



Keep Australia Beautiful Council Northern Territory

Litter Rating Index Methodology

Background

Keep Australia Beautiful Council Northern Territory (KABCNT) was formed as an Association in 1976 and since its inception, KABC(NT) has been helping Territorians care for their local environments while also encouraging and recognizing their contribution through awards programs such as the Territory Tidy Towns, Eco-Schools, Sustainable Cities and Clean Beaches.

A Litter Rating Index (LRI) was introduced into the Territory Tidy Towns program by KABC(NT) in 2010 to assist with identifying priority communities in need of KABC(NT) services. It is also used to monitor community ground litter trends and could demonstrate continuous improvement (litter).

Further information

Further information on the LRI can be found in the full KABC(NT) Website or by contacting KABC(NT) via email at ceo@kabcnt.org.au.

Purpose

The purpose of the Litter Rating Index is to provide insight regarding:

- ★ The intensity level of ground litter throughout a Community, broad basic indication.
- ★ Indication as to the current level of litter control/management services, infrastructure and education within specific community.
- ★ Prioritising communities in need of KABC(NT) services.
- ★ A tool to independently (3rd party) demonstrate historical litter control/management improvements.
- ★ Used in public display to show performance, to help educate and generate litter awareness

It is anticipated that the information derived from the LRI is used by local governments and community organisations ('Key Stakeholders') to assist shape and develop policies, strategies and initiatives aimed at reducing litter and increasing pride in communities across Northern Territory.

The information derived from the LRI can also be used as an indicator of the success of these various policies, programmes and initiatives.

The Litter Rating Index is not a study of littering behavior, nor is it linked to the NT National Litter Index (NLI). It is intended as a snapshot assessment of the presence of ground litter within each individually visited remote isolated Aboriginal community. As such, no corrections for population densities are carried out. The information derived from the Index provides some indication of whether residents of a particular community litter more or less over a period of time or if ground litter is more or less than those in a different community or region or if there are litter reduction outcomes for activities and actions.

It does provide

- (a) Insight regarding the relative presence or absence of litter within the community or regions visited
- (b) Results can be trended over time (monitor and display performance)
- (c) The opportunity to utilize alongside other sources of litter data to enrich understanding and make better, more informed decisions

- (d) The opportunity to compare communities or regions of a similar type and thereby enable the development of questions or hypotheses requiring further investigation e.g. why does community or region x have lower litter levels than communities or region y?
- (e) An indication if litter abatement strategies implemented are achieving outcomes

Litter Rating Index -rating criteria and examples

Essentially, there are four levels of ratings, 0 – 25; 25 – 50; 50 – 75; 75 - 100. Each level has its own rating criteria and assessment examples to follow.

The breakdown is detailed below.

