



2019 ANNUAL REPORT



**Hazardous Waste
Management Program**

GOVERNMENTS WORKING TOGETHER FOR
A HEALTHIER AND CLEANER KING COUNTY

Dear Reader:

We are pleased to share our 2019 Annual Report with you. As you will see, this report reflects the work of our staff and partners in fulfilling our mission – to reduce human and environmental exposures from hazardous materials. To accomplish this, we use a range of approaches, including disposal, prevention, and policy. While the ultimate purpose for our work remains constant, we continually evolve our services to best meet the needs of our changing community and the threats posed by hazardous materials.

Our Program remains committed to our racial equity vision – that race is not a determinant of hazardous materials exposure in households and businesses in King County. In order to achieve this, we are partnering with communities of color to better understand and address disproportionate impacts of hazardous waste exposures.

In this report, we highlight some of our Program’s accomplishments from 2019, including:

- Racial equity – implemented our Racial Equity Plan, which improves design, delivery, and evaluation of our services as well as how we operate as a Program.
- Collection and disposal – safely disposed of over 3.32 million pounds of hazardous waste for residents and businesses, and 44,780 pounds of medicines. Provided \$442,435 in grants to our city and tribal partners for additional hazardous materials outreach and collection events.
- Business services – provided on-site consultations to improve management practices and use of safer alternatives, as well as \$388,006 in cost-share funding for equipment to reduce exposures.
- Residential services – reached thousands of people with services to reduce in-home exposures, through phone consultations, community partnerships and events, classes, and in-home visits.
- Research and policy initiatives – supported statewide stewardship initiatives for paint and batteries, and a chemical action plan for per- and poly-fluorinated alkyl substances. Staff also investigated emerging issues, such as lead in cookware.
- Communications – improved the equity and accessibility of information services, including printed information and our call center. The team also re-launched our social media presence and completed a regional awareness campaign for collection services.

As our Program approaches our 30th anniversary, we are updating our comprehensive Management Plan. This update, which will build on knowledge gained over the prior decades and incorporate new research and community information, will guide our services in the coming decade.

We acknowledge and thank our staff, agency, and community partners for their dedication and great work. With the support of these talented individuals and organizations, we strive to provide relevant and effective services for our residential and business ratepayers now and in the years to come.



Lynda Ransley
Program Director
Hazardous Waste
Management Program



Dr. Darrell A. Rodgers
2019 Chair, Management Coordination Committee
Public Health – Seattle & King County

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The Hazardous Waste Management Program's Management Coordination Committee (MCC) oversees the regional and multi-jurisdictional partnership of our Program.

2019 MCC MEMBERS

Darrell Rodgers, Ph.D., Chair
Public Health - Seattle & King County

Councilmember Hank Myers, Vice Chair
City of Redmond Council,
Sound Cities Association

Susan Fife-Ferris
Seattle Public Utilities

Jeff Gaisford
King County Solid Waste Division

Joan Lee
King County Water and Land Resources Division

Program Director
Lynda Ransley
Director, Hazardous Waste Management Program
Seattle Public Utilities

OUR PROGRAM PARTNERS

The Hazardous Waste Management Program is a regional partnership for all jurisdictions in King County, which includes 38 cities, two tribes, and unincorporated areas.

King County Solid Waste Division

King County Water and Land Resources Division

Public Health - Seattle & King County

Seattle Public Utilities

Sound Cities Association

INTRODUCTION

THE HAZARDOUS WASTE PROBLEM

Many products that we use every day – including cleaning supplies, varnish, motor oil, oil-based paints, and pesticides – contain ingredients that are toxic, corrosive, flammable, or reactive. These products are considered “hazardous” because they can threaten the environment and human health.

Though the amount of hazardous waste coming from a single house or business may be small, the total amount from 2.1 million residents and more than 60,000 small businesses in King County threatens public health and the environment. Exposure to some hazardous products presents a risk even when they are used and disposed of properly.

