

**Solid Waste Law Enforcement
in
Northeast Oklahoma

Review and Assessment**

June, 2000

Prepared for
The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality

Prepared under the Direction of
The Solid Waste Institute of Northeast Oklahoma



Prepared by
Turnip Enterprises, Inc.

Preface and Acknowledgments

Over the last four years county governments, supported by state and tribal grants, have responded to illegal dumping with formal solid waste law enforcement programs centered around the use of trash cops. Despite a common belief in the soundness of program design, discussions of program effectiveness have been limited by an absence of any formal assessment.

Does the trash cop program work? Are county roads and illegal dump sites cleaner? As a principal supporter and catalyst for the trash cop program, the State of Oklahoma through the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) shares the desire of local citizens and officials to answer these questions.

In response, this report has been prepared by Turnip Enterprises, under the direction of the Solid Waste Institute of Northeast Oklahoma and with funding from ODEQ. Thanks are extended to the many state and local officials contributing information including:

- sheriffs, trash cops, other deputies and departmental staff;
- county commissioners and road department staff - especially road foremen;
- county clerks and their staff;
- county treasurer's for taking valuable time to search and share records;
- district attorneys and other officials within the court system; and
- the Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma.

Special thanks are extended to hard working volunteers on local solid waste advisory committees and to local ODEQ field personnel, rural water and rural fire personnel. Finally, a special thanks to Lori Parsons in the Mayes County Court Clerk's office for devising and sharing with Turnip and other court clerks, a great way to search and report misdemeanor data.

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