
Household Hazardous Waste Element (HHWE)

2014 Program Status



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**City of Thousand Oaks
Household Hazardous Waste Element
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Household hazardous waste (HHW) refers to waste resulting from products purchased by the general public for household use which, because of its quantity, concentration, physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics, may pose a substantial known or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, disposed of, or otherwise managed.

Household hazardous waste also includes materials that in combination with other solid waste, may be infectious, explosive, poisonous, caustic, toxic, or exhibit any of the characteristics of ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity.

2.0 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Overview

For approximately 20 years the City hosted monthly collection events to collect HHW materials from the public and small businesses. These events were very successful averaging 400-450 participants, with some events exceeding 550 participants in a five hour period.

Although successful the monthly events were at maximum capacity and could not be expanded to add additional weekends. The permits for these types of events limited them to one per month. Staff frequently received calls from residents or family members that could not make the available event dates and needed an alternative. Often these were out-of-the-area family members that were helping elderly or housebound relatives and were only in town for a short period, or they were residents that were moving and could not wait for the next collection event. To meet these needs the City committed to opening a permanent HHW facility that would be available weekly.

In addition, the City promotes the collection of materials deemed hazardous, but requiring less specialized collection at locations throughout the City. These include items like batteries, electronic waste, fluorescent tubes, paint, oil and oil filters.

2.1 Permanent Facility Collection Events

In 2014, the City opened a permanent Hazardous Waste Collection Facility at 2010 Conejo Center Drive as part of the City's Municipal Service Center expansion and is now the foundation of the City's residential and small business hazardous waste programs.

The facility was developed based on the analysis of thirty of the leading facilities in the United States by Dr. Eugene Tseng for CalRecycle, the state oversight agency. Dr. Tseng also served as an advisor to Mainstreet Architects who designed the facility and it is being certified by an international professional oversight body as incorporating the best practices for the design and operation for these facilities. It will also be used as a teaching facility by the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Extension as part of their Solid Waste Management and Sustainability curriculum. In addition, it was designated as a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver facility.



Dr. Eugene Tseng tours guests at the HHW Facility Grand Opening – June 4, 2014

The facility is open to City of Thousand Oaks, unincorporated Ventura County residents, and small businesses. The County contracts with the City and offsets the costs of unincorporated residents using the facility.

The facility is open Fridays and Saturdays from 9:00-1:00 for residents and Fridays from 1:00-3:00 for businesses. The business program is described at the end of this document. Both residents and businesses are required to make an appointment for drop-off to ensure adequate staffing and eligibility.

The new facility also includes a storage area to continue the success of the Material Reuse Program. This program had been running concurrently with the materials reuse program for many years.

The reuse program provides unused items such as cleaners, paints, and pool supplies received by the City and diverted for reuse. Residents can pick material up free of charge at the Material Reuse Store during regular hours of operation.

Material Diverted through City HHW Materials Reuse Program:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pounds of Hazardous Material Diverted</i>
2012	24,474
2013	18,058

2.2 Education and Public Information

The Education and Public Information Component outlines how the City informs students, residents, and businesses about waste management objectives. Environment-related programs represent one of the strongest presences in City communications. The foundation of outreach provided by the City regarding environmental programs is based on the following:

- City’s GoGreen website (www.toaks.org/gogreen) and blog
- Social media pages (Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter, YouTube, Google+)
- Monthly e-newsletter
- Print media: utility bill inserts, lobby fliers and brochures, newspaper ads, quarterly print newsletter (GreenScene)
- Local cable TV (TOTV)
- GoGreen Environmental Telephone Hotlines (449-SAVE and 376-5007)
- GoGreen presence at community and corporate events year round

2.2.1 Electronic (Social Media, Web, TV, hotlines)

Residents may access Environmental program information primarily through the monthly Green Scene e-Newsletter, the City’s weekly blog and the City’s website, in addition to a social media platform that provides environmental updates and news to a broader audience. The City’s website has information on waste reduction, hazardous waste, battery recycling, green business, residential/commercial trash/recycling service,

used motor oil/filter recycling, battery and electronics recycling, composting, waste reduction, beverage container recycling centers, stormwater pollution prevention, water conservation, green living, solar energy and more.