| Index Rating | Rating Criteria | Examples |
|---|---|---|
| 0 – 25 <i>(Very poor, uncontrolled littering)</i> | No Litter reduction in Place | No 'Anti-Litter' Plans exist |
| | | No 'Anti-litter' plans in use |
| | | No 'Anti-litter' signage on display or used |
| | | No 'Anti-litter' advertising conducted |
| | | No 'Anti-litter' stickers on bins |
| | | No 'Anti-litter' posters in use or displayed |
| | | No litter education conducted |
| | | No public bins in place or use |
| | Very noticeable amounts of rubbish and litter on ground everywhere | Very poor infrequent unacceptable serving of bins |
| | | Community accepts ground litter |
| | | Community accepts the practice of littering |
| | | Residents continue to litter regularly |
| | | No public place bins available in community |
| | | Residents not aware of littering consequences |
| | | No collaborative community efforts to reduce litter |
| | No community 'Key Stakeholder' Clean-ups collaboration, planned or conducted | Residents not educated on litter matters |
| | | No shared 'Key Stakeholders' littering responsibilities |
| | | No 'Key Stakeholder' collaboration |
| | | No 'Key Stakeholder' shared onus to reduce littering |
| | | No planned community clean-ups in place |
| | No or very poor bin infrastructure, services, awareness or education in place | No community clean-ups conducted |
| | | No 'Public Place Bins' made available |
| | | No regular litter education conducted |
| | | V/Poor bin condition (no lids, split sides, no wheels) |
| | | No 'Bin Use' education in place |
| | | No 'Bin Stabilizers' or 'Bin Clips' in use |
| | Poor / no Community commitment or collaboration | No bin stickers used on bins |
| | | No 'Bin' signage in place |
| No community 'Key Stakeholder' group exists | | |
| No regular 'Key Stakeholders' meetings | | |
| No community 'Key Stakeholder' commitment | | |
| No 'Anti-litter' commitment by residents | | |
| Only Council Works Teams pick up rubbish/ litter | | |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>25 – 50</p> <p><i>(Poor, commenced working on litter abatement)</i></p> | Litter Reduction Commenced | Commenced 'Anti-Litter' planning |
| | | Commenced implementing 'Anti-litter' plans |
| | | Planning community 'Litter Education' |
| | | Planning 'Anti-litter' signage for display and use |
| | | Planning 'Anti-Litter' posters for use and display |
| | | Planning 'Anti-Litter' bin sticker design |
| | | Planning 'Anti-Litter' advertising for community |
| | | Consideration to implementation of Public Place Bins |
| | | Review infrequent unacceptable servicing of bins |
| | Litter on ground with prominent 'Hot Spots' | Community accepts ground litter as 'the norm' |
| | | Community accepts the practice of littering |
| | | Residents continue to litter regularly (habitual) |
| | | No 'Public Place Bins' in community |
| | | Residents not aware of littering consequences |
| | | Residents not educated in litter matters |
| | Very few community clean-up events conducted with 'Key Stakeholders' | No joint community effort to reduce littering |
| | | Commenced 'Key Stakeholder' collaboration |
| | | Commenced 'Key Stakeholder' litter responsibility |
| | | Commenced 'Key Stakeholder' onus to reduce litter |
| | | Commenced Community Clean-up planning |
| | Community commitment at low level (residents do not bin rubbish) | Commenced Community Clean-up |
| | | Community 'Key Stakeholder' actions, activities low |
| | | Irregular Community 'Key stakeholder' meetings |
| | | Still litter on ground mainly 'Hot Spots' |
| | Though bin infrastructure and services are in place, there is NO to Very Little litter education in place for community and students | Residents poor at binning rubbish (inconsistency) |
| | | Insufficient 'Litter education' delivered in community |
| | | Planning community 'Litter Education' |
| Commenced Community 'Anti-Litter' planning | | |
| Planning 'Anti-Litter' signage (in language) | | |
| Planning 'Anti-Litter' posters for use and display | | |
| Planning 'Anti-Litter' stickers for bins and as signs | | |
| Commenced 'Key Stakeholders' onus to reduce litter | | |
| Commenced 'Key Stakeholders' Anti-Litter Planning | | |
| 50 - 75 | Litter Control Management commenced | 'Anti-Litter' plans continually reviewed |
| | | Continuation of 'Anti-Litter' plans implementation |
| | | Commenced community 'Litter' education |
| | | Some 'Anti-Litter' signage displayed and used |
| | | Commenced using 'Anti-Litter' stickers on bins |
| | | Some 'Anti-Litter' posters in use and on display |
| | | Commenced 'Anti-Litter' advertising in community |
| | | Introduction and implementation of Public Place Bins |
| | | Reviewed servicing of all community bins (frequency) |
| | Most in community not accepting littering as norm | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>50 – 75</p> <p><i>(Good, getting better, cleaner, tidier, commenced recovery of resources)</i></p> | <p>Small amounts of litter on the ground only every now and again in ‘Hot Spots’</p> | Most in community not accepting ground litter |
| | | Residents discontinue to litter as much |
| | | Public Place Bins are available throughout community |
| | | Most residents are aware of littering consequences |
| | | Most residents are educated in Litter matters |
| | | Joint community efforts to reduce littering evident |
| | <p>Regular Community Clean-ups planned and conducted with good community support</p> | Good ‘Key Stakeholder’ collaboration |
| | | Good ‘Key Stakeholder’ litter responsibilities |
| | | Good ‘Key Stakeholder’ acts to reduce litter |
| | | Community Clean-ups plans reviewed and implemented |
| | | Regular community Clean Ups conducted |
| | <p>Bin infrastructure, services, awareness and education commenced and in place</p> | Community Litter Education Commenced |
| | | Community ‘Anti-Litter’ plans being implemented |
| | | Anti-Litter signage being used and displayed |
| | | Anti-Litter bin and sign stickers being introduced |
| | | Key Stakeholders taking on ownership to reduce litter |
| | | Key Stakeholders taking on ownership to reduce litter |
| | <p>Community committed, commenced planning waste separation and resource recovery program</p> | Key Stakeholder implementing ‘Anti-Litter’ plans |
| | | Improved Community ‘Key Stakeholders’ meeting |
| | | Still litter on ground but only in Hot Spots |
| Majority of residents binning rubbish | | |
| Litter Education being delivered to community | | |
| Key Stakeholders acting on Anti-Litter Plans | | |
| Key Stakeholders accept Waste Management planning | | |
| Better collaboration amongst Key Stakeholders | | |
| <p>75 - 100</p> <p>Litter Rating Index Consistently High</p> | Excellent Anti-Litter Plans in place | |
| | Excellent implementation of Anti-Litter Plans in place | |
| | Ongoing Community litter education | |
| | Excellent Anti-Litter signage displayed and in use | |
| | Anti-Litter stickers on bins (good quality) | |
| | Anti-Litter posters used and displayed | |
| | Regular Anti-Litter advertising for Community | |
| | Excellent residential use of public place bins | |
| | Regularly reviewing serving of all Community bins | |

