WASHTENAW COUNTY SOLID WASTE PROGRAM



2013 ANNUAL REPORT The Washtenaw County Solid Waste Program continues to provide its residents, businesses, institutions and local units of governments a wide variety of useful solid waste management, recycling services and educational opportunities. The following report is intended to give a brief overview of the ongoing programs and accomplishments of the Solid Waste Program in 2013. The report is divided into three primary categories: **On-going Programs, 2013 Program Events** and **Education & Outreach.**

On-going Programs

1. Home Toxics Reduction Program (HTRP)

The Home Toxics Reduction Program is permanently located at the Washtenaw County Western Service Center at 705 N. Zeeb Rd. Over the last 17 years of its operation, a cumulative total of **2,293,817 lbs.** of Hazardous Household Waste (HHW) have been collected. In 2013, Saturday collections alone collected a total of



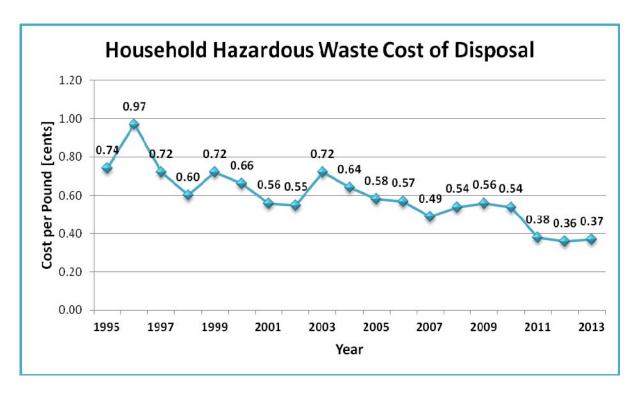
Permanent HHW drop-off facility at 705 N. Zeeb Rd.

299,025 lbs., servicing approximately 4,614 cars. The program has been effective in preventing hazardous materials from reaching the landfill and potentially causing adverse environmental affects. The HTRP has broadened its reach to include and assist the community with informational assistance and reduced pricing for hazardous material disposal through the County's HHW contract.

The year of 2013 marks the third year of a 3-year HTRP competitive contract with EQ — The Environmental Quality Company, a local hazardous waste vendor. Washtenaw County businesses, schools, organizations, local units of government and residents which require disposal of hazardous materials utilize the county's contract and expertise to identify regulations and requirements necessary to properly handle disposal of those items. Businesses that are prohibited from participating in the county's home toxics program are provided with names of service providers to meet their disposal needs.

For the second consecutive year, during 2013, the HTRP program again reduced the collection days from every Saturday to the first three Saturdays of the month, April through November, excluding holidays. Educational efforts have been utilized to inform citizens of alternative disposal and reuse options, reducing disposal costs for the HTRP. In addition, Washtenaw County staff have ongoing partnerships with vendors for free disposal of fire extinguishers and automotive batteries for recycling, while oil and antifreeze are used for waste to energy. The collected used vegetable oil earns little revenue but goes directly into offsetting other disposal costs. The attached diagrams

show the historical HHW cost per lb. per yr., trends illustrating the progress in reducing disposal costs and acting as an indicator of future HHW costs in Washtenaw County.

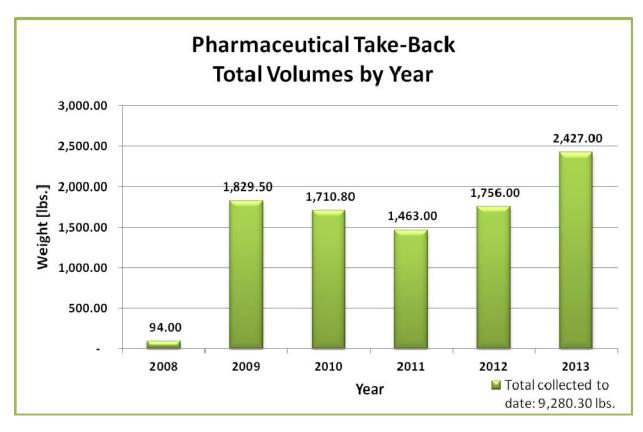


The total cost per pound for 2013 HTRP is **\$.21/lb**. This number includes all materials collected by EQ, Usher Oil and Calvert's, and the cost is offset by total Saturday donations amount of \$9,712.87 and Clean Sweep Grant reimbursement amount of \$1,038.37.

2. Medicine Take Back Program

This program was originally launched in 2008 and has continued to successfully function and flourish throughout 2013. The Medicine Take Back Program currently consists of several pharmacies throughout Washtenaw County, which serve as collection points for the general public to take their old pharmaceuticals for proper disposal. This is a much safer alternative to the most common practice of "flushing," thus contaminating the local waterways. The current waste disposal vendor is Drug and Lab Disposal, which provides each participating pharmacy with collection containers and pick-up service. To date, over 7,856.00 lbs of pharmaceutical waste have been collected and safely disposed of through this program. The website www.dontflushdrugs.com has acted as a useful tool in educating the public about the program and encourages participation. An increase in the number of participating pharmacies is expected to grow as the program continues to succeed and gain recognition. The original contract with the participating

pharmacies was such that the County funded disposal costs under at a discounted group rate and will continue through 2014.



3. Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) "Clean Sweep Grant"

The Washtenaw County Solid Waste Program, was awarded a \$45,000.00 reimbursement grant from the Michigan Department of Agriculture in 2011, which has continued through 2013. This grant is aimed at improving awareness, recovery and collection of old pesticides, pharmaceuticals and mercury-containing devices. These are collected in the community from farmers, commercial sources such as golf courses, agricultural nurseries and the general public. The grant also consisted of a \$15,000 capital improvement amount which enabled the expansion of the existing HHW drop-off facility to include grant-specific services located at Zeeb Rd. Being a reimbursement grant, all disposal costs for mercury-containing devices and pesticides collected at the HHW will continue to be collected and disposed of at no cost to the County. In 2013, Washtenaw County was reimbursed for all commercial pesticides collected through the Home Toxics Collection Program and continue in 2014. In 2013, Washtenaw County was reimbursed \$1,038.37 for our collection services.

4. Waste Knot Program

This community business and organization recognition program has continued to grow,

having accepted 26 new partners in 2013. To become a member of Waste Knot, an organization must practice waste reduction, reuse and recycling, while purchasing recycled content products as part of their business plan. They need to have policies in place to include employee education and encouragement of those activities. Though the above-stated are the minimum requirements to be admitted to the program, most partners go above and beyond in their endeavors to be "green." In addition to the standard recyclables, local organizations are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of proper disposal of hazardous materials, e-waste and food waste through composting. Many businesses are using innovation and creativity to help reduce their waste stream as much as possible to become part of a solution. Business waste composes roughly 60% of the total waste generated in Washtenaw County which goes to landfill. Because of this, it is extremely important to continue to educate and encourage waste reduction, reuse and recycling in the business sector through the Waste Knot Program.

5. Shrink-Wrap Recycling Program

Shrink-wrap and greenhouse film is a lesser known form of plastic that is abundantly generated because it is used to protect very large items such as boats, RVs and greenhouses during the winter months. In the spring, the shrink-wrap is removed and is most commonly disposed of in the landfill. Washtenaw County Solid Waste Division coordinated a Shrink-Wrap Recycling Program to produce an outlet for local marinas and greenhouses to recycle the wrap instead of sending it to landfill. In 2013, our partnership with ReCommunity enabled **approximately 4,000 lbs.** of shrink-wrap to be recycled and diverted from the landfill. This material was generated from Mac's Marinas located on Whitmore Lake in Whitmore Lake, MI and Klave's Marina located on Portage Lake in Pinckney, MI.

6. Latex Paint Collection and Reuse Program

Starting in the summer of 2013, the Washtenaw County Home Toxins Reduction Program staff, in combination with a licensed waste disposal contractor, collects new and used latex paint for recycling. After the paint is gathered it is sent off site, to the ePaint Recycling warehouse, reformulated and sold at many Habitat for Humanity ReStores throughout Michigan for reuse. In 2013 alone, the program collected a total of 56,171 lbs. of latex paint that has been recycled for reuse.

7. Used Vegetable Oil (UVO) Program - Waste to Energy (WTE)

Currently millions of gallons of cooking oil are improperly

disposed of into landfills, sanitary sewers and waterways, leading to long-term

environmental harm and clogged drains/sewers. ALL of which contribute to

needless costs in dollars to repair damaged drains, clean up/maintenance and

environmental impacts. In August 2013, the HTRP teamed up with Thumb BioEnergy to collect UVO for recycling into a useable biodiesel. With the addition of this new program, citizens now have a place to environmentally dispose of their used vegetable oil for conversion to biodiesel fuel and keep out of the sanitary drains and waste water treatment plants. This program is open to anyone in the community and is a great disposal resource for those with large amounts of used oil from fish fry's, charity events, weddings and family reunions, etc.

2013 Events

In 2013, the Washtenaw County Solid Waste Division participated in several main events, which include proper disposal and recycling opportunities for businesses and residents.

1. Environmental County Clean-Up Days

Washtenaw County sponsored two major clean-up events in 2013. The first event was held on Saturday, September 21st at the Department of Public Works in Saline. This brought in a total of 450 vehicles. The second event was held at the Eastern Michigan University Rynearson Football Stadium on Saturday, October 26th and serviced 1,021 recyclers. Items collected at these events ranged from the traditional recyclables, HHW materials (cleaning supplies, pesticides, gas, oil, etc.), Freon-containing appliances, tires and electronic waste.