The Washington State Department of Ecology sets stringent regulations for hazardous waste produced by “large quantity generating” businesses. It does not regulate similar wastes that are generated by small businesses or used in the home. This is the responsibility of local jurisdictions to manage.

OUR REGIONAL RESPONSE

Washington state directed local governments to ensure proper management of hazardous materials and waste. As a result, local governments across King County established the Hazardous Waste Management Program to manage these wastes through a unified program. Since its creation in 1990, the Hazardous Waste Management Program has been a major contributor to the quality of life of people living and working in King County.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is 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.

OUR VISION

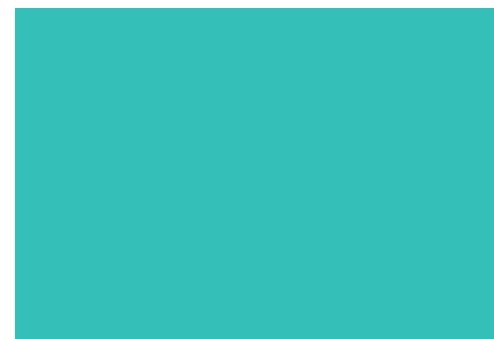
Our vision is that the Puget Sound region is the cleanest in the country – one free of hazardous chemical exposure.

HOW WE ACHIEVE OUR MISSION



COLLECTION

We provide convenient hazardous waste collection services for residents and businesses in King County. We operate four regular collection sites, mobile collection events, and in-home collection services for seniors and residents with disabilities.



PREVENTION

We offer education, outreach, technical assistance, and financial incentives to reduce exposures to hazardous materials where people live and work. We use a research-based, community-centered approach to encourage the use of safer products and to help residents and businesses manage their hazardous materials safely.



POLICY

We promote systematic changes in the production, use, and disposal of hazardous materials to help ensure that chemicals and products are safe for people and the environment. We work to create change through policy and product stewardship initiatives.

COLLECTION

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT FROM HAZARDOUS WASTE

Hazardous products damage our public solid waste and wastewater systems when they are put in the garbage or poured down sinks or storm drains. Ultimately, they can enter our groundwater and contaminate Puget Sound, rivers, and lakes.

Our goal is to protect our waste systems and the environment by providing ratepayers with convenient ways to safely get rid of their hazardous waste.

We provide our collection services through three fixed facilities, a Wastemobile collection event held every weekend in Auburn, and Wastemobile collection events in communities throughout King County. We also provide in-home collection services for seniors and residents with disabilities who do not have other means of transporting their items. We do not charge a fee because our services are largely funded by ratepayers in King County.



In 2019, the Hazardous Waste Management Program's collection services kept more than

3,322,000 pounds

of hazardous waste out of our waste systems and the environment.



66,711 visits by residents



1,032 visits by small businesses



72 home collection visits for seniors and residents with disabilities

BRINGING HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION CLOSER TO WHERE PEOPLE LIVE AND WORK

The Hazardous Waste Management Program continued to partner with community-based organizations to improve service delivery and make safe disposal more convenient and accessible to people of color, immigrants, refugees, and low-income customers.

In 2019, we partnered with the White Center Community Development Association to provide a "pop-up" Wastemobile and educational materials in 14 languages at their fall event. This initiative was part of a larger partnership in White Center to make our services more relevant and accessible to the community.

We also expanded our on-site bulb and battery collection program at YWCA and King County Housing Authority (KCHA) properties from five in 2018 to a total of 10 properties.



INCREASING AWARENESS OF COLLECTION SERVICES

In 2019, the Hazardous Waste Management Program launched an awareness campaign, Guilt-Free KC, to educate people living and working in King County about safe hazardous waste disposal. We aimed to reach younger and more diverse audiences who may be less familiar with our services. During its eight-week run, the campaign generated over 7 million impressions.

Visitors to fixed facilities and the Wastemobile increased by 8 percent, largely because of promotion through direct mail, social media, and the Guilt-Free KC campaign.



