

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
HOUSEHOLD AND BUSINESS  
HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAMS  
FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020**

The County of Santa Barbara offers many programs that provide the community with a means to properly dispose of household and business hazardous waste, which has become a growing concern due to an increased understanding of the potential for harm to the health of humans and animals, as well as the environment.

***COMMUNITY HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION CENTER (CHWCC)***

The County of Santa Barbara (County) has supported the development and operation of the Community Hazardous Waste Collection Center (CHWCC), which has operated as a public/private partnership between the County and the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB) since 1993. The CHWCC diverts household hazardous waste (HHW) from being disposed at the County's solid waste facilities by providing the public with an alternative disposal method that is both safe and environmentally sound.

The CHWCC accepts waste from both residents and small businesses located in the Cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Solvang, and the unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County.

***OPERATION OF CHWCC FACILITY***

The CHWCC is open to residents from the unincorporated communities from Orcutt and the Santa Ynez Valley down to the Carpinteria Valley, and the Cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Solvang. The CHWCC, which opened on October 1, 1993, serves a population of approximately 274,000. The facility is open to residents and to Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQGs), which are businesses that generate up to 27 gallons or 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month. Businesses may use the CHWCC on Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. by appointment only, while residents may use the Center without an appointment on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Three full-time employees, two half-time employees and several student workers are trained in hazardous materials management and are responsible for offloading the incoming hazardous waste from the vehicles, identifying where the waste is originating from, and packaging the material to be transported for appropriate processing and disposal. The County has one full-time employee who spends three-fourths of her time answering inquiries from the public; setting up

appointments and meeting with businesses; tracking tonnage, participant and cost data; and monitoring the overall administration of the CHWCC.

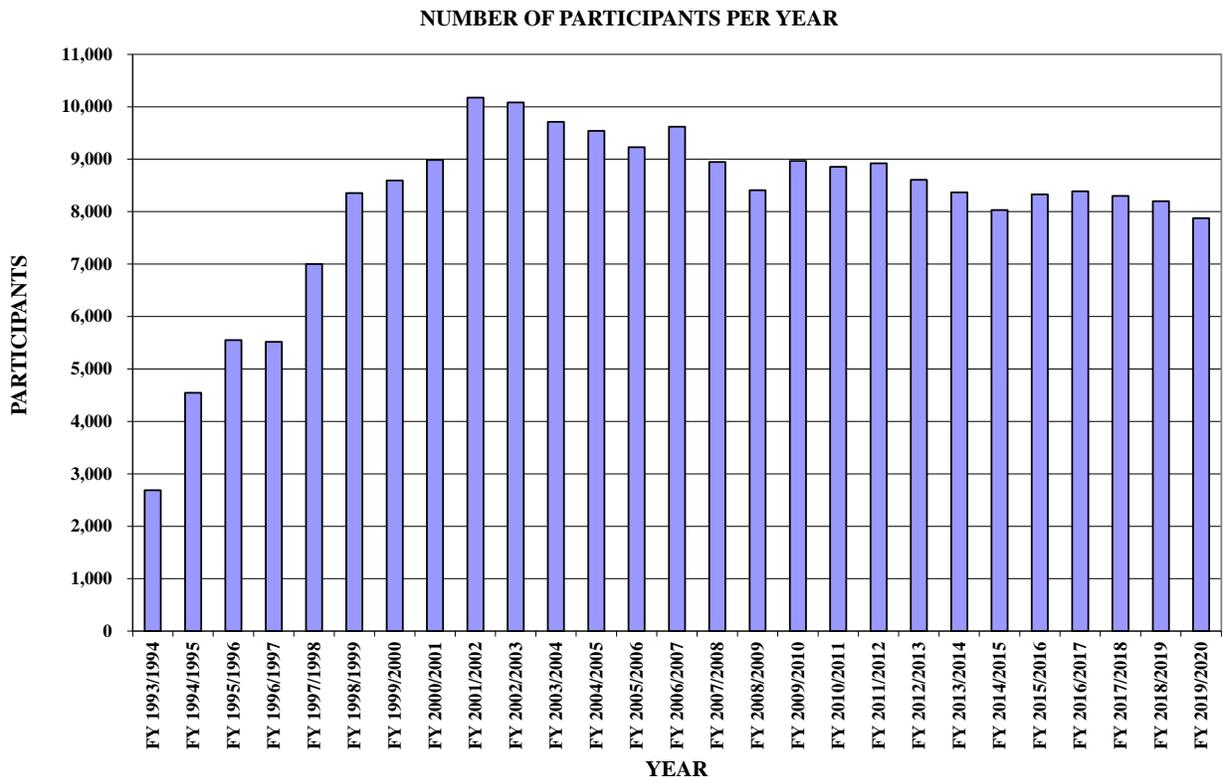
**CHWCC SERVICE AREA AND PARTICIPATION**

