Keep Australia Beautiful Council Northern Territory

Litter Rating Index Methodology

Background

Keep Australia Beautiful Council Northern Territory (KABCNT) was formed as an Association n 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, programs 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 *(Very poor, uncontrolled littering)*	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 poor infrequent unacceptable serving of bins
	Very noticeable amounts of rubbish and litter on ground everywhere	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
		Residents not educated on litter matters
	No community 'Key Stakeholder' Clean-ups collaboration, planned or conducted	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 community clean-ups conducted
	No or very poor bin infrastructure, services, awareness or education in place	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
		No bin stickers used on bins
		No 'Bin' signage in place
	Poor / no Community commitment or collaboration	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

Index Rating	Rating Criteria	Examples
25 – 50 *(Poor, commenced working on litter abatement)*	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
		No joint community effort to reduce littering
	Very few community clean-up events conducted with 'Key Stakeholders'	Commenced 'Key Stakeholder' collaboration
		Commenced 'Key Stakeholder' litter responsibility
		Commenced 'Key Stakeholder' onus to reduce litter
		Commenced Community Clean-up planning
		Commenced Community Clean-up
	Community commitment at low level (residents do not bin rubbish)	Community 'Key Stakeholder' actions, activities low
		Irregular Community 'Key stakeholder' meetings
		Still litter on ground mainly 'Hot Spots'
		Residents poor at binning rubbish (inconsistency)
		Insufficient 'Litter education' delivered in community
	Though bin infrastructure and services are in place, there is NO to Very Little litter education in place for community and students	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

Index Rating	Rating Criteria	Examples
50 – 75 *(Good, getting better, cleaner, tidier, commenced recovery of resources)*	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)
	Small amounts of litter on the ground only every now and again in 'Hot Spots'	Most in community not accepting littering as norm
		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
	Regular Community Clean-ups planned and conducted with good community support	Good 'Key Stakeholder' collaboration
		Good 'Key Stakeholder' litter responsibilities
		Good 'Key Stakeholder' actins to reduce litter
		Community Clean-ups plans reviewed and implemented
		Regular community Clean Ups conducted
	Bin infrastructure, services, awareness and education commenced and in place	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
		Key Stakeholder implementing 'Anti-Litter' plans
	Community committed, commenced planning waste separation and resource recovery program	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

Index Rating	Rating Criteria	Examples
75 – 100 *(Excellent, clean and tidy, recycling, community engagement and collaboration)*	Litter Rating Index Consistently High	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
	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
		Public Place Bins used extensively to reduce litter
	Beautification programs commenced	Less on litter management and more on beautification
		More community groups formed to better community
		Gardens, edgings, plants, tree planting commenced
		Water and lighting features being considered
	Highly motivated proud community	Very proud community residents
		High level of societal respect in community
		Enterprise opportunities flourishing
		Care for environment and sustainability achieved
		Community continuously improving

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

Keep Australia Beautiful NT
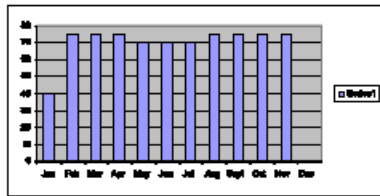
Monthly Litter Index Rating ▭ **NT**

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)
0 -25 *(very poor, uncontrolled litter)* ⇒ 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	**25 – 50** *(poor, but working on it)* ⇒ 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
50 – 75 *(good, getting better, cleaner, tidier, commenced resource recovery)* ⇒ 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	**75-100** *(excellent, clean tidy & recycling, community engagement, ownership, pride)* ⇒ 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