

Ms. Vivian Lee  
[vivibird102@yahoo.com](mailto:vivibird102@yahoo.com)

Thank you for your e-mail to Administrator Whitman, of August 2, 2002, expressing concern over litter and calling for fines or other systems to help clean up the urban environment. The Administrator sent your e-mail to the Office of Solid Waste for response.

We agree with you that the proliferation of litter is one of the most visible signs that citizens are not involved and taking pride in the places where they live, work, and play. However, our laws do not direct EPA to play a direct role in litter control. Handling trash is primarily the responsibility of state and local governments, since the types and extent of waste management concerns vary from region to region. Any fines, would therefore be under the jurisdiction of state and local governments.

One way EPA is improving solid waste management is by encouraging recycling. We have written a booklet, *Puzzled About Recycling's Value? Look Beyond the Bin*, that gives full attention to recycling's many benefits. This booklet notes benefits of recycling ranging from conservation of natural resources, to decreasing emissions greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change. This booklet can be found at our website at [www.epa.gov/osw](http://www.epa.gov/osw) in the publications section, listed alphabetically by title.

I'm delighted that you are interested in the environment, particularly recycling and waste prevention. I hope you find this information to be helpful to you.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth A. Cotsworth, Director  
Office of Solid Waste

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