During Fiscal Year (FY) 2019/2020, the CHWCC served 7,614 residential customers. The participation breakdown for residents is listed below.

	<u>Number of Participants</u>
Unincorporated County	2,997 (39%)
City of Santa Barbara	2,663 (35%)
City of Goleta	1,938 (25%)
City of Solvang	15 (<1%)
Out of Area	<u>14 (&lt;1%)</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,614</b>

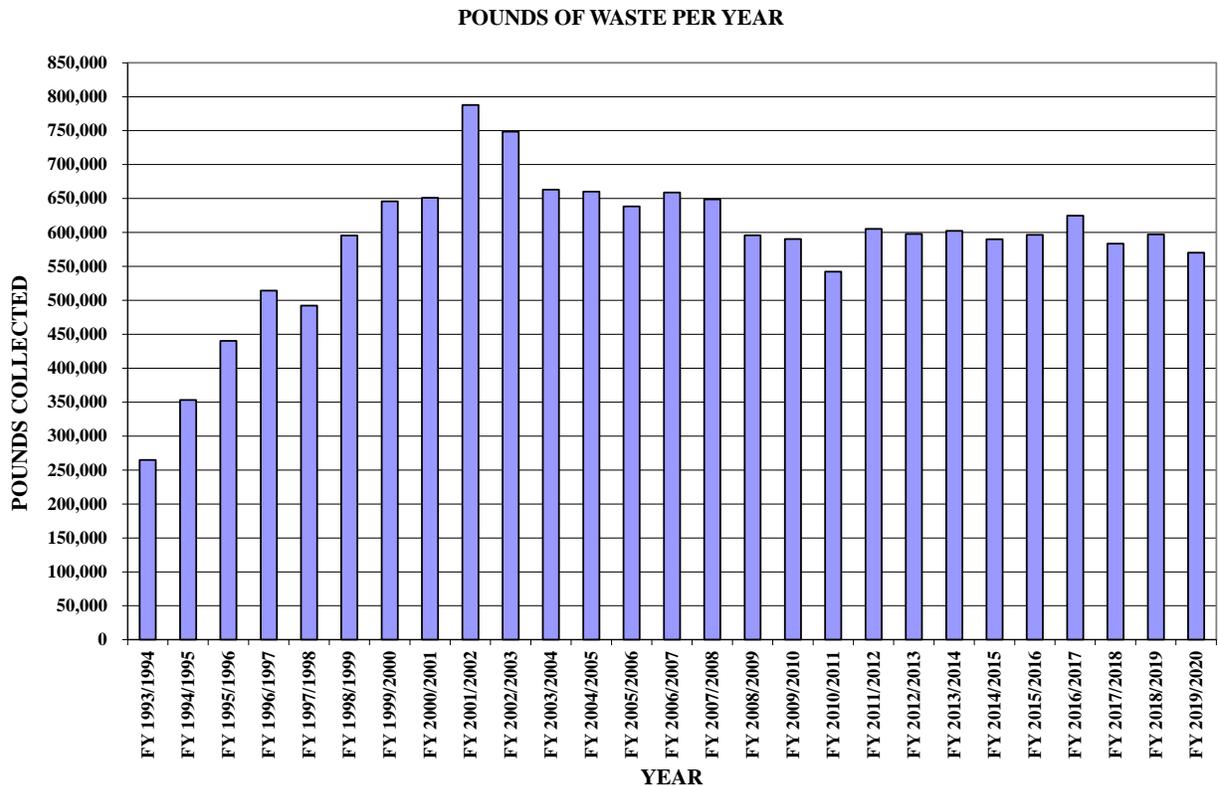
In addition to the 7,614 residents, 261 businesses also used the CHWCC in FY 2019/2020. Since these businesses serve customers from jurisdictions all over the County, a breakdown of where they are located is not as important in determining trends and is not shown for purposes of this Report.