Email contact information is collected from residents at public events, including weekly Household Hazardous Waste events. The City sends monthly e-newsletters – that began in September 2010 – regarding updates on events and programs to over 7,600 contacts.

Besides engaging and sharing in conversations on Social Media platforms, (Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, YouTube, Google+) some advertising dollars are spent on Facebook online ads and promoted posts.

2.2.2 Print

Since the primary outreach vehicle utilized to reach residents is electronic, materials available in print form are kept to a minimum in order to conserve paper resources, and allow the user flexibility regarding the information they would like to access.

Flyers/brochures available for pickup in City lobbies include most of the Environmental programs including Junk Mail reduction, Green Business, Prescription Medication Disposal and more. The City continues to participate in ongoing newspaper advertising for programs and events including HHW Disposal, Simi Valley Landfill Day, and Arbor/Earth Day.

Additional programs or drop-off sites for

Wonder
Where to dispose of these for free?
Batteries, e-waste, Paint, Oil, Fluorescent lights
Pharmaceuticals

City of Thousand Oaks
PUBLIC WORKS

Convenient Disposal Locations

BATTERIES
City Hall
Conejo Recreation & Park Community Centers
Thousand Oaks Libraries

ELECTRONIC WASTE
Best Buy (390 N. Moorpark Rd.)
Goodwill (145 W. Hillcrest Dr.)
PC Recycle (2580 Azurite Cir.)
Staples (2725 Teller Rd.)

FLUORESCENT LIGHTS/CFLs
Home Depot (2745 Teller Rd.)

MOTOR OIL/FILTERS
AutoZone
BMW Motorcycles, Newbury Park
Conejo Valley Unocal '76
Firestone Complete Auto Care
Jiffy Lube
O'Reilly Auto Parts
Pep Boys
Shaver Automotive Group
Synfast Oil Change
T.O. Automall: Acura, Honda, Infiniti, Rusnak Audi/BMW, Silver Star Cadillac/Land Rover/Lexus, Kemp Ford, Neftin Mazda/Volkswagen, O'Gara Coach, Nissan

PAINT
Decor Color and Design (2820 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd.)
Dunn Edwards (360 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd.)
Orchard Supply Hardware (1934 E. Avenida de los Arboles)
Sherwin-Williams (2994 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd.)

PHARMACEUTICALS
Police Station Lobby
(2012 E. Olsen Rd.)
*no sharps (needles)

GoGreen
Environmental Programs
www.toaks.org/GoGreen

Figure 1: City of Thousand Oaks' "Wonder Where" Convenient Disposal Insert Flier.

household hazardous waste are available for:

- battery collection,
- electronic waste (e-waste)
- pharmaceuticals
- sharps collection,
- used oil and filters collection, and other HHW.

Details on these programs are included below.

2.3 Battery Collection

Batteries contain heavy metals such as mercury, lead, cadmium, and nickel. The City's household battery collection program prevents environmental and health exposure to toxic materials, reduces landfill contamination, allows potentially valuable metal to be recycled, and allows reusable batteries to be safely processed. The City has thirteen convenient drop-off locations for residents, and the HHW facility accepts batteries during waste collection events. In addition to proper battery disposal, the City promotes the use of devices that do not require batteries or that use rechargeable batteries. These programs prevented over 27,500 pounds of batteries from entering the landfill in 2013 alone.

