

DOEE Pet Waste Program Protocol for the Placement of New “Scoop Your Poop” Signs

For the last several years, the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) has undertaken efforts to ensure the proper management and disposal of pet waste. Pet waste, particularly from dogs, contains pathogens that may be carried into the District’s waterways through stormwater runoff. These pathogens pose a threat to human and animal health. As part of these efforts, DOEE coordinates with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to post ‘Scoop Your Poop’ street signs (SYP signs), that inform dog walkers and pedestrians that it is illegal to improperly dispose of pet waste.

Pet Waste Complaints

District residents experiencing pet waste issues in their communities can submit a complaint to DOEE using a form found at doee.dc.gov/petwaste or [calling 311](https://doee.dc.gov/calling311). Pet waste complaints help guide the implementation of initiatives that address pet waste issues, including the placement of “Scoop Your Poop” street signs, enforcement of relevant laws, and policy development. Filing a complaint using this form is the best way to nominate an area to be considered for a SYP sign. Filing a complaint does not guarantee the placement of a SYP sign.

Pet Waste Sign Location Approval

DOEE analyzes the list of pet waste complaints to identify the general locations where new signs will be posted. Equity is also taken into consideration when analyzing where to place new SYP signs. Neighborhoods that have no existing SYP signs are given priority status. A goal of DOEE’s pet waste program is to post signs in all ANCs throughout the District.

New SYP sign locations will be *at least a quarter of a mile* from the nearest existing SYP sign. Complaint locations that are less than a quarter of a mile away from an existing sign are not eligible for a new sign, except in special circumstances. DOEE takes all pet waste complaints and location suggestions into consideration but cannot guarantee placement of SYP signs.

DOEE provides the final list of new SYP sign locations to DDOT. DDOT’s Street Sign Team then determines the final placement and number of signs the location receives. DDOT’s Street Sign Team posts the signs twice a year as their schedule allows. SYP signs are only posted on existing sign, light, and utility poles. DDOT does not install new posts to hang SYP signs, and signs cannot be posted on trees.

An electronic version of the “Scoop your poop” sign can be printed from DOEE’s website. The website also includes suggestions for how to make the printed version of the sign waterproof so it can be posted outside on private property. These signs should only be posted on private property with consent from the homeowner or management company.