The following graph shows the total residential and business participation rates since the CHWCC began operating in FY 1993/1994.



## CHWCC WASTE DISPOSAL

The CHWCC had 7,875 residential and business customers in FY 2019/2020 who disposed of 570,215 pounds of hazardous waste. The graph shown below gives total quantities of hazardous waste accepted at the CHWCC from both residents and businesses over the life of the program.



## METHODS OF DISPOSAL AT THE CHWCC

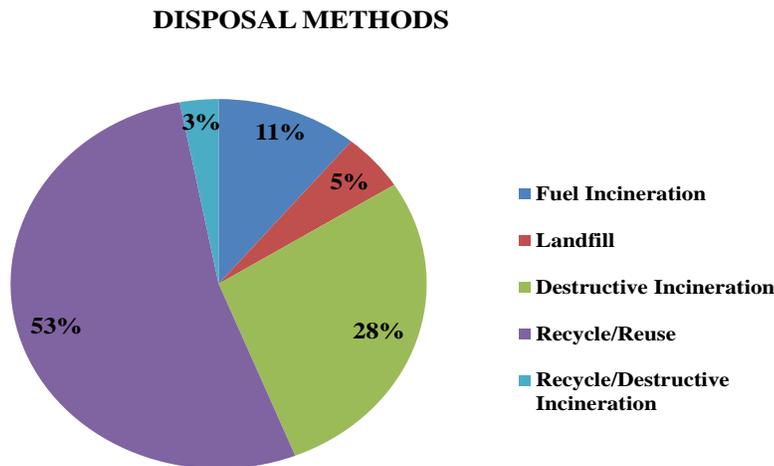
The County has set a priority of trying to recycle and reuse as much of the hazardous waste stream as possible before resorting to other management methods. Batteries, fluorescent lighting, mercury, latex and most oil-based paint, propane tanks, motor oil and oil filters, antifreeze, and a small number of other products are all recycled or reused through the County’s program – approximately 53% of the total hazardous waste received. The CHWCC also has a “Materials Reuse Program,” which helps reduce HHW that would otherwise be disposed. Many incoming products are placed in an accessible storage cabinet, and customers can take the products home for reuse by signing a release. Materials in the program must be in their original containers and at least half full; no banned pesticides or extremely hazardous chemicals are released to the public. In FY 2019/2020, the CHWCC distributed 3,438 pounds of material back to the public through this program with a cost savings of approximately \$15,000. The number of pounds distributed back to the public is smaller than in previous years, due to the necessity to close the program temporarily due to COVID-19.

The next method of waste treatment is fuel incineration, whereby waste material is blended into a fuel source for use in incinerators. Materials received at the CHWCC which are used in this process might include gasoline, paint-related materials, solvents, and thinners.

Destructive incineration, in which materials are sent to treatment facilities for neutralization and/or high temperature destructive incineration, is the next process used if materials can't be recycled, reused, or treated and used in fuel incineration. Materials included in this waste treatment category include oxidizers, acids, bases, PCB waste, pharmaceutical waste, photochemicals, Non-RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) solids, and corrosive and poisonous aerosols. In the case of aerosols, the metal is most often recovered before the chemical is incinerated.

The final method of disposal is landfilling, which is usually the least expensive method of disposal and also the least preferred; this is reserved for materials such as asbestos.