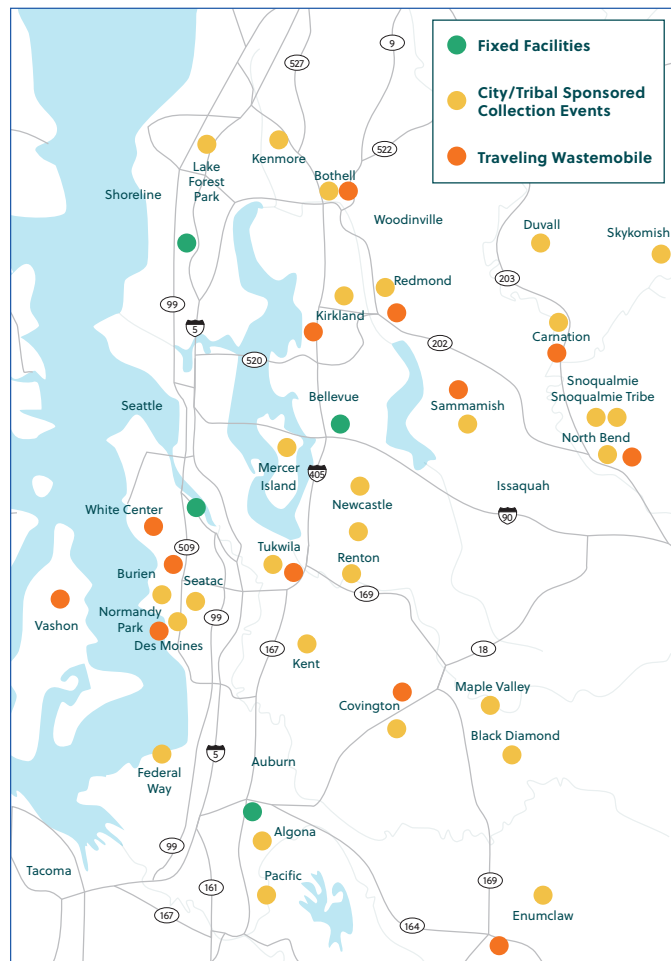
COLLECTION

INCREASING COLLECTION OPPORTUNITIES AND EDUCATION THROUGH CITY AND TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS


The Hazardous Waste Management Program provides financial grants serving 36 cities and the Snoqualmie Tribe to help more residents safely manage their hazardous materials. Grants are combined with other funding sources to support education and collection events for limited types of household hazardous waste and recyclable solid wastes.

In 2019, we built stronger connections between the Hazardous Waste Management Program and our partners by creating a city and tribal staff work group that meets quarterly. Staff members from nine cities, the Snoqualmie Tribe, the Muckleshoot Tribe, and the Sound Cities Association participated. We look forward to sharing resources and working together to improve service delivery and community engagement.

2019 COLLECTION SITES



 **\$442,435**
provided to city and tribal partners

40 city/tribal-sponsored collection events 

 **27,188**
residents and businesses attended the city/tribal-sponsored events

132,920 pounds
of hazardous waste collected 

Some city data is not submitted at the time annual reports are published. Customer counts and volume data includes what was received by the date of publication, plus any unreported data from the previous year.

