



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 to 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 a brief instant insight regarding:

- ★ The intensity level of ground litter throughout a Community, broad general indication or snap shot.
- ★ 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 educate and generate litter awareness

It is anticipated that the information derived from the LRI can be used by local governments and community organisations 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 LRI index value increases as reduced litter and littering outcomes are achieved.

The Litter Rating Index is not a study of littering behavior. It is intended as a snapshot assessment of the presence of ground litter within each individually visited 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.

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 the Northern Territory.

Litter Rating Index rating criteria and examples

Primarily there four levels of ratings, each with their own criteria and examples to follow.
The breakdown is detailed below.

Index Rating	Rating Criteria	Examples
0 – 25 (Very Poor)	No Litter reduction in Place	No 'Anti-Litter' Plans exist
		No 'Anti-litter' plans in use
		No litter education conducted
		No 'Anti-litter' signage on display or used
		No 'Anti-litter' stickers on bins
		No 'Anti-litter' posters in use or displayed
		No 'Anti-litter' advertising conducted
		No public bins in place or use
		Very poor Infrequent unacceptable serving of all bins
	Very noticeable amounts of rubbish and litter on ground everywhere	Community accepts ground litter as norm
		Community accepts the practice of littering
		Residents continue to litter regularly
		No public place bins available in community
		Residents not aware of littering consequences
		Residents not educated in litter matters
		No joint community efforts to reduce littering
	No community 'Key Stakeholder' Clean-ups collaboration, planned or conducted	No shared 'Key Stakeholder' collaboration
		No shared 'Key Stakeholder' littering responsibilities
		No shared 'Key Stakeholder' onus to reduce litter
		No community Clean-up plans in place
		No community Clean-ups conducted
	No or very poor bin infrastructure, services, awareness or education in place	No public place bins available
		No regular litter education conducted
		V/Poor condition bins (damaged sides, lids, wheels, etc)
		Very Poor servicing of bins (infrequent)
		No 'bin use' education in place
		No bin stabilisers or bin clips in use
		No bin stickers in use
		No 'bin' signage in place
	Poor / no Community commitment	No Community 'Key Stakeholder' group
		No regular 'Key Stakeholder' meetings
		No Community 'Key Stakeholder' commitment
		No 'Anti-litter' commitment by residents
		No Community 'Key Stakeholder' plans in place

25 – 50 (Poor – Commenced)	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 design 'Anti-litter' stickers on bins
		Planning 'Anti-litter' poster use and display
		Planning 'Anti-litter' advertising for Community
		Consideration to implementation of public place bins
		Review Infrequent unacceptable serving of all bins
	Litter on ground predominantly in 'Hot Spots'	Community accepts ground litter as norm
		Community accepts the practice of littering
		Residents continue to litter regularly
		No public place bins available in community
		Residents not aware of littering consequences
		Residents not educated in litter matters
		No joint community efforts to reduce littering
	Few Community Clean-ups conducted with 'Key Stakeholders'	Commenced shared 'Key Stakeholder' collaboration
		Commenced 'Key Stakeholder' littering responsibilities
		Commenced 'Key Stakeholder' onus to reduce litter
		Commenced community Clean-up planning
		Commenced community Clean-ups conducted
	Community commitment at low level (residents do not bin all rubbish)	Community 'Key Stakeholders' actions, activities low
		Irregular Community 'Key Stakeholder' meetings
		Still litter on ground mainly in 'Hot Spots'
		Residents poor at binning rubbish (inconsistent)
		Insufficient 'Litter Education' delivered to community
	Bin infrastructure and services in place, no to little litter awareness or education in place for community and students	Planning Community Litter education
		Commenced Community 'Anti-Litter' planning
		Planning 'Anti-Litter' signage
		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	Object Sub-Category Type	Item Type
50 – 75 Fair Better Good)	Litter Control commenced	'Anti-Litter' Plans continually reviewed
		Continued implementing 'Anti-litter' plans
		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 displayed
		Commenced 'Anti-litter' advertising for Community
		Introduction and implementation of public place bins
		Reviewed serving of all Community bins (frequency)
		Most in Community not accepting ground litter as norm
	Small amounts of litter on ground only every now and again in 'Hot Spots'	Most in Community not accepting practice of littering
		Residents discontinue to litter as much
		Public Place Bins available throughout community
		Most Residents aware of littering consequences
		Most Residents educated in litter matters
		Joint community efforts to reduce littering evident
		Good shared 'Key Stakeholder' collaboration
	Regular Community Clean-ups planned and conducted with good level of support	Good 'Key Stakeholder' littering responsibilities
		Good 'Key Stakeholder' actions to reduce litter
		Community Clean-up plans reviewed and implemented
		Regular community Clean-ups conducted
		Community Litter Education commenced
	Bin infrastructure, services, awareness and education commenced and in place	Community 'Anti-Litter' plans being implemented
		'Anti-litter' signage being introduced to Community
		'Anti-Litter' posters being used and displayed
		'Anti-Litter' bin and sign stickers being introduced
		'Key Stakeholders' taking on ownership to reduce litter
		'Key Stakeholders' implementing 'Anti-litter' plans
	Community committed, commenced waste separation resource recovery program	Improved Community 'Key Stakeholders' meetings
		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 Stakeholder' accept 'Waste Management' planning
		Better collaboration among 'Key Stakeholders'
75 – 100 (Very Good – Excellent)	Litter Rating Index consistently high	Excellent 'Anti-Litter' Plans in place
		Excellent implementation of 'Anti-litter' plans
		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 the 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 educated in litter matters
		Excellent joint community efforts to reduce littering
	Waste management plans in use	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 practiced 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 material types recovered for recycling
	Council no longer spending hours picking up ground rubbish	Council staff not regularly picking up ground litter
		LRI sheet on display for community feedback
		Community culture to bin rubbish
		Residents take pride in community
	Beautification programs commenced	Public Place Bins used extensively to help reduce litter
		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 within 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 at each site is the same:

- ★ A standard Litter rating Index form is used
- ★ Appraiser visually examines the community total site ground litter to ensure that it is properly matched and aligned to meet the set criteria within the LRI form.
- ★ The checker then notes/records the Communities overall Litter Index rating
- ★ All organic and inorganic matter on ground (including food, chewing gum, and dog faeces) are included as 'litter'
- ★ The checker notes any environmental factors that could have a bearing on the index outcome e.g. recent high winds/storms; unusual recent activity; damaged bins
- ★ The checker identifies any bins or signs issues
- ★ The checker identifies any illegal or construction material dumping
- ★ The checker identifies any specifically evident opportunities