The following chart shows the breakdown of waste disposal methods for FY 2019/2020.



The types and quantities of material collected at the CHWCC in FY 2019/2020 are listed below in pounds:

Aerosols	20,460	Latex Paint – Paint Care	152,851
Alkaline/Lead Acid Batteries	13,720	Mercury Items	103
Antifreeze	10,311	Motor Oil	40,800
Asbestos	29,762	Oil-Based Paint - PaintCare	26,265
Auto Batteries	14,960	Oil Filters	3,000
Contaminated Soil	749	Organics	761
Corrosive Liquids/Solids	675	Oxidizers	1,509
Fertilizers	9,615	PCB Light Ballasts	1,663
Fire Extinguishers	4,964	Photochemicals	1,360
Flammable Liquids/Solids	24,905	Poisons	98,328
Flammable Liquids - Solvents	34,552	Propane and Gas Cylinders	9,192
Flammable Liquids – Fuel Blends	10,485	Reactives	902
Flammable Oil-Based Paints/Liquids	25,544	Rechargeable Batteries	2,333
Fluorescent Lights	6,448	Sharps	30
Inorganics	9,979	Smoke Detectors	672
Latex Paint	13,317		

The waste shown on the previous page was disposed using the following methods:

Recycle/Reuse

Alkaline/Lead Acid Batteries	13,720	
Antifreeze	10,311	
Auto Batteries	14,960	
Fire Extinguishers	4,964	
Fluorescent Lights	6,448	
Latex Paint	166,168	
Mercury Items	103	
Motor Oil	40,800	
Oil-Based Paint	26,265	
Oil Filters	3,000	
Photochemicals	1,360	
Propane and Gas Cylinders	9,192	
Rechargeable Batteries	2,333	
Smoke Detectors	<u>672</u>	
TOTAL	300,296	(53% of Total Waste)

Fuel Incineration

Flammable Liquids – Solvents	34,552	
Flammable Oil-Based Paints/ Liquids	<u>25,544</u>	
TOTAL	60,096	(11% of Total Waste)

Destructive Incineration

Contaminated Soil	749	
Corrosive Liquids/Solids	675	
Fertilizers	9,615	
Flammable Liquids/Solids	24,905	
Flammable Liquids – Fuel Blends	10,485	
Inorganics	9,979	
Organics	761	
Oxidizers	1,509	
PCB Light Ballasts	1,663	
Poisons	98,328	
Reactives	902	
Sharps	<u>30</u>	
TOTAL	159,601	(28% of Total Waste)

Recycle and Destructive Incineration

Aerosols	<u>20,460</u>	
TOTAL	20,460	(3% of Total Waste)

