

# Hazardous Waste Management Meeting Notes from September 18, 2008

## 1) Introductions

### Attendees:

Nicky Upson, TC-EH  
Rachel Laderman, TC-EH  
Mark Koster, TC-EH, Hazardous Waste, Used Oil Collection  
Gerald Tousley, TC-EH  
Dan Smith, City of Tumwater  
Liz Hoenig, City of Olympia  
Al Savli, Dept of Ecology  
Cedar Bouta, Dept of Ecology  
Ken Butti, Lott Alliance  
Mike Shultz, ORCAA

## 2) Review & Comment on Meeting Materials

### a) Minutes from 7/17

No comments

### Guiding Principles as presented and discussed:

[GuidingPrinciples9\\_09.pdf](#)

**Guiding Principle 1:** The discussion focused on revising the guiding principle to remove ambiguity about what we are protecting the public from. Consensus was reached to revise the wording to read:

*Protect water resources, the environment, and public health from risks associated with the use, storage, and disposal of household and small business hazardous materials through education, technical assistance, compliance, collection, and demonstration projects.*

**Guiding Principles 2, 3 & 4:** There were no comments.

**Guiding Principle 5:** Dan recommended replacing “keep up on” with “utilize” best available. The wording was revised to read as follows:

*Create partnerships among government, schools, business, and community organizations by sharing ideas and utilizing best available practices.*

**Guiding Principles 6, 7 & 8:** There were no comments.

The final Guiding Principles may be printed in their entirety from the attached file:

[GuidingPrinFinal.pdf](#)

**b) Household Hazardous Materials Education Goals as presented and discussed:** [HHM\\_EdG&O.pdf](#)

**Goal 1:** The group discussed whether it was necessary to identify each of the media to be protected, as well as if it was necessary to specify whether the property was publicly or privately owned. The group agreed to drop the word “private” and keep the identification of each medium and add air to those media at Mike Shultz’ request. The goal was revised to read:

*Protect air, ground water, surface water, soils, and sediments from hazardous materials contamination.*

**Goal 2:** The group asked if it was appropriate for schools to be included in a Household goal and determined that it would be better suited under the SQG category. There was agreement to remove the words “at home and at school” from the goal, provided that schools were addressed in another area of the plan. The goal now reads as follows:

*Prevent poisoning and reduce acute (short-term) and chronic (long-term) exposures to hazardous chemicals.*

**Goal 3:** There were no comments.

**Goal 4:** The group agreed to remove the parenthesis around “that cannot be prevented through waste reduction in the first place.” The goal was revised to read:

*Increase the percentage of hazardous waste collected that cannot be prevented through waste reduction in the first place.*

**Goal 5:** The group agreed to replace the word “and” with “or” so that the goal would read as follows:

*Reduce the amount of hazardous materials that are improperly stored, improperly disposed, or accidentally spilled into the environment.*

**Goals 6 and 7:** The group agreed to remove goals 6 and 7 because they felt that they were more appropriate under the waste collection section.

## **Objectives**

**Objective 1:** The group discussed whether another possible measure of the effectiveness of the education programs was reduced exposures to human health and the environment from hazardous wastes. The group agreed to include this and the objective was revised to read:

*Continue delivery of household hazardous waste education programs, whenever possible, resulting in measurable changes in waste reduction, recycling, proper disposal, and reduced exposures to both human health and the environment.*

**Objective 2:** There was discussion about whether the county had the capacity to influence manufacturers and, if so, at what level. While there aren't many manufacturers in Thurston County, the county does have the ability to work with those as well as to continue its work on broader initiatives, like those with the Northwest Product Stewardship Council, which do have the capacity to influence manufacturers by leveraging the resources of many. The discussion resolved that this objective is about education through the retail process, while objective 6 deals more with manufacturing and that this objective was best left as it is.

**Objective 3:** There were no comments about objective 3.

**Objective 4:** This objective replaces a previous version that targeted high risk and high volume materials first, then high risk and low volume hazardous materials, followed by low risk and high volume hazardous materials and finally low risk and low volume materials. Comments focused on the fact that prioritizing the myriad of hazardous materials would be challenging. However, the objective was left unchanged.

**Objective 5:** There were no comments on this objective.

**Objective 6:** The group discussed whether it was important to spell out that the county's Sustainability Policy was a means to promote environmentally preferred purchasing or not. In order to ask for funding from Ecology, EPP must be identified in the plan. It was agreed that the wording "Environmentally Preferred Purchasing" could be struck from the objective, provided that it is listed elsewhere.

It was also noted that influencing distribution is an important step in reducing toxicity of products in the marketplace.

