

Household Hazardous Materials Education

Goals

1. Protect ground water, surface water, soils, sediments, and private property from hazardous materials contamination.
2. Prevent poisoning and reduce acute (short-term) and chronic (long-term) exposures to hazardous chemicals at home and school.
3. Increase waste reduction (including source reduction), which conserves resources and reduces demand for disposal and recycling services.
4. Increase the percentage of hazardous waste collected (that cannot be prevented through waste reduction in the first place).
5. Reduce the amount of hazardous materials that are improperly stored, improperly disposed, and accidentally spilled into the environment.
6. **"Protect waste collection, disposal, and treatment workers from harm and reduce damage to equipment and treatment facilities by ensuring hazardous waste is kept out of these systems."**
7. **"Reduce potential for causing waste treatment facilities such as the landfill, on-site septic systems, and sewage treatment plants to exceed pollutant discharge limits."**

Objectives

1. Continue delivery of household hazardous waste education programs, whenever possible, resulting in measurable changes in waste reduction, recycling, and proper disposal.
2. Continue and create new partnerships with retailers of hazardous products to educate consumers.
3. Assess customer needs and collect information about target audiences to design programs that will result in behavior change or increased knowledge of options and services.
4. **Prioritize hazardous materials that are highly toxic (acute and chronic), have high exposure or contamination potential, and are available or utilized in large amounts. Research newly emerging chemical concerns and develop programs for those that meet the above criteria.**
5. Increase understanding of individual responsibility of proper selection, use, storage, and disposal of hazardous products.
6. Further policies that reduce the toxicity of products in the marketplace by promoting, for example, manufacturer take-back programs, the precautionary principle, market transformation, and the Thurston County Sustainability Policy (Environmentally Preferred Purchasing - TC).
7. Relate hazardous materials education to broader regional and global environmental health concerns such as restoring Puget Sound and mitigating climate change.
8. Implement programs reaching vulnerable and underserved populations.