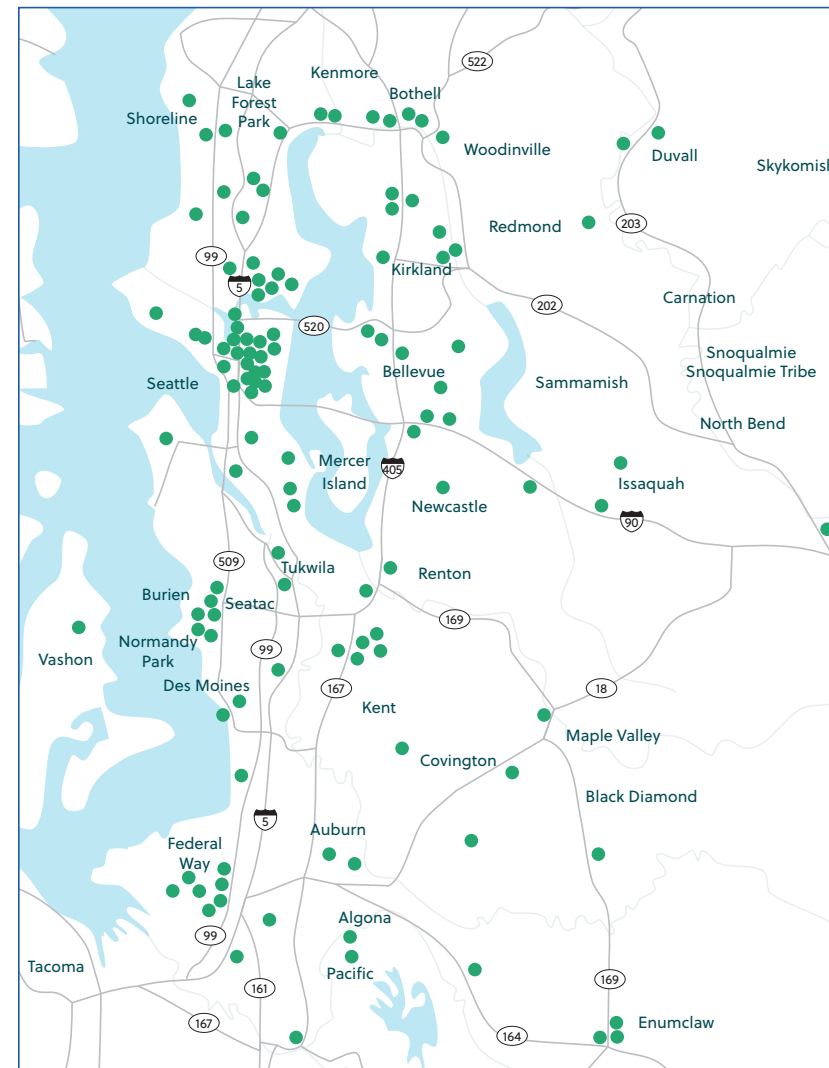
SAFE DISPOSAL FOR HOUSEHOLD MEDICINE

King County's Secure Medicine Return Program is a drug industry-funded and operated stewardship program to collect and safely dispose of unwanted household medicines. The Hazardous Waste Management Program oversees the program to ensure regulatory compliance and safety. Disposing of unwanted medicines at a Secure Medicine Return drop box helps protect families and communities from preventable poisonings, drug abuse, and overdose.

Since the program became operational in 2017, the number of medicine drop boxes has expanded to 120 locations throughout King County. The program also provides medicine mail-back envelopes for residents who are homebound or have limited mobility.

In 2018, Washington state authorized a statewide drug take-back program. King County's Secure Medicine Return Program will operate until 2022, when it will become part of the Washington State Department of Health statewide medicine collection program.

2019 MEDICINE DROP BOX SITES



 **120**
secure drop boxes

 **44,780**
pounds
of medicine collected

PREVENTION *AT HOME*

PREVENTING EXPOSURE TO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AT HOME

We prevent hazardous exposures by increasing awareness of hazardous products and providing equitable services and resources that encourage safer purchasing choices and behaviors.

We use a research-based, customer-centered approach to inform our planning, investments, and services. Program planning incorporates knowledge about the needs, barriers, and practices of our ratepayers as well as technical and scientific data.



2,799 calls

received by the Hazardous Waste Help Line



5,345 people

reached through 50 community events



2,066

calls and emails to the Garden Hotline



6,279 people

reached through 202 Garden Hotline classes and events



122 in-home visits

to provide trainings or evaluations to prevent exposure to harmful materials

PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR RESIDENTS

The Hazardous Waste Management Program provides phone consultations, education, and outreach to help residents safely manage the hazardous materials that are present in most homes.