| Index Rating | Object Sub-Category Type | Item Type |
|--|---|---|
| 75 – 100 <i>(Excellent, clean and tidy, recycling, community engagement and collaboration)</i> | Hardly any to No Litter on ground | Community accepts NO ground litter as norm |
| | | Community does not accept the practice of littering |
| | | Residents stop littering and use bins |
| | | Public Place Bins widely used in community |
| | | Residents totally aware of littering consequences |
| | | Residents education in litter matters |
| | | Excellent joint community efforts to reduce littering |
| | Waste management plans in use and continually reviewed | Excellent Waste Management practices in place |
| | | Key Stakeholders accepting Waste Management plans |
| | | Community has a positive Waste Management culture |
| | | Community waste disposal practices are very good |
| | | Community is educated in relation to Waste Practices |
| | | Community Waste management continually reviewed |
| | | Waste minimisation is practised in Community |
| | Waste Separation in Place | Waste separation bays in use at landfill site |
| | | Waste separation Bay signage in place |
| | | NO to LOW contamination in separation bays |
| | | Various materials types recovered for recycling |
| | Council staff no longer spending hours daily picking up rubbish | Council staff not regularly picking up ground litter |
| | | LRI Sheet on display for community feedback |
| | | Community practice culture is to bin rubbish |
| | | Residents take pride in community |
| | Beautification programs commenced | Public Place Bins used extensively to reduce litter |
| | | Less on litter management and more on beautification |
| | | More community groups formed to better community |
| | | Gardens, edgings, plants, tree planting commenced |
| | Highly motivated proud community | Water and lighting features being considered |
| Very proud community residents | | |
| High level of societal respect in community | | |
| Enterprise opportunities flourishing | | |
| Care for environment and sustainability achieved | | |
| | | Community continuously improving |

Gauge Index Rating Methodology

The process for gauging the Litter rating Index (LRI) at each site is the same:

- ★ A standard Litter Rating Index form is used
- ★ Assessor visually examines the community total site ground litter to ensure that it corresponds and aligns with the index criteria within the LRI form.
- ★ The assessor notes/records the community's overall litter index rating
- ★ All organic and inorganic matter on ground (including beverage containers, wrappers, food, clothing and toys) are included and rated as litter
- ★ The assessor notes any environmental factors that could have a bearing on the index outcome e.g. recent high winds/storms, unusual recent activity; interference through animals, etc
- ★ The assessor notes any material dumping, 'Hot Spots' in need of action
- ★ The assessor notes any graffiti
- ★ The assessor notes any bins or signage issues (damaged bins, missing lids, etc)
- ★ The assessor notes any specific evident opportunities

LITTER RATING INDEX FORM



Monthly Litter Index Rating NT

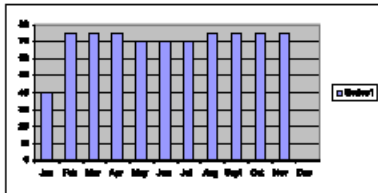
COMMUNITY: _____

DATE: _____

RATING LEVEL: _____

FROM (CSC): _____

To: Fax 8981 9719 or photo text to mb 0407 186 461
Keep Australia Beautiful Council NT



Example graph

ACTIONS/COMMENTS: _____

ISSUES: _____

CSC Signature: _____

| Litter Rating | Index (Rating Criteria) |
|---|---|
| <p>0-25 (<i>very poor, uncontrolled litter</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ No Litter Rating Index in use ⇒ Very noticeable amounts of rubbish and litter on the ground everywhere ⇒ No Community Clean-ups planned or conducted ⇒ No or very poor bin infrastructure, services, awareness or education in place ⇒ Poor/ No Community Commitment | <p>25-50 (<i>poor, but working on it</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Litter Rating Index in use to monitor litter ⇒ Some litter on ground mainly in 'hot spots' ⇒ Regular Community Clean-ups conducted ⇒ Community commitment at low level ⇒ Bin infrastructure and services in place, no to little litter awareness or education in place for community and students |
| <p>50-75 (<i>good, getting better, cleaner, tidier, commenced resource recovery</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Monthly litter index monitoring in use ⇒ Small amount of litter on ground only every now and again in 'Hot Spots' ⇒ Regular Community Clean-up planned and conducted with good level of support ⇒ Bin infrastructure, services, awareness and education commenced and in place ⇒ Community committed, commenced waste separation resource recovery programs | <p>75-100 (<i>excellent, clean tidy & recycling, community engagement, ownership, pride</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Monthly Litter Rating Index consistently high ⇒ Very little to No litter on ground ⇒ Waste Management Plans in use ⇒ Waste separation in place. ⇒ Council no longer spending hours picking up ground rubbish ⇒ Beautification programs implemented ⇒ Highly motivated proud Community |