**Note: After reviewing the Guiding Principles, staff determined that it would be best to leave reference to EPP following the objective. It reads as follows:**

*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).*

**Objective 7:** There were no comments on this objective.

**Objective 8:** It was suggested that the objective should include the word "researching," so that the revised objective reads as follows:

*Implement programs researching and reaching vulnerable and underserved populations.*

The final Household Hazardous Materials Education Goals and Objectives can be printed from the attached file: [HHM\\_Ed\\_GoalsFinal.pdf](#)

### 3) Waste Collection

#### a). Goals and Objectives as presented and discussed:

[WC\\_Goals9\\_18.pdf](#)

Gerald mentioned that some of these goals are similar to household waste goals and business technical assistance goals. One thought they had was to combine the programs into one set of goals.

**Goal 1:** This goal will be changed to reflect the same changes as those made to the corresponding Education goal.

*Protect air, ground water, surface water, soils, and sediments from hazardous waste contamination.*

**Goal 2:** This goal will be changed to reflect the changes made to the corresponding Education goal.

*Increase the percentage of hazardous waste collected that cannot be prevented through waste reduction in the first place.*

**Goal 3:** There were no comments on this goal.

It was noted that the first three are identical to goals that appear in the Education goals section.

**Goal 4:** The group discussed whether this goal is inclusive of all people who have the potential for chemical exposure through either delivery of municipal or emergency services. The group agreed that changing the language to municipal operations would include both. The goal was revised to read:

*Reduce chemical exposures to individuals and workers involved in municipal operations.*

**Goal 5:** The group discussed the types of hazardous materials situations that the county has had to respond to and the types of facilities that those have occurred in. Although there have not been a significant number, the group agreed that it was still an important goal as it spells out how this type of work proactively protects people in real ways without their even knowing it. The group agreed to revise the goal to read as follows:

*Avoid damage to solid waste handling facilities, wastewater treatment plants, on-site septic systems, and storm water facilities.*

**Goal 6:** The group discussed whether storm water facilities should be included in this goal or not. Gerald indicated that his preference would be to include them based on some pending county storm water permitting processes. The goal was revised as follows:

*Reduce potential for publicly owned waste management facilities such as the landfill, wastewater treatment plants, and storm water facilities to exceed pollutant discharge limits.*

**Objective 1:** The group discussed whether to include events along with facilities in the goal or to simply use the word “program.” The group determined that it preferred to be more specific and revised the goal as follows:

*Continue operating the hazardous waste collection facility and waste collection events for homeowners and eligible small businesses. Assess how to more efficiently run the facility and events to reduce long term costs.*

**Objective 2:** There were no comments on this objective.

**Objectives 3 & 4:** The group discussed the benefits of assessing not only the barriers to customer participation, but also the benefits thereof. The committee agreed that careful assessment of the benefits was a useful tool in being able to change people’s behavior. The goals were revised as follows:

*Assess barriers and benefits to customer participation in the waste collection services and carry out steps to overcome the barriers and increase the benefits.*

**Objective 5:** The group discussed whether this objective could be combined with objective 2, which calls for continuing operation of the used-oil collection network. The group decided that it would be best to keep these two objectives separate. There was also talk of creating a new objective that specifies participation in take-back programs. This is similar to work that is currently being done on fluorescents and paint. The existing objective was revised to read:

*Continue to operate a household hazardous product exchange.*

The new objective reads as follows:

*Objective 6. Facilitate development of manufacturer take-back programs to meet recycling and waste collection needs. Continue to add to network of take-back sites.*

**Objective 6 (now 7).** The group discussed that the county has prepared an emergency disaster plan already. However, it felt that it was important to keep the plan up-to-date. As a result, the language was revised as follows:

*Continue to update and practice the emergency disaster plan for assessing potential public health problems associated with disasters, collecting hazardous waste, responding to incidents of contamination, and determining how emergency response services will be funded.*

Another objective was added to reflect discussion about environmentally sound management and recycling of wastes that come in through the collection events or fixed-facility.

*New: Objective 8. Prioritize environmentally sound management and recycling of wastes collected.*

## **b) Household Hazardous Waste**

**Facility numbers from 03-07 and percentage of changes:** Gerald reviewed numbers for HazoHouse. Based on those numbers, one recommendation the group might suggest in the plans is to increase the amount of time HazoHouse is open.

**Fixed Collection HHW wastes document:** This document was provided to give the group an idea of the types and volumes of wastes that go through HazoHouse and what ultimately becomes of it.

The group asked whether there could be discussion about the end use of the wastes, such as energy recovery. The group felt that it was important that this be reflected in one of the goals.

