

Dear Town Official:

Recently, a state statute regarding trash burning was approved which allows municipal officials to issue tickets to individuals that violate Vermont's trash burning law. Offenders are subject to fines of up to \$500 as well as community roadside cleanup. If violators fail to pay their fine, their driving license will be suspended for a period of ten days and they will lose their hunting and/or fishing license for a period of one year. With Vermonters burning an estimated 14,000 tons of household trash per year, it has become imperative to impress upon the public the need to end this harmful practice.

Trash today is not the same as it was years ago. Today's trash contains plastics, metals and other synthetic materials. When burned in a burn barrel, woodstove, fireplace, or open fire these items emit toxic fumes and harmful quantities of dioxins, a group of highly toxic chemicals known to cause cancer, asthma and other illnesses.

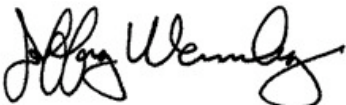
The Agency of Natural Resources and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns are encouraging municipal officials to get involved and help other law enforcement officials end trash burning in Vermont. We have assembled a toolkit to help you designate an enforcement officer in your town who can help inform residents about Vermont's trash burning law, alternatives to burning and trash reduction.

The toolkit contains the following materials to help you educate residents who may still be burning trash:

- A news release which can be posted on your town website highlighting the new state statute and the penalties violators may face;
- An eBadge, or electronic link to the Agency's "Don't Burn Vermont" website that can be added to your town's website;
- A fact sheet containing general information about trash burning for residents which can be replicated and distributed at the town clerk's office, police station, etc.;
- Posters to put up in town offices and other appropriate locations;
- Informational handouts which can be distributed at the town clerk's office or other appropriate location.

We encourage you to contact the Vermont Judicial Bureau at (802) 295-8869 to request a ticket book to help us end trash burning in Vermont.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Wennberg
Commissioner
Department of Environmental Conservation



Karen Horn
Director, Public Policy and Advocacy Services
Vermont League of Cities and Towns