Our Hazardous Waste Help Line connects residents to an expert who can answer their questions about product disposal and safer alternatives. We also host educational workshops to teach community members practical information about household hazardous products.

The Hazardous Waste Management Program partners with Seattle Public Utilities to fund the Garden Hotline. The Garden Hotline provides phone and email advice on how to use less toxic chemicals for lawn and garden care. The Garden Hotline also presents at classes and events, prioritizing service delivery to underserved populations and King County residents living outside Seattle.

REDUCING EXPOSURES TO LEAD



We work with several partners, including the Washington State Department of Health and local housing agencies, to prevent the risk of lead exposure and reduce the effects of lead poisoning for King County families. We reach families through broad and tailored services. In addition to providing blood lead level screenings and in-language information resources at community events, we provide individual case management and in-home assessments to help families understand and reduce the potential health risks caused by lead exposure.

In 2019, we successfully closed 257 reported cases of children with elevated levels of lead in their blood through services like environmental evaluations and exposure reduction plans. Cases of elevated blood lead level (eBLL) are closed when the child's blood lead level drops below the threshold of concern.

ENCOURAGING SAFER CLEANING PRACTICES



The Hazardous Waste Management Program is working to reduce the number of exposures to hazardous cleaning products in King County. In 2019, we continued our partnership with Sea Mar, a community-based organization with deep ties to the Latino/Hispanic community, to teach safer cleaning practices in 76 South King County homes. Sixty-seven percent of the participants continued their commitment to using safer products and practices eight weeks after the initial in-home visit.

We also brought safer cleaning education to 70 South Seattle Community College students enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Students speaking nine languages learned how to rank products by safety level and discovered the benefits of replacing chemical cleaning products with effective, non-hazardous alternatives.



In 2019, we provided customized outreach support to local partners to increase safer cleaning awareness and understanding in their communities. Our partners include Capitol Hill Housing, Take Care Duwamish, Mother Africa, Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition, Environmental Coalition of South Seattle, King County Asthma Program, Mercy Housing, American Lung Association, White Center Community Development Association, Seattle's Chinatown-International District Preservation and Development Authority, and Refugee Federation Service Center. Together, we provided culturally responsive information services to more than 800 community members.

PREVENTION *AT WORK*

REDUCING EXPOSURE TO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AT WORK

Our goal is to reduce the risk of chemical exposures by providing equitable services to help businesses safely manage hazardous materials and make safer product choices.

Most businesses generate some type of hazardous waste. We help small businesses make decisions that protect employees, communities, and the local environment. We provide on-site consultations, advice, and incentives for businesses.



COST-SHARE PROGRAMS FOR BUSINESSES TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS

The Hazardous Waste Management Program offers reimbursements on 75 percent of improvement costs (up to \$599) to businesses that make changes to protect workers or the environment from hazardous product use, storage, or disposal. By making a one-time financial investment, we help create lasting change.