**Residential Customers as Percentage of Population vs. Population Change document:** Gerald reviewed the slide showing the percentage of population that uses HazoHouse versus the change in population. The slide shows that the percentage of the population using the facility has increased over time, but the amount of waste that they bring has leveled off.

**Hazo House 2005-2007:** This slide showed how much it costs the county to run the fixed facility. Much of those costs are associated with disposal of wastes. It was pointed out that the more the county can recycle and reuse the materials, then the more it can reduce those costs. What the slide does not show, and what may be relevant in the plan, are the costs of not collecting these wastes and the costs of cleaning up spills.

**Waste Mobile:** Gerald presented numbers for past WasteMobile events. Fall events have been held in urban areas and the spring events have been held in rural areas. This is tied to CPG funding.

**Waste Mobile Costs:** This slide was presented to show the costs of operating a waste collection event. The group discussed that while you hear a lot (at work) about the expense of the WasteMobile, the data shows that these events cost less per pound to operate than HazoHouse does. The events are very efficient, bringing in a lot of waste over a short period of time. Additionally, they eliminate the barriers of convenience and travel to the fixed facility. What we have found, and it's not unique to Thurston County, is that people will hold on to their waste until the next time that WasteMobile is in their area. Holding on to it longer creates a greater risk to human health and the environment.

## **c) SQG**

**Business Waste Collection from 2007:** Gerald provided an overview of business waste collection. He said there are 53 small quantity generators listed with Ecology, yet we have 229 SQG businesses that are registered with HazoHouse. Gerald said a new business has to register with Environmental Health. They will take their waste to HazoHouse and Water and Waste Management will send them a bill.

**Hazardous Waste Disposal Rates:** Gerald said to think about maybe charging household customers for visits. The other idea that came out was to change the name to Eco Friendly Collection Facility.

## **Business Waste Collection**

### **d) Used Oil**

**Program status since 2002:** Mark Koster provided an overview of the used oil collection system. The network includes 11 tanks, 4 at solid waste handling facilities, and 3 more out at local business partners. They also have a local marina, operated by the Port of Olympia. These (2) are Port owned tanks that the county helps to maintain. Other tanks are awaiting placement.

### **2002 used oil collection goals**

**Goal 1:** Collect at least 80% of the do-it-yourself oil generated in Thurston County.

The group discussed that this goal may have been based on an erroneous figure, and that it was derived in the days prior to Jiffy Lubes. The county has not been able to achieve this goal. Mark said it's hard to know if they are getting all of the oil that is out there. They haven't made a concerted effort to see if there is a lot escaping collection or not. Other jurisdictions are finding a similar challenge.

**Goal 2:** Maximize re-refining the material that has been collected and stress at purchasing to recycle products.

Over 95% of used oil collected was re-refined. That includes both used oil through county-sponsored sites and private vendors like Schuck's and Auto Zone; many of them have made contract changes to feature re-refined over energy recovery.

**Used oil collection volumes 1993 to present:** Based on population figures and the do-it-yourself used-oil generation formula, there are 214,000 gallons of used oil to be collected through the network. Currently, we are collecting 68,000 gallons. The collection rate last year was 39-40% of the goal and the highest it has been was 70% in 1995. Consequently, we ask if the estimated gallons figure really reflects the amount generated by do-it-yourselfers.

Since 2004, the amount collected has dropped by 20,000 gallons and we have lost placement for 3 tanks. Cedar asked if surveys include a simple question about whether a

person changes his/her own oil or do they take it somewhere. Liz said it would be interesting to find out more about the do-it-yourselfer type and if collection facilities were no longer available then what would you do with your oil? Would you take it to Jiffy Lube, pour it on the ground, or store it in the barn with latex paint?

**Used Oil Program Status and Direction:** In the 2007-2009 grant funding cycle, the County is receiving over \$30,000 from CPG, which translates to about .2 FTE's per year. This is for day-to-day operations and possible program expansion.

We have requested additional funds and should hear back during fall about funding additional locations for other tanks. We also want to update signage on all tanks, which is tarnished by used oil.

**Current projects:**

Used cooking oil, especially with LOTT Alliance.

Recycling and recovery for used petroleum contaminated plastics - Right now they can't but would like to look into doing that. They might be able to explore this with CPG funding in the future.

In the late 90's and into 2000 Thurston County was paying for disposal of used motor oil, but now they receive monetary credits for each gallon that is recycled and they use that to offset the cost of recycling antifreeze and used oil filters. They don't receive as much for the re-refined disposal option. They have an obligation as of the 2002 plan to focus on re-refining.

**4) Next Meeting – October 16, 1pm-3pm**

**5) Questions**

**6) Adjourn**