

Toxics-Reduction Program

Issue:

Higher levels of hazardous materials could be diverted from disposal with more convenient program options. Based on the Baseline Assessment/Survey a total of 69 percent of the respondents think that a building should be constructed to accept household hazardous waste year round.

Major Options:

- 1) Maintain Status Quo
- 2) Expand the Toxics Reduction Program & Build a Permanent Facility = Year Round Access

Implementation issues/considerations:

- 2) Expand the Toxics Reduction Program & Build a Permanent Facility = Year Round Access
 - a. Program type/structure and strategies
 - i. Materials accepted
 - ii. Public education/behavioral change
 - iii. Material exchange/reuse programs
 - b. Co-locating with other programs

Other Considerations:

- 1). Expansion of service area (beyond Lancaster County)

Toxics Reduction Program (Excerpts from Technical Papers)

Household Hazardous & Conditionally-Exempt Small Quantity Generator (Small Business) Hazardous Waste

- Improperly managed HHW can pose a threat to human health and the environment. Diverting HHW from the solid waste stream, along with proper management, can mitigate these risks and reduce the toxicity of the waste stream.
- The LLCHD has identified a goal that 90 percent of Lincoln and Lancaster County Planning Area (Planning Area) small businesses/CESQGs have access to the program and that the program serves at least 30 small businesses and agencies each year, with an added goal of diverting at least 7.5 tons of hazardous waste annually.
- There are only two CESQG events per year, which means that they may not always be convenient and accessible to Planning Area businesses and agencies; this may be a significant limiting factor in program participation rates and the quantities of waste that is managed through this program.
- With a limited number of HHW collection events, access is limited by such factors as convenience and location.
- The ability to meet specific waste reduction goals is inhibited and risks to public health and the environment are greater with low participation rates.
- Effective HHW programs often use more than one such system to maximize diversion and address inherent limitations with any one program type.
- Permanent HHW collection facilities are fairly common in larger communities in the Midwestern region including Omaha, NE; Sioux Falls, SD; Minneapolis/Hennepin County, MN; Des Moines, IA; Council Bluffs, IA; Kansas City, MO; and, Wichita, KS.
- The 1994 Lincoln-Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Plan (1994 Plan) recommended building a modest, accessible household hazardous waste collection facility in the Phase II recommendations. The 1994 Plan recommendations also included the possibility of charging fees to businesses utilizing the facility to cover all costs for their waste disposal and a portion of the cost for operating the facility.
- The general issues associate with periodic or mobile collection events are largely discussed above and include issue of accessibility, management and safety. The accessibility limitation in particular likely limits participation rates and rate of diversion.
- Current periodic/mobile collection events are heavily utilized, but may fall short of providing the required accessibility for all residents of the Planning Area. A permanent facility (alone or in conjunction with existing periodic/ mobile collection events and local business collection site) would significantly increase accessibility, and diversion and reuse opportunities to manage the hazardous waste generated by households and small businesses/CESQGs in the Planning Area; it would also provide needed capacity to sort, store and manage material more efficiently.

- a permanent HHW/CESQG hazardous materials/waste facility (alone or in conjunction with existing periodic/ mobile collection events and local business collection site) appears to provide the greatest benefit in terms of increasing reuse, diversion, and minimizing disposal, by providing year round accessibility (increasing participation rates), increasing material management options, lowering risk associated with improper management of hazardous materials and waste, improving safety to users and staff, greater efficiencies of operation, and allowing integration with other existing (and future) programs.

Universal, Special and Unique Wastes

- These wastes (e.g. Universal, Special and Unique wastes) can generally be handled more safely in a source reduction, recycling and diversion program.
- If an outcome of the Solid Waste Plan 2040 includes a recommendation for a permanent HHW facility then additional evaluation of the types of waste to be received may need to include consideration of e-wastes.
- Universal-type wastes collection at a permanent HHW facility may have considerable merit, in combination with private sector initiatives.
- A permanent HHW facility could also receive, store, blend and manage the liquid paint and residual (paint, paint sludges, metal and plastic containers). Paint collection at a permanent HHW facility may have considerable merit, in combination with private sector initiatives.
- Existing programs for Universal and Special Wastes provide a strong foundation upon which additional programs or material diversion options could be established. A consolidated program for handling of HHW and household-type Universal, Special and Unique Wastes would likely optimize the number of materials diverted and efficiency associated with management of these materials. A permanent facility, in conjunction with added educational outreach is considered a viable and potentially most cost effective approach to increasing diversion from the City's Landfill and may provide additional opportunities to promote non-disposal options. Continued partnerships with private business, non-profits, and organizations specializing in managing these waste types will also be important to optimizing diversion.
- Combining collection of Universal and Special Wastes (from households and CESQGs) with HHW programs at a permanent facility should provide for the needed material handling capacity, greater efficiencies in operation, reduce risk to public and workers (e.g. trained staff and facility designed for handling such materials) and an effective "one-stop shop" for residents.
- Options to increase diversion of these materials, especially from household sources include: public education/behavior change, support of existing voluntary efforts, development of new voluntary take-back programs for materials not currently handled, legislation for mandatory retail take-backs, periodic collection events, disposal bans, and/or development of one or more fixed facilities.