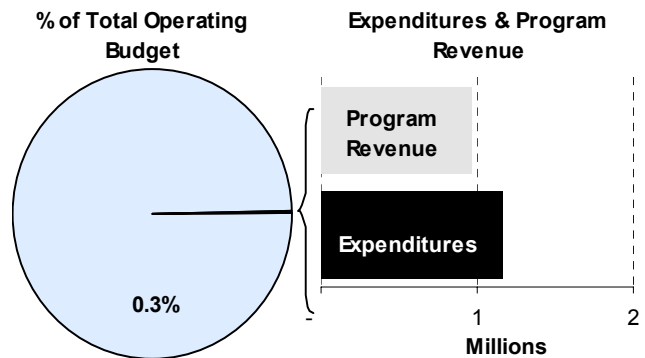
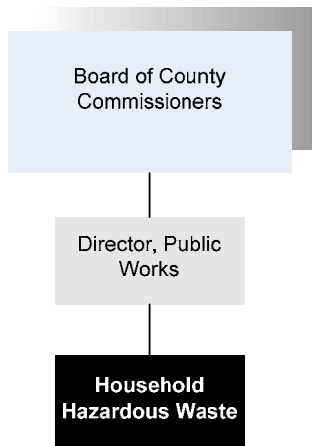




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Mission:

- To help protect the environment by reducing the improper disposal of wastes through education and by providing citizens safe and proper disposal alternatives.



Program Information

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) accepts common household hazardous wastes from individuals at no charge, has convenient hours and features a swap-n-shop area where selected materials may be taken home by citizens for their re-use. Small businesses that qualify as small quantity generators can also use the facility and pay the County’s contract disposal rate. The Solid Waste Fee assessed against all property owners in the County funds Household Hazardous Waste operations.

The Household Hazardous Waste program has grown substantially during the last few years and now serves over 16,500 customers and accepts over 1.3 million pounds of materials annually. Similarly, the Small Quantity Generator Program (SQG) helped over 600 businesses properly manage and dispose of over 300,000 pounds between 2002 and 2006. A silver recovery program was initiated in late 2004 and has steady support from its customers.

In March of 2005, the Household Hazardous Waste staff earned special recognition from the Kansas Department

of Health and Environment with the presentation of “Works! Achievement Award” at their annual conference. The award recognized staff for their outstanding commitment to HHW Management in Kansas for diverting the largest amount of hazardous waste from landfills during the state fiscal year ending in June 2004. In September 2005, HHW staff earned national recognition when they received a “Program Excellence” award from the North American Hazardous Materials Management Association (NAHMMA).

Annually Household Hazardous Waste, together with sponsoring communities have held a total of five remote collection events annually that have improved program outreach to communities throughout the county. In 2007, these events, typically held on Saturday mornings, each averaged 150 customers and over 17,000 pounds of hazardous and solid waste. These remote collection events received an estimated 47,000 pounds of latex paint, 10,600 pounds of used oil and 15,000 pounds of batteries. HHW has been very successful in diverting waste such as paint and in selling products like used oil.



Several positive trends are indicated in the data from the first six months of 2008 HHW operations. Recycled waste increased by 29.8 % to over 200,000 pounds as a result of substantial increases in latex paint sales, used oil collection, and use of the swap and shop by citizens. By recycling/reusing these products much of the higher cost of disposal is avoided.

For the 2009 operating year, staff will be challenged by the anticipated continued growth in demand for their basic service. Within the limitations of available staffing, they also intend to expand used oil and silver recovery pickup routes. Household Hazardous Waste program expects continued growth in key areas that are considered "hot" topics nationally. Household Hazardous Waste staff will continue to collect non-controlled prescription drugs for proper disposal as it is no longer acceptable to dispose of those materials through the trash or sewer systems. In addition, they are also continuing collection of computers for proper recycling. These computers are then transferred to Starkey, a local non-profit group, where individuals with disabilities disassemble or de-manufacture these electronic items and sort the parts for distribution to recycling companies.

Departmental Sustainability Initiatives

HHW contributes to the economic sustainability of the county by offering free disposal of household hazardous chemicals. By keeping these materials out of the environment, the department contributes to a safer cleaner environment to raise a family in, and improves the community's potential to recruit top businesses and people.

By ensuring the safe handling of household hazardous materials, with 90% of the waste that comes through the door being reused/recycled, the department is saving taxpayers a tremendous amount of money and at the

same time making great strides towards a cleaner community.

Social equity is a core initiative as programs are designed and targeted to help citizens dispose of hazardous material; at no cost. Outreach activities are a significant component of work done by HHW with remote collection events held in each Commission district annually. A recent event held in concert with Environment Resources that exchanged old gas cans for new spill proof containers proved remarkably successful. HHW also accepts cooking oil year round with this being very popular after Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Alignment with County Values

- **Equal Opportunity -**
Division programs assist individuals to overcome barriers to maintain their health and well-being regardless of their background
- **Commitment -**
Case Managers focus on clients
- **Open Communication -**

Goals & Initiatives

- **Provide citizens a customer-friendly and convenient location to dispose of their household hazardous waste.**
- **Improve customer service and outreach with addition of Remote Collection Events**
- **Help more Small Quantity Generators manage and dispose of their hazardous waste properly**

Awards & Accreditations

- Staff all receive Hazardous Waste and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training as well as additional safety training

Budget Adjustments

The budget includes \$51,000 for an e-waste collection event. Changes to the 2009 HHW budget reflect increases in benefit costs and a 4.0 percent salary pool for employees. The budget also reflects a 3.0 percent increase in contractuals commodities and capital equipment from the 2008 Adopted Budget.