2013 County Clean Up Day Diversions			
Item	Saline	EMU	TOTALS
Car Count	450	1021	1471
Freon	97	141	238
Tires	147	168	315
HHW (lbs)	28,305	40,710	69,015 lbs
E-waste (lbs)	17,050	37,713	54,763 lbs
Traditional (tons)	7.8	3.76	11.56 tons
Landfill (yd³)	240	240	480 yd ³

2. Waste Knot Ceremony

The annual Waste Knot Ceremony is held in April to reward and recognize all Waste Knot business partners. The ceremony consists of rewarding new Waste Knot members with a plaque, provides a networking opportunity for new and old partners and features several keynote speakers, usually highlighting particular firms' outstanding practices. The event features several booths available to partners for



advertising their organization to attendees. The year 2013 marks the third year that the Waste Knot Ceremony was a "Zero Waste" event. The event was sponsored in part by the Washtenaw County Consortium for Solid Waste Management (WCCSWM) and more than a dozen partners; including: Ypsilanti Food Coop, NSF International, Tupperware by Annette, Rudolph Steiner Health Center, Recycle Ann Arbor, Greenhills School, City of Ann Arbor, Allegra Print Mail Marketing, ReCommunity, SelectRide, Unibar Services, Inc., Zingerman's Community of Businesses.

Education & Outreach

1. Ypsilanti Heritage Festival

This event features a "Green Tent" exhibition area located on the banks of the majestic Huron River where the Washtenaw County Solid Waste Program is one of many environmental agencies/organizations to host a booth. The main priority is to educate the public about various community programs, provide literature on environmental health news and other recycling, reuse and/or waste resources.

2. Ann Arbor Green Fair

The Green Fair is a celebration of the Washtenaw community's environmental leadership and Washtenaw County Solid Waste hosts a table where information about several programs available to the public. Furthermore, all Waste Knot partners who participate in the Green Fair are able to do so at no cost.

3. Huron River Day

This event provides the Solid Waste Program an opportunity to educate the community, especially children, about environmental efforts within the community; including the Home Toxics Reduction Program, Pharmaceutical Take-Back Program, single-stream recycling, the Turning Trash into Treasure Guide, 3R Business Directory and other

recycling/waste resources. We also provide an array of environmental crafts and resources for younger children and their parents.

4. Washtenaw County Consortium for Solid Waste Management (WCCSWM)

WCCSWM is a consortium of representatives from local governments and public institutions who join together in a voluntary organization for the purpose of meeting at regular intervals to discuss and study solid waste, recycling and utilization of recycled products. The consortium also meets to develop policy and programs for ratification and implementation by member representatives of the County, local governments and public institutions. In 2013, WCCSWM also provided a \$1000 sponsorship to local units of governments to attend the 2013 Annual Michigan Recycling Coalition Conference held in Bay City. In addition, the WCCSWM membership has developed and supports the now annual Master Composter Program.

5. Multi-Media Education

Washtenaw County solid waste staff provides support to air the "Issues of the Environment" radio show on WEMU 89.1 FM every Wednesday morning. Staff provides issues and local experts on the issue to help inform listeners through the interview conducted by the show's host David Fair. Solid Waste staff contacted the Community Television Network, CTN, to create a 30 minute talk show called the "Green Room." Staff member Barbara Lucas conducts the interviews with experts and provides a video to accompany the interview. The Green Room has recorded over 20 interviews that include topics on how to clean up a small mercury spill, invasive non-native plants, and the County's weatherization program, energy reduction effort for businesses and homes and green roofs.

6. Washtenaw Community College (WCC) Career Day

The WCC Career Day event is held outside on WCC's campus at the beginning of the semester and features opportunities for students to explore areas of interest. Several students and faculty who visited the booth expressed interest in the environmental career field and ways to become more environmentally responsible in the community. The County's booth provides ample resources.

7. Washtenaw County Food Policy Council

In 2013 the Washtenaw County Food Policy Council continued working on a host of Food Packaging and policy related items. The goal of the group is to develop food waste recovery systems and infrastructure for the recycling and reuse of compostable materials from businesses, residents and agencies. Washtenaw County Solid Waste staff attends these monthly meetings.

8. 3-R Business Directory

The 3-R Business Directory is an online directory of Waste Knot partners that utilize responsible waste management practices and recycling. Each company listed in the directory features a general "business overview," "sustainable practices" description and a picture of their logo or storefront. The directory provides free advertising and publicity for Waste Knot Partners, and acts as a guide to the Washtenaw County residents and those visiting Washtenaw County for responsible consumerism.

9. Turning Trash Into Treasure Guide

The "Turning Trash Into Treasure" Guide continues to assist residents in recycling and reusing less common items not accepted in curbside programs. While the guide was created years ago, it was updated in 2013 and continues to be a helpful tool for Washtenaw County residents. Items include ammunition, batteries, bicycles, building materials, dry cleaning supplies, food, furniture, HHW, incandescent light bulbs, mattresses, medical supplies, office supplies, pet supplies, Styrofoam and much more.

10. Michigan Master Composter (MC) Class

This program trains and educates leaders, students, home gardeners and environmentalist in our communities on the "Best Management Practices" of composting and how to properly and responsibly manage food waste. Formerly the class was being operated through the city of Ann Arbor and now is in the process of being taken over by the nonprofit organization, Project Grow. The MC class is gaining recognition and boasts a hefty 2013 class size of 22, larger than the last three classes combined.