214
businesses
received
reimbursements



\$388,006
total cost of
improvements



\$111,143
reimbursements
by the Hazardous
Waste Management
Program

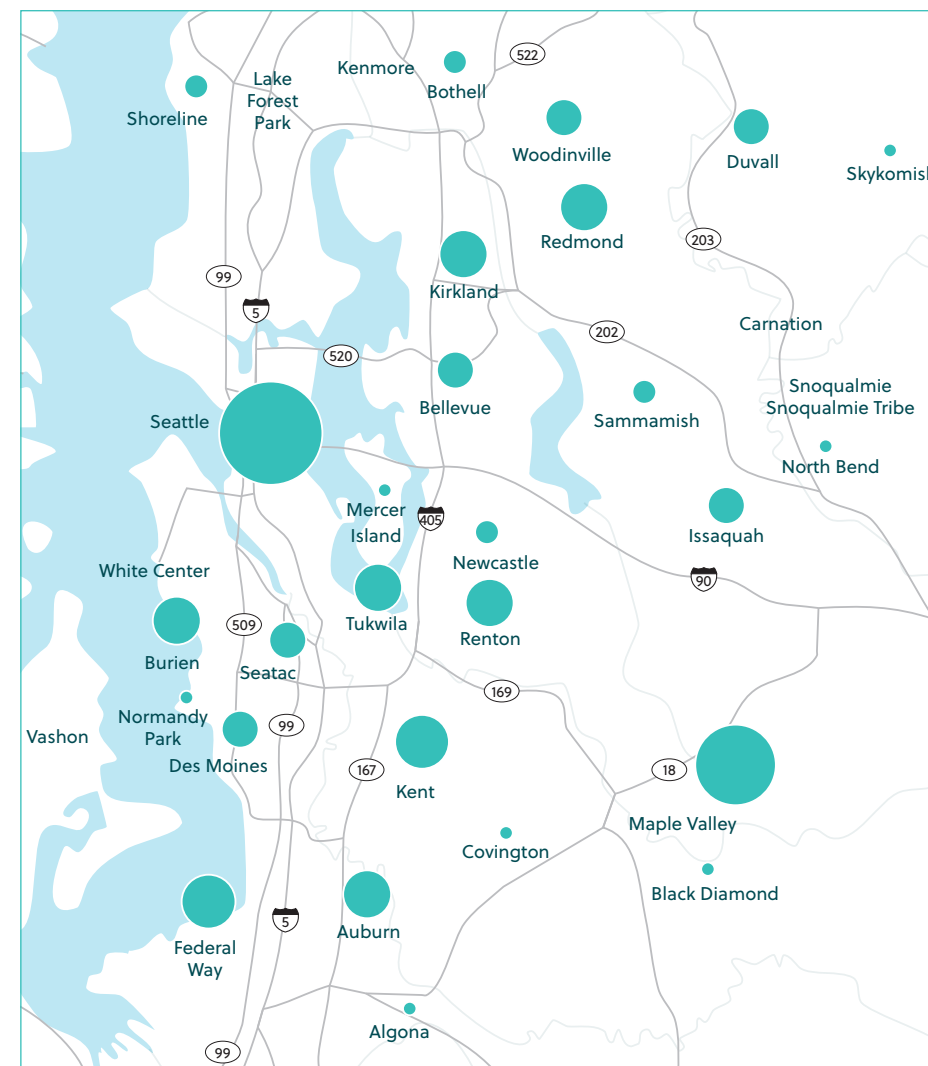


300% return
For every \$1 we spent,
small businesses
invested \$3

PROVIDING CUSTOMIZED ON-SITE SUPPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Hazardous Waste Management Program helps businesses throughout King County manage their hazardous materials so they do not harm workers, communities, or the environment. Our technical staff provide on-site consultations to help businesses find safer product alternatives, understand regulations, and reduce waste.

2019 BUSINESS VISITS



497 consultations
in 27 cities in King County



216,142 pounds
of hazardous materials moved
to proper storage or disposal



232 King County businesses
registered with EnviroStars, jumpstarting their
commitment to green business practices

PREVENTION *AT WORK*

HELPING BUSINESSES ADOPT SAFER ALTERNATIVES

AUTO BODY REPAIR SHOPS



We partner with paint industry representatives to help auto body repair shops switch to waterborne basecoats. Waterborne paints contain lower quantities of volatile organic compounds that can harm people and the environment.

In 2019, we provided technical and financial support to five auto body shops. We issued \$87,006 in reimbursements to help shops

purchase supplies and equipment, like the paint compressor pictured, to adopt safer business practices. Over the lifetime of the project, the Hazardous Waste Management Program reimbursed a total of \$119,939 to autobody shops. Together, we contributed to improved employee health and local air quality.

DRY CLEANING SHOPS



We are continuing to provide financial and technical assistance to help King County dry cleaners eliminate the use of perchloroethylene (PERC), a cancer-causing solvent, by 2025. In 2019, we issued thirteen \$20,000 vouchers to help local dry cleaning shops switch from PERC to professional wet cleaning. A total of 21 dry cleaners have adopted this safer cleaning method since 2018, resulting in hundreds of gallons of PERC being taken out of our

local environment. Based on the Hazardous Waste Management Program's success in King County, the Department of Ecology has launched a similar program for Washington state.

