



Hazardous Exposure

Objective:

Protect the health of communities

Strategy:

Monitor and improve environmental quality and reducing exposure to hazardous materials

Why is this strategy important?

Monitoring the environment and helping contain hazardous waste are two critical ways King County protects the health of communities. As part of the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program (LHWMP), King County supports a variety of programs that are strategically aimed to protect and enhance public health and environmental quality in King County by reducing the threat posed by the production, use, storage and disposal of hazardous materials. Two of the Projects in the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program (LHWMP) are:

Business Technical Assistance The Program teaches businesses and other small quantity generators (SQGs) about options for reducing their use of toxic and hazardous materials. At a minimum, these visits help ensure that the SQG is properly storing hazardous products and properly storing and disposing of hazardous wastes. The majority of technical assistance visits were provided by the Business Field Services project, which addresses three environmental priority areas: flood hazard zones, areas served by on-site sewage systems, and wellhead/groundwater protection areas.

Moderate Risk Waste Collection LHWMP promotes proper disposal of hazardous wastes by King County residents and businesses by providing year-round hazardous waste collection services at three facilities (located in Factoria, north Seattle and south Seattle), the Auburn Supermall, and a traveling Wastemobile that provides service throughout King County. This Moderate Risk Waste (MRW) collection program is available to all residents living in King County, and to businesses and other non-residential hazardous wastes generators in King County that produce small volumes of hazardous waste.

How is our performance?

Business Technical Assistance Small quantity generator (SQG) businesses in King County do not receive assistance from the State regarding proper management of hazardous materials because they generate less than the State's regulatory threshold. However, many of these businesses generate small quantities of hazardous waste or use small volumes of toxic products. These businesses often unknowingly store, use or dispose of these materials in a manner that may pose a threat to human health and the environment, resulting in contamination of air, soil, ground water, surface water and reduced worker safety. Most vulnerable are populations located in groundwater/wellhead protection zones, flood hazard zones and commercial generators on septic systems. Given the potential for

immediate and devastating impacts to human health and the environment, high priority is placed on educating these businesses on proper hazardous material and waste management. In 2010, 523 sites were visited and nearly half (246 or 47 percent) were out of compliance with best management practices at the time of the initial site visit. After the site visit and other follow up, 141 or 57 percent of the non-compliant businesses were brought into compliance. In 2011, a total of 495 sites were visited and slightly over half (268 or 54 percent) were out of compliance. After the site visit and other follow up, 104 or 39 percent of the non-compliant businesses were brought into compliance. Over 345,000 pounds (172.6 tons) of hazardous materials and wastes were moved into proper storage and disposal.

Moderate Risk Waste Collection In 2010, 43,940 residents disposed of 1,363 tons of household hazardous waste in our facilities. In addition, 487 businesses, schools and other small quantity generators disposed of 38 tons of hazardous waste in our facilities. In 2011, 44,100 residents disposed of 1,408 tons of household waste at our facilities. In addition, 440 small quantity generator businesses disposed of 33 tons of hazardous waste at our facilities.

What can you do?

- Use EnviroStars businesses. By choosing local EnviroStars certified businesses, you reinforce better business practices - which in turn creates healthier, safer communities and motivates more businesses to "work green" in order to attract, or keep, you as a customer.
- Safely dispose of old household hazardous wastes through local collection services.
- Properly dispose of your left-over medicines at a drug take-back program.

Moving forward

In addition to the priority geographic areas, the Business Technical Assistance Program is ensuring that its services are provided equitably to all businesses in King County. Many materials have been translated; interpreter services are available, and several specific projects will continue to include culturally appropriate methods (Nail Salons, Janitorial and Dry Cleaners). In 2013, a community based outreach project that includes both businesses and residents will be added. The Moderate Risk Waste Collection Program partner agencies' (SPU and KCSWD) facilities and staff will continue to provide MRW collection at the North Seattle, South Seattle, Factoria fixed facilities, and the roving and Auburn SuperMall Wastemobile sites for King County residents. The agencies will continue to provide hazardous waste disposal options for qualifying small SQG businesses that generate small quantities of hazardous waste.

Related Links

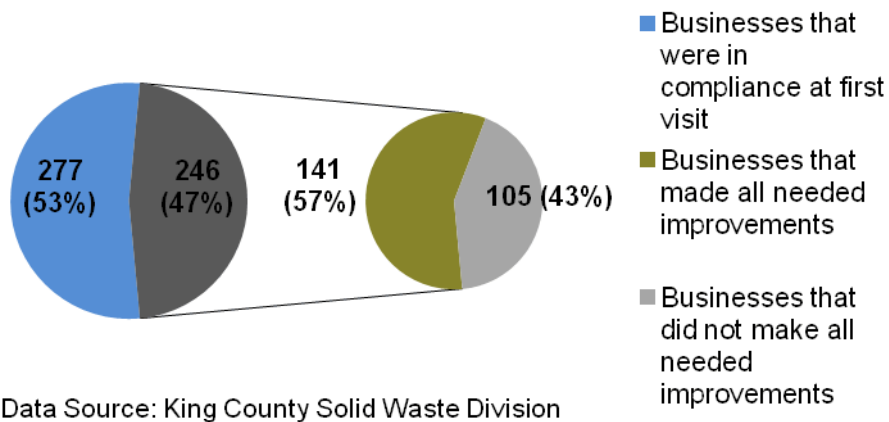
[**Take Back Your Meds Program**](#)

[**Local Hazardous Waste Management Program**](#)

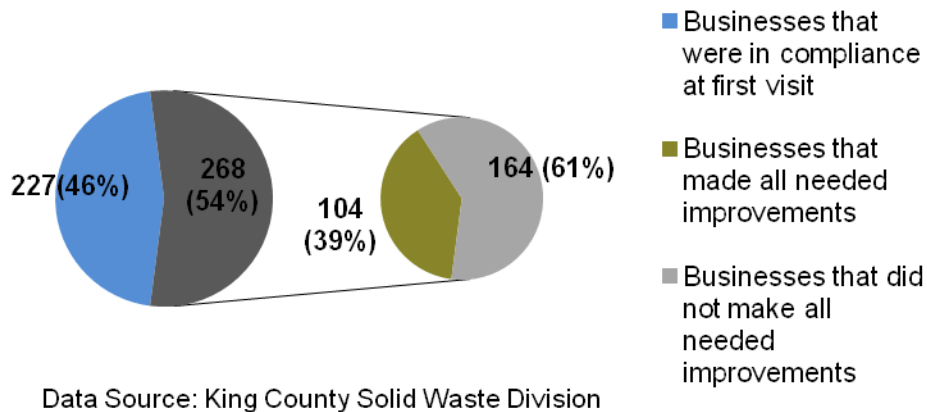
[**EnviroStars Program**](#)

Charts and Maps

Hazardous Material Program 2010 Results



Hazardous Material Program 2011 Results



Household Hazardous Waste Collected (tons)

