

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM PROGRAM OVERVIEW

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) COLLECTION

Weekly Collections

Household Hazardous Waste is collected weekly (Saturdays) at three locations. Broward County residents drop off HHW free of charge between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Trained technicians unload, segregate and prepare materials for transport to federally permitted disposal sites. Diverting HHW from the solid waste stream has beneficial impacts to the solid waste system through reduction of landfill leachate contaminants and reduction of potentially harmful compounds from incinerator stack emissions and ash residues.

Remote Collection Even Program

HHW is collected at one day collection events (Sundays) six times per year in varying locations in cooperation with a host Municipality. Geographic areas farthest from weekly collection locations are targeted to bring convenient HHW disposal to residents of these areas.

Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) Program

Small businesses who generate less than 220 lbs of regulated hazardous waste per calendar month and government agencies are eligible to utilize Broward County's hazardous waste disposal contractor and receive the County's discounted disposal prices. Small businesses and government agencies who require disposal are referred to the disposal contractor and materials are removed directly from the generator's site. Material quantities, number of service calls, and customer service aspects are tracked by HHW staff.

Priority Waste Program

Specific HHW and associated materials have been identified and targeted by the HHW program as items of focus. These "Priority Wastes" have been identified by the regulatory community as items of concern which, if collected and diverted from incineration and landfill, offer a significant positive impact to the environment and solid waste system. Examples include heavy metal bearing products and wastes (electronics, lead acid batteries, fluorescent lights, rechargeable batteries). Waste specific promotional materials and distribution networks, innovative collection modes, and cooperative efforts to inform the public of the importance of the proper disposal of these materials have been, and are continuing to be, developed. Focus on these materials and their diversion from the solid waste system has the potential to have significant positive impact to the solid waste system through the reduction of heavy metal levels in incinerator emissions, ash residues, and landfill leachate.

RECYCLING/SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Latex Paint Recycling Program ("Paint it Broward")

100% of unusable latex paint collected at HHW collections is routed for re-blending and recycling by a Florida paint manufacturer. Recycled product is re-packaged and returned to the County to be distributed to residents free of charge. Recycled paint is available in five different colors and the product is of a good exterior quality. The distribution of recycled paint is accomplished through a cooperative program where the County distributes stocks to participating municipalities who in turn distribute product to their residents. In addition, recycled latex paint is made available to non-profit organizations, municipal improvement projects, and other non-profit endeavors. Over 50,000 gallons of recycled latex paint collected by the HHW program is distributed to the residents of Broward County each year.

The Office of Integrated Waste Management, in a partnership with Broward County Code Enforcement, has established a program to aid Broward residents in meeting established exterior appearance building codes. In lieu of the issuance of a violation, the resident is given the opportunity to receive recycled latex paint for use in correcting the code violation. At the time a pending violation is issued, a code enforcement officer records a color choice and order amount, receives product from the County, and delivers the product to the resident in violation. The resident has 30 days to utilize the received product, at which time the pending violation is corrected and fines are eliminated. To date, 100% of residents utilizing this service have corrected the violation within the allotted time, avoiding the issuance of penalties.

Electronics Recycling Program

Electronics (television, computers, others) are collected in conjunction with HHW by a grant funded non-profit contractor who segregates materials for reuse or recycling. Computer monitors and TV picture tubes (CRTs) contain significant amounts of lead. These items are recycled to recover the glass and lead for use in new products. Microchips, circuit boards, other recyclable metals contained in electronic product are separated and sent for recycling and use in the manufacture of new products. Lead and other heavy metals contained in these products have the potential to negatively impact landfill leachate, incinerator emissions, and ash residues.

Re-Chargeable Battery Recycling Program

Re-chargeable battery collection is incorporated into HHW collection. Re-chargeable batteries collected are routed to a non-profit recycling coalition (Recyclable Battery Recycling Coalition RBRC). The RBRC was formed by battery manufacturers to provide recycling and environmentally responsible means of disposal for their products. The RBRC offers no cost recycling services and promotional materials to educate consumers and promote re-chargeable battery recycling. Waste specific promotional materials and distribution networks, innovative collection modes, and cooperative efforts to inform the public of the importance of the proper disposal of these materials have been, and are continuing to be, developed.

Re-chargeable batteries contain lead, nickel, cadmium, or other heavy metals and have the potential to negatively impact landfill leachate, incinerator emissions, and ash residues.

Lead Acid Battery Recycling Program

Lead acid battery (automotive, marine, others) collection incorporated into HHW collection. Collected batteries are routed to a Florida-based battery manufacturer, who recycles the lead, plastic battery casings, and acid electrolyte directly into new batteries. Lead acid batteries are recycled at no cost to the program. Providing convenient battery recycling aids to prevent illegal dumping of these materials and reduces negative impacts to landfill leachate, incinerator emissions, and ash residues in the form of a reduction in lead levels.

Fluorescent Light Tube/Mercury Device Recycling

Mercury-containing lamp (MCL) and mercury-containing device (MCD) collection is incorporated in HHW collection. Promotional materials and distribution networks have been established to inform the public of safe handling and disposal options. The State of Florida has banned the incineration of MCLs (fluorescent lights, others) and incineration and landfill of MCDs (thermostats, thermometers, etc.) [Florida Statute 403.7186]. These measures were enacted to reduce the release of mercury into the environment and encourage the recycling of mercury containing products. Mercury in MCLs and MCDs has the potential to negatively impact landfill leachate, incinerator emissions, and ash residues.

Flare Disposal Program

Automotive and marine flare collection is incorporated into HHW collection. Promotional materials and distribution networks have been established through marina associations, boating clubs, and retailers to inform the public of safe handling and disposal options. Collective flares are incinerated through a cooperative program established by the FDEP, the Florida Fire Marshall's Office, and Florida Counties. Collected flares are received and incinerated in a mobile burn unit operated by State Fire Marshall's personnel at no charge to the program. The State of Florida has designated the disposal of outdated automotive and marine flares and items of special concern. Currently there is no other safe or environmentally sound disposal option for flares other than delivery to an HHW collection.

Propane Cylinder Recycling Program

Propane cylinder collection is incorporated into HHW collection. Cylinders collected are routed to a Florida-based propane distributor who refurbishes cylinders for use in their cylinder exchange/propane sales business. Propane contained in discarded cylinders is used to power refurbishing equipment or is resold. Propane cylinders are recycled at no cost to the program. Collection of propane cylinders provides residents a safe and environmentally sound disposal option for these products.

Realtor Program

Often when moving or moving into a new house, residents encounter HHW, and most moving companies are not permitted to transport hazardous materials. As a result, HHW is often left behind by the former homeowner. In an effort to inform the public of available disposal options, a promotional program has been developed where HHW promotional materials are distributed by a network of Broward County Realtors. This promotional and information distribution network reaches a segment of the population who often has an immediate need to utilize Broward County's HHW program.