Of the first 20 dry cleaning shops to switch to wet cleaning, we found that 19 self-identify as a minority-owned business. Our efforts to switch dry cleaners from PERC to safer cleaning has helped reduce chemical exposures that disproportionately impact shop owners and staff, who are often people of color.

CONNECTING WITH KING COUNTY BUSINESSES

In addition to on-site visits for individual businesses, we deliver broad education services through outreach activities to help businesses safely manage their hazardous wastes. Connecting with businesses through fairs, workshops, and other networking opportunities helps keep our services relevant and responsive to emerging business needs in the region.



SPOTLIGHT: PREVENTING EXPOSURE THROUGH PERSONALIZED SUPPORT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Though our team frequently works one-on-one with businesses, we also form partnerships to protect our communities and the environment. In 2019, we partnered with the Puget Sound Workers' Compensation Trust to support the Skykomish School District in taking action to keep students and employees safe from hazardous materials exposure. We provided on-site consultations and helped the District make improvements, such as purchasing personal protective equipment for staff, a safety shower for a student science lab, and a spill clean-up kit. These safety investments provide lasting protection from hazardous exposure for the school community at Skykomish School District.

POLICY

WORKING UPSTREAM

The Hazardous Waste Management Program works to improve policies and regulations that impact the creation, use, and end-of-life management of hazardous products. We work with partners at many levels of government. We also partner with other local, regional, and national groups to achieve change.

OUR STATEWIDE POLICY EFFORTS

In 2019, we continued to work on four statewide policy efforts:

1

The Preventing Toxic Pollution Bill (SB 5135 and companion bill 1194) passed in the 2019 legislative session and provides the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) with new powers to restrict consumer products containing toxic substances. In 2019, the Hazardous Waste Management Program helped Ecology incorporate a racial equity analysis into their implementation of SB 5135. Using a racial equity analysis helps governments strengthen upstream protections for people living and working in King County.

2

The Battery Stewardship Bill (HB 2496) would create a statewide, producer-funded stewardship program for batteries. Current safe disposal options for batteries are limited and disposal guidance varies across the state. When thrown in the landfill, batteries waste valuable resources and could harm human health and the environment. Program staff served as chair of the Northwest Product Stewardship Council subcommittee that worked on the bill. The bill did not pass in the 2020 legislative session, but is well positioned for the 2021 legislative session.

3

The Chemical Action Plan for Per- and Poly-Fluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS) will identify the potential health and environmental impacts of PFAS and recommend strategies to reduce or eliminate them. Staff attended the PFAS summit at the Sustainable Packaging Coalition Impact 2019 conference in Seattle and continues to monitor the PFAS Chemical Action Plan progress. A draft report is expected in early 2020, with the final document scheduled for publication in fall 2020.

4

The Paint Stewardship Bill (HB 1652)

passed in the 2019 legislative session, creating a product stewardship program for reuse, recycling, and disposal of waste paint. Program staff served as chair of the Northwest Product Stewardship Council subcommittee on paint, which worked closely with Representative Strom Peterson on the bill. Governor Jay Inslee signed the Architectural Paint Stewardship Program (70.375 RCW) into law on May 9, 2019.



The Paint Stewardship Program is anticipated to become operational in 2020. Once it launches, drop-off locations throughout the state will accept unwanted paints and stains from residents, small businesses, and government agencies. Providing safe disposal options for paint is an important step in protecting human health, fish, wildlife, and our region's groundwater.

A small fee on the purchase price of paint will fund the program. This shifts the financial burden of managing unwanted paints from local governments and ratepayers to paint producers and people who buy paint.

BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The Hazardous Waste Management Program continues to establish partnerships that support community-driven planning, policy development, and improved services. Evidence shows that participatory partnerships with community groups enhances environmental risk assessment and leads to more equitable change.