Landfill

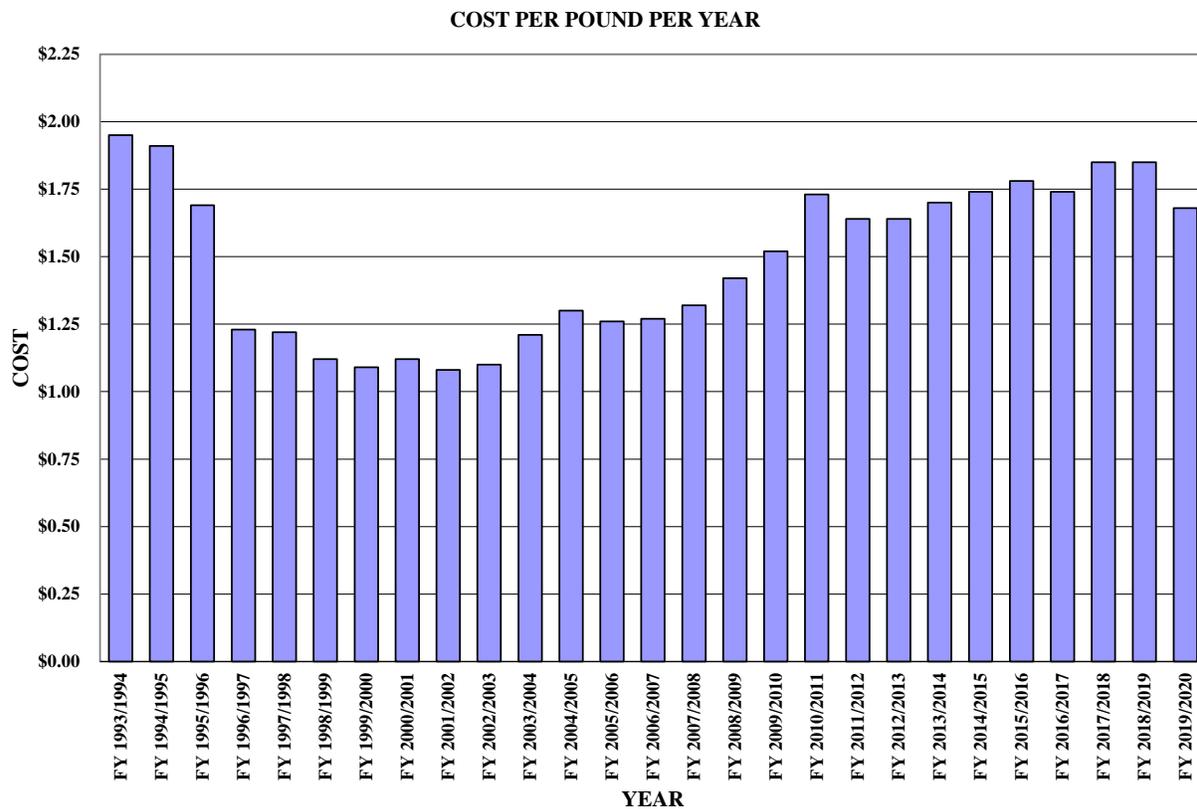
Asbestos	<u>29,762</u>	
TOTAL	29,762	(5% of Total Waste)

In addition to hazardous waste, other types of solid waste materials were collected and recycled through conventional methods. These materials included empty metal cans, plastic containers, and cardboard.

### ***CHWCC COSTS***

In addition to education programs for the public regarding best use practices and reducing the use of hazardous materials, the County attempts to contain costs by prioritizing the reuse and recycling of materials; blending materials for fuel incineration; distributing useable items through the Materials Reuse Program; and participating in California’s PaintCare program. PaintCare, Inc. is a non-profit product stewardship program whereby a point-of-purchase fee on each container of paint sold in the state is used to establish free drop-off locations where the public can dispose of leftover paint; participating drop-off locations do not pay for expenses related to paint transportation, recycling and disposal of the paint they accept.

The graph below shows the cost per pound to operate the program at the CHWCC since its inception. Currently, the cost per pound for operation of the CHWCC program is \$1.68. An analysis of current costs for FY 2019/2020 shows that County administration costs (including advertising and supplies) make up 9% of the total cost per pound; transportation and management/disposal of the hazardous waste make up approximately 39% of the total cost per pound; and University costs (facility use fees, salaries for employees handling the incoming hazardous waste, materials and supplies used in storing and packing hazardous waste, and miscellaneous operating equipment) make up 52% of the total cost per pound.



## ***PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR CHWCC***

The County has an extensive public education program that includes advertising in newspapers, television, and radio; distributing flyers; attending public events; displaying information on the County and City websites; including information in hauler newsletters sent to residents and businesses; and using miscellaneous social media outlets. In addition, ads are run each spring with a “Spring Cleaning” theme. Program brochures are also distributed to retail sites and property managers to increase public awareness regarding hazardous waste and the CHWCC. All literature has also been translated into Spanish, in order to reach the Spanish-speaking population in our community.

## ***ADMINISTRATION OF CHWCC***

In 2016, the Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division issued a Request for Proposal for the transportation and management of the collected hazardous materials; two companies responded. A panel of representatives familiar with the management of hazardous waste was assembled to review and rank the proposals. Using the criteria of low cost, quality of service, safety standards, and proximity to our service areas, the panel unanimously voted to award the contract to