Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County
2005 Service and Activity Report
Program Totals

The Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County brings together resources from four local government agencies and 37 suburban cities to protect and enhance public health and environmental quality by helping citizens, businesses and government reduce the threat posed by the use, storage and disposal of hazardous materials. The Program is a regional partnership comprising King County Water and Land Resources Division, King County Solid Waste Division, Seattle Public Utilities, Public Health—Seattle & King County, and the Suburban Cities Association. This service and activity summary will be replaced by the Program’s 2005 Annual Report as soon as it become available.

During 2005, the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County provided the following services to residents and businesses throughout King County.

City-sponsored projects funded by the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program

Cities that are part of the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program are entitled to receive funds to carry out projects that are consistent with the Program’s goals and services. These funds are made available through contracts administered by Public Health-Seattle & King County. Most cities use these funds to collect common household hazardous wastes. Some cities also use the funds to educate residents and businesses about ways to reduce the use of toxic and hazardous materials and how to properly dispose of them.

In 2005, suburban cities were allocated **$326,705** based on population. The funds were used on the following projects:

- **Twenty-six cities** sponsored **44 household hazardous waste collection events.** All together approximately **24,626 customers** brought household hazardous waste in for proper disposal. Approximately **186.7 tons** of household hazardous waste was collected. People attending these events also brought in **185.6 tons** of old computers, televisions and other electronic wastes.

- **Eight cities** used Program funds to sponsor **hazardous waste reduction and education projects.** These are described in the individual reports for the cities of Auburn, Bellevue, Bothell, Federal Way, Issaquah, Lake Forest Park, Renton, and Shoreline.

Household hazardous waste collection services:

- **Wastemobile collection events.** The Wastemobile travels throughout King County, providing suburban and rural area residents with household hazardous waste collection services. During 2005, it provided **95 days** of collection service to King County residents. These events served approximately **19,814 customers** who brought in **1,110 tons** of household hazardous waste for proper disposal.

- The **Factoria Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Site** is open to all residents within King County. It is generally open Thursday through Sunday. In 2005, it served **15,552 King County residents** who brought in **792 tons** of household hazardous waste for proper disposal.

- The **Seattle Household Haz Sites** are also open to all residents within King County. The North Shed is generally open three days a week (Sunday - Tuesday). The South Shed also is usually open three
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days a week (Thursday - Saturday). In 2005, these two facilities served 16,769 customers, who brought in approximately 732 tons of household hazardous waste for proper disposal. Approximately 2,900 customers were King County residents living outside of Seattle.

Please visit our web site at www.govlink.org/hazwaste/house/disposal/ for details about facility locations and hours.

Other Program services provided to area residents included:

- The Household Hazards Line staff answer questions about where and how to properly dispose of household hazardous waste. They also schedule disposal appointments at Seattle's North Haz Shed and provide information about ways to reduce the use of toxic and hazardous products. In 2005, Household Hazards Line staff responded to 15,651 calls.

- The Natural Lawn and Garden hotline staff provide information about ways to establish healthy soils and lawns, and how to address pest problems in ways that minimize the use of pesticides. In 2005, the Natural Lawn and Garden Hotline responded to 4,238 pesticide-related calls.

- School visits. The Program's School and Youth Program teaches students and their teachers about household hazardous products, why they are a problem, and how to choose more environmentally friendly and safer alternatives. Program staff give classroom presentations upon request to fourth through twelfth grade students throughout King County. During 2005, they visited 67 schools where they gave 208 presentations to a total of 5,314 students and 126 teachers.

- Teacher training and support. The School and Youth Program also provides teacher training workshops, using a teacher’s guide that links concepts about household hazardous materials to the state essential academic learning requirement. The Program supports teachers in understanding and using the material through follow-up presentations to their classes, telephone assistance, and mini-grant funding for special projects. During 2005, 75 teachers from 54 schools received training. Many of these teachers received follow-up assistance. These efforts reached at least 6,954 students.

- Other services include the Program's web site, the Hazardous Waste Library, green gardening and natural lawn care workshops, information for new homebuyers, and many other materials and services which are available to your residents. It is difficult to track the use of these services by city. Please visit our web site at http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/house/ for additional information.

- Environmental Justice. The Program is working to make all of these services more accessible by underserved communities including minorities and immigrants. In 2005, Program staff partnered with community members, other agencies, the Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECOSS) and other non-profit organizations to conduct surveys, provide outreach at community street fairs and festivals, and provide information about household hazardous products and safer alternatives. The Environmental Justice Network in Action project team conducted outreach in Vietnamese, Amharic, Somali, Oromo, Eritrean, Spanish, Samoan, Tongan, Khmer/Cambodian, Tagalog, Cantonese and Mandarin.

Local Hazardous Waste Management Program services provided to area businesses included:

- Technical assistance visits to area businesses. During 2005, field specialists made approximately 2,171 technical assistance visits to at least 1,763 King County businesses to help business owners better manage their hazardous wastes.

- Response to hazardous waste complaints. During 2005, Program staff responded to more than 185 complaints regarding abandoned or improperly stored/disposed of hazardous waste.

- Financial assistance. The Program provides limited financial assistance to businesses to facilitate waste disposal/reduction through the Voucher Incentive Program. Qualified businesses can be reimbursed for half of their costs, up to a total of $500. In 2005, 343 King County businesses were reimbursed $140,838, an amount that was matched or exceeded by the businesses.
• **The Business Waste Line** staff are available to answer questions about how and where to properly dispose of business-generated hazardous wastes, as well as ways to reduce the use of toxic and hazardous materials. Staff can also provide information about the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program’s services for businesses, and can assist the caller in setting up a free on-site technical consultation. During 2005, Business Waste Line staff provided technical assistance to **2,350 callers**.

• The **EnviroStars** program recognizes businesses that have taken steps to reduce pollution and to properly manage their hazardous wastes. Businesses receive between two and five stars, depending on what steps they have taken. In 2005, **39 King County businesses** became new EnviroStars. An additional **29 businesses** increased their EnviroStar ratings, indicating that they took additional steps to reduce pollution. As of the end of 2005, King County had a total of **352 EnviroStar businesses**.

• **Mercury Thermostat Research.** In 2005, Program staff conducted a study to estimate the number of mercury-containing thermostats in King County commercial buildings. Field specialists visited 412 sites randomly selected from 30,975 commercial buildings located in 32 cities and unincorporated King County. Of the 2,433 thermostats found in the commercial buildings sampled, 18 percent contained mercury. Based on these findings project staff estimate there are 44,300 mercury thermostats in commercial buildings. This information will be used in the Program’s ongoing efforts to reduce the use of mercury-containing products and to ensure that mercury-bearing wastes are properly managed.

• **Other services** include the Program’s web site, the Hazardous Waste Library, presentations to business groups, and coordination with suburban cities. Please visit our web site at [www.govlink.org/hazwaste/business/](http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/business/) for additional information about how we help businesses and other small quantity generators.

To learn more, please read the [North and East County Report](#) and the [South County Report](#). Program activities and services will be more fully described in the soon-to-be-released 2005 Annual Report.

**Key LHWMP points of contact that may be of interest to your city’s staff include:**

- **Business Waste Line** – 206 296-3976
- **Household Hazards Line** – 206 296-4692 or 1-888-TOXIC Ed
- **Industrial Materials Exchange (IMEX)** – 206 296-4899
- **Natural Lawn and Garden Hotline** – 206 633-0224
- The Program web site provides a complete list of staff contacts. Come visit us! [www.govlink.org/hazwaste/](http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/)

**Alternate Formats Available**

Voice: 206-284-7974 or TTY Relay: 711