# 'Don't Trash Arizona' campaign picks Valley's top 10 litter hotspots

**By Corinne Purtill** THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

on't litter. It seems like a pretty simple message. But a lot of people driving along Valley freeways apparently don't understand it.

On Thursday, the Arizona Department of Transportation and the Maricopa Association of Governments announced the top 10 litter hotspots in the Valley. The agencies' "Don't Trash Arizona" campaign tallied the dirtiest spots on Valley freeways based on the amount of trash collected in each spot from March 2006 to December 2006.

The results are pretty staggering.

ADOT crews collected about 7,610 pounds of trash per mile on a five-mile stretch of Interstate 10 between Arizona 51 and 40th Street — the No. 1 litter hot-

"Let's all stand back and say, 'This is our state," said Gov. Janet Napolitano, speaking at the report's release. "Don't trash Arizona."

ADOT picks up 5,000 pounds of trash from roadsides every day, spokesman Matt Burdick said. It costs the region about \$3 million per year to pick it all up.

Litter ranges from the mundane fast-food wrappers, plastic bottles and the like — to the downright bizarre.

Near the intersection of I-10 and Interstate 17 Thursday, ADOT road crews assembled a hodgepodge of littered items picked up from freeways. The mess included a pool slide, car seats and enough Styrofoam to build a small fort.

"We do find bodies and dead animals," said Mark Schalliol, ADOT's roadside maintenance manager. "It's not a pretty sight."

In June, ADOT and MAG launched the campaign. The effort upped the number of clean-up and landscaping crews, resulting in fewer litter complaints and more trash picked up.

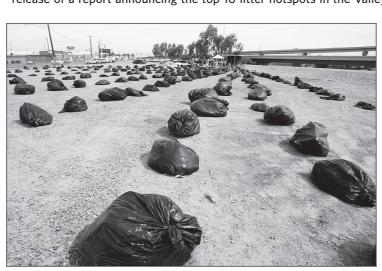
### **Learn about litter**

For more on the "Don't Trash Arizona" campaign, visit www.donttrashaz.com.



TOM TINGLE/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

"Let's all stand back and say, 'This is our state,' " says Gov. Janet Napolitano, speaking at the release of a report announcing the top 10 litter hotspots in the Valley. "Don't trash Arizona."



Trash samples sit nearby as the report on the top 10 litter hotspots in the Valley is released.

### **Top 10 littered items**

Here is a breakdown of the most-littered items in Maricopa County.

- Fast-food waste: 28.8 percent
- Beverage cans: 7.1 percent
- Styrofoam: 5.7 percent ■ Cardboard: 5.2 percent
- Glass beverage bottles: 4.6 percent
- Plastic beverage bottles: 4.5 percent
- Tire parts: 4.1 percent ■ Plastic bags: 3.7 percent
- Paper: 3 percent ■ Clothing and rags: 3 percent

Source: Arizona Clean and Beautiful

# Researchers, activists give suggestions for climate change bill

By Samantha M. Novick CRONKITE NEWS SERIVCE

**TUCSON** — Arizona's response to climate change might look something like this neighborhood of brightly painted homes called Armory Park del Sol. Running on solar power and using energy-efficient appliances, some homes have energy bills of less than \$10 per

U.S. Rep. Raul M. Grijalva, D-Ariz., met here Friday with researchers and activists from across the state to discuss what Arizona and the nation need to do — and do quickly to counter the effects of climate change.

"We're past the vulnerability point," Grijalva said. "We're in crisis mode. That's why our nation and our legislative agenda has to be so important."

Grijalva invited participants' input on a climate change bill that he said would be drafted by Congress next month.

Some of their suggestions: subsidies for renewable energy such as solar and wind power; funding for public education; more public transit and incentives for companies

that adopt "green" practices.

"Sure, there will be opposition," Grijalva said. "But I think if done correctly, it can be a major step to begin to deal with this crisis."

The discussion was held the same day as the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a report predicting desertification, drought and massive flooding as a result of global warming.

Greg Garfin, a researcher at the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth at the University of Arizona, told participants that the Southwest and Arizona can expect insect outbreaks, more severe fires and less water in the Colorado River.

## **Furnituremaker fined for waste violations**

A south Phoenix furniture manufacturer has agreed to pay \$40,000 for hazardous-waste violations, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality announced this week. Trendwood Inc., which has facilities at 2402 S. 15th Ave. and 261 E. University Drive, settled with DEQ over violations in April 2001. The company had two fires that month, both caused by improper handling of hazardous waste. Inspectors found that the company had been disposing of hazardous waste incorrectly for years, according to a release Wednesday from DEQ.

- Corinne Purtill





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