide grants to municipalities or counties for the removal of waste tires that have been disposed of illegally, and to encourage recycling and reuse of the waste tires. Grant funds can be used to pay for the removal, recycling and transport of waste tires to a state or county approved storage, disposal or recycling facility.

The purpose of the Cleanup grant program is twofold:

1. To clean up and remove the maximum number of illegally disposed tires in Colorado, using the best methods available, preferably recycling or reuse; and,
2. To provide partial reimbursement that encourages the processing of raw waste tires that are located at either a state, county, or municipal owned and operated or approved storage or disposal facility. Financial assistance is distributed to county or municipal grantees by the state to support these efforts.

### Recycling Incentives Program for Purchasing and Using Recycled Waste Tire Products in Public Projects

The Colorado General Assembly passed legislation in 1998 (SB 98-198), C.R.S. 24-32-114 (1) (b) (i) concerning tire recycling and re-use programs. The purpose of this program is to encourage the beneficial reuse and recycling of Colorado waste tires by providing incentives to counties, municipalities, special districts, school districts, and state agencies to purchase products made from Colorado-generated recycled or reused waste tires in their public projects.

### End User and Processor Partial Reimbursement Program

The Colorado General Assembly passed legislation in 1998 (HB 98-1176) creating the End User Program, C.R.S. 24-32-114 (1) (c), as amended. The intent of this program is to assist businesses that utilize tire recycling and reuse technologies to become economically viable. The General Assembly further amended the Waste Tire Statute in 2001 (HB 01-1018), in 2003 (HB 03-1329) which added \$0.25 for the End User and Recycling programs, in 2007 (HB 07-1288) which added \$.50 to the waste tire program with \$0.25 for the End User and Cleanup programs administered by DOLA and \$0.25 to Department of Public Health and Environment (DPHE), and again in 2009 (SB 09-289) which changed the fee from being collected at the time of disposal to being collected on the sale of any new tire.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the process to apply for grant money for the Cleanup, Recycling Incentives, or End User/Processors Programs?

- Cleanup and Processing Grant Program application process:
  - a. The Cleanup grant program is available to counties and municipalities for expenditures associated with removing illegally disposed or stored waste tires.
  - b. Cleanup applications are available on the DOLA website. An original and complete application must be submitted to DOLA for review.
  - c. Applications are accepted on an on-going basis and are reviewed regularly (quarterly at minimum, usually bi-monthly)
  - d. Applications are reviewed by DOLA program staff who provide recommendations to the Director of the Division of Local Government, who is responsible for final funding decisions.
  - e. Applicants who are approved for funding receive an award letter and a state contract.
  - f. Grantees may request reimbursement for expenses related to the removal of tires.
  
- Recycling Incentives Grant Program application process:
  - a. The Recycling Incentives grant program is available to counties, municipalities, special districts (including school districts), and state agencies, as a financial incentive to purchase products that contain recycled or reused Colorado waste tires.
  - b. Recycling Incentive applications are available on the DOLA website. An original and complete application must be submitted to DOLA for review.
  - c. Applications are accepted on an on-going basis and are reviewed regularly (quarterly at minimum, usually bi-monthly).
  - d. Applications are reviewed by DOLA program staff who provide recommendations to the Director of the Division of Local Government, who is responsible for final funding decisions.
  - e. Applicants who are approved for funding receive an award letter and a state contract.
  - f. Grantees may request reimbursement for expenses related to the purchase of Colorado waste tire product.
  
- End User and Processor Partial Reimbursement Program application process:
  - a. The End User and Processor Partial Reimbursement Program is intended to subsidize businesses that utilize tire recycling and reuse technologies to become economically viable. End user businesses are eligible for partial reimbursement, up to \$50 per ton, and must certify an end use. The end user and/or processor must be located in Colorado.
  - b. End User and Processor Partial Reimbursement applications are available on the DOLA website. An original and complete application must be submitted to DOLA for review.

- c. Applications of partial reimbursement are accepted and reviewed on a quarterly basis.
- d. Applications are reviewed by DOLA program staff. Partial reimbursements to the End Users are based on the amount of revenue received per quarter divided by the number of requests received as expressed in tons.
- e. Applicants who are approved for partial reimbursement receive an award letter and a state check.

**2. Is there a limitation to the number of times that an applicant can apply for Waste Tire Cleanup or Recycling Incentive grant?**

- Cleanup program - There is no limitation to the number of times an applicant can apply and be awarded to cleanup tire piles. For example, Larimer County has applied and received six Cleanup grants over five years for a phased project because of the significant number of illegal tires dumped in their county. All six grants were used to complete the cleanup of the same property. In addition, Weld County has received four grants and Alamosa County has received two grants, cleaning up various locations.
- Recycling Incentives Program - This program prioritizes funding new applicants over repeat applicants. A repeat applicant may be the same school district applying for funds for multiple school playgrounds throughout their district. For example, the program may fund a single playground in phases to complete two separate parks. However, the program will not fund the same playground twice.

**3. Are waste tire recycling dollars available to private property owners or corporations?**

- No, the Cleanup grant program is **only** available to counties and municipalities for expenditures associated with removing disposed or stored waste tires.
- The Recycling Incentives grant program is **only** available to counties, municipalities, special districts (including school districts), and state agencies, as a financial incentive to purchase products that contain recycled or reused Colorado waste tires.

**4. Does DOLA regulate or monitor the disposal of tires?**

- No, as required by state statute, DOLA administers the Waste Tire program in its three components:
  - i. the Tire Cleanup and Processing Grant for Counties and Municipalities;
  - ii. the Recycling Incentives Program for Purchasing and Using Recycled Waste Tire Products in Public Projects; and
  - iii. the End User and Processor Partial Reimbursement Program.

**5. How is the Waste Tire program funded?**

- When a consumer purchases a tire, there is a \$1.50 fee charged to dispose of the old tires. In 2009, the General Assembly passed legislation to change the collection of this fee from disposal of tires to point of sale for all new tires. As required by state statute, the \$1.50 then goes through an intricate funding allocation. See attached fund diagram.

**6. How many FTE are authorized by the General Assembly to monitor this program?**

- DOLA is provided 0.7 FTE for the administration of the Waste Tire program, including marketing, application review, accounting, monitoring, and contract close-out.

**7. Can all of the illegal tire piles that have been identified in Colorado be cleaned up?**

- Yes, if financial assistance through the Waste Tire Cleanup program continues. The elimination of all identified illegal tire piles that remain in the state can be accomplished through the continued partnership between DOLA and Colorado local governments. However, additional analysis of illegal tire piles will need to be conducted in 2010.
- The tires that are currently stored in legal monofills are outside the purview of this program and of DOLA.

**8. What are the successes of the Waste Tire Program?**

- In the past 5 years the program has:
  - recycled/reused/consumed over 18.7 million tires, an average of 3.7 million tires annually
  - provided funding to counties, cities, and school districts covering 50 counties for projects including
    - 114 playgrounds
    - 25 athletic fields and running tracks
    - 3 equestrian centers/arenas
    - 2 crack sealant/parking lot paving
- Over the past two years, the grants portion of this program (Cleanup and Recycling Incentives only) has generated or sustained 779 jobs.
- The Waste Tire Program continues to provide an opportunity for the recycling, reuse, or consumption of approximately 75% of the Colorado tires that are added to the waste stream each year.