In 2019, we worked with residents and businesses in White Center to explore and improve services in this unincorporated area of the county. We co-hosted two events, piloted a grant opportunity, and partnered with community members and organizations to ensure our services, planning, and policy efforts are relevant and equitable.



LOOKING FORWARD

For nearly 30 years, we have worked to protect human health and the environment in King County. But, there's still work to be done. Hazardous material exposure is a significant problem that continues to impact our communities. Moving forward, we will focus on prevention, sustainable system changes, and providing equitable services for King County ratepayers.

KEY PRIORITIES

LEADING WITH RACIAL EQUITY

We know that race can be a determinant of hazardous materials exposure. To confront the disparities that exist in our communities, we are committed to leading with racial equity. This allows us to address the root causes of inequities and make greater impacts. In 2019, we continued to implement the recommendations and actions set forth by our Racial Equity Strategic Plan and Implementation Plan. Staff formed cross-program work groups to address hiring and retention, community partnerships, internal coordination, and research needs. Our entire staff also participated in training to increase their knowledge and capacity to advance racial equity.

SAFER ALTERNATIVES TO HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

We are committed to working with businesses and residents to increase the adoption of safer alternatives to hazardous products. In addition, our team is working to develop a uniform system to identify safer alternatives, promote interagency partnerships and systems changes, and ensure that this work is designed and delivered through a racial equity lens.

ADDRESSING EMERGING ISSUES

Each year, thousands of new hazardous chemicals enter U.S. markets, and the exposures that most threaten our communities and the environment continue to evolve. The Program's Resource Teams—Research, Equity, and Communications—are developing a framework to identify emerging hazards and determine the Program's response. This framework will help us address the most problematic exposures and will help protect our most underserved and overburdened communities.

UPDATING OUR MANAGEMENT PLAN

Over the next decade, things are going to change – and we want to be ready for it. In 2020 and 2021, we will update our state-required Management Plan. We are following through on the Program's commitment towards advancing racial equity by working to develop this planning process with, by, and for the communities we serve. This completed Management Plan will establish a path forward for our services, resource allocations, and policies for the coming 10 years.

FINANCIALS

The Hazardous Waste Management Program received \$15,893,971 in revenue during 2019, primarily from fees on solid waste and sewer services. These fees, which apply throughout King County, are authorized by the King County Board of Health under Board of Health Code 11.04.060. Fees are collected by public and private utility providers (i.e., solid waste haulers, wastewater treatment plant operators, transfer station operators, and cities), which in turn pay them into the Program.

FUND BALANCE		
2019 Beginning		\$14,967,274
	2019 BUDGET	2019 ACTUAL
REVENUES		
Washington State Grants*	\$206,279	\$377,559
Wastewater Rate Revenue	\$3,602,701	\$3,613,561
Transfer Station Rate Revenue	\$3,040,129	\$2,562,654
Solid Waste Account Revenue	\$10,453,129	\$10,471,472
Interest Income	\$154,950	\$458,034
TOTAL REVENUES	\$17,457,188	\$17,483,281
EXPENDITURES		
Seattle Public Utilities	\$4,133,729	\$3,414,560
King County Solid Waste Division	\$4,913,654	\$4,028,041
King County Water & Land Resources Division	\$6,519,405	\$6,294,542
Public Health – Seattle & King County	\$4,576,790	3,000,242
City and Tribal Contracts	\$532,670	\$485,602
City and Tribal Event Inspections	\$24,311	\$24,311
Disaster Debris Contingency	\$25,000	\$0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$20,725,559	\$17,247,298
FUND BALANCE		
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenses		\$235,982
2019 End		\$15,203,256

* Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance, Washington State Department of Ecology



Hazardous Waste Management Program

GOVERNMENTS WORKING TOGETHER FOR
A HEALTHIER AND CLEANER KING COUNTY

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Alternative formats available: 206-263-1650 | TTY Relay 711

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