Batteries and printer cartridges are collected at various locations at City Hall and picked up by an outside vendor for recycling. Battery collection is available at thirteen public locations across the City for collection and recycling, including:

- City Hall
- Thousand Oaks and Newbury Park Libraries/Police Resource Center
- Borchard and Dos Vientos Community Centers
- Goebel Senior Center
- Thousand Oaks Transportation Center
- Alex Flore Teen Center
- Home Depot

2.4 Electronic Waste Collection

The City promotes electronic recycling through weekly Household Hazardous Waste Collection events, Goodwill collection trailer, PC Recycle (local e-waste recycler), local Best Buy e-waste recycling program, and local Staples store e-waste recycling program.

2.5 Fluorescent Tubes and CFLs

The City promotes proper disposal of CFL bulbs and fluorescent tubes with Home Depot. The City also provides information on the proper disposal of products containing mercury and cadmium, and accepts these materials at the HHW collection events.

2.6 Pharmaceutical Collection

Improperly disposed pharmaceuticals (human and animal medicines and vitamins) contaminate landfills, soil, and waterways and are having a serious impact on human and ecological health.

The City of Thousand Oaks offers a free Medication Return Program as an ongoing commitment to protecting the environment and our community. Since Spring 2010, the City has maintained a pharmaceutical collection bin at the East County Sheriff's Station for residents to drop off unwanted or expired medications and vitamins.

Drop-off is the primary means of collection, however if residents are unable to leave their homes, postage paid Mail-In Envelopes are provided. Participants of the mail-in options can simply follow the instructions for use: place sealed medications in the envelope, secure envelope, and return via the U.S. Postal Service for assured processing.

2.7 Sharps

The City's home generated sharps (needles) collection program provides free approved rigid containers for the safe collection and disposal of home generated needles to residents either at City Hall or at the HHW facility during events. Residents can drop-off

full sharps collection containers at monthly Household Hazardous Waste events, the Conejo Valley Family Medical Center, and Los Robles Hospital.

2.8 Used Oil and Oil Filter Collection

As a part of the City's participation in CalRecycle's used motor oil and filters collection program, residents have several options. In addition to bringing used motor oil and filters in a sealed container to the HHW facility, residents can conveniently dispose of oil and filters at twenty-three state-certified used oil recycling and curbside drop off collection locations throughout the City.

In addition, residents can visit the permanent facility during normal hours of operation and receive a free 12-quart used motor oil container and filter collection container to assist in transporting these materials safely.

3.0 Other Hazardous Waste Programs

3.1 Small Business Hazardous Waste

Businesses that produce up to 27 gallons or 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month can qualify to participate in the City's Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) program. Businesses that generate more than these amounts are required to use a licensed hazardous waste hauler to manifest and transport their waste.

The City, through its hazardous waste contractor Stericycle (formerly PSC), offers qualifying businesses weekly drop-off disposal of hazardous waste at the City Hazardous Waste Facility. Appointments are available Friday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Interested businesses are directed to a small business "hotline", 1-800-714-1195, to schedule an appointment and get more details about the program. The City subsidizes costs by covering labor, allowing for very affordable disposal rates for participating businesses.

3.2 Integrated Pest Management

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) refers to a pest management methodology that limits or eliminates the use of toxic chemicals, thereby reducing adverse health and environmental impacts. This generally consists of using mechanical, biological and green chemical treatment methods to manage pests in and around homes and businesses.

The City Landscape Division incorporates Integrated Pest Management practices by releasing thousands of Green Lacewing eggs, Lady Bugs, Praying Mantises, and Decollate Snails at public facilities, in various maintained right-of-ways, and in public landscape areas throughout the City each year.

To raise awareness and further promote IMP practices, the City applied for, and was recently awarded a Household Hazardous Waste Discretionary Grant (HD23) to partner with the cities of Moorpark and Camarillo on an IPM project using the successful “*Got Ants!*” materials that have been developed. The goal of the program is to educate residents about the benefits of IPM and therefore encourage hired professionals to respond accordingly by adopting effective, environmentally sustainable pest management practices.

This program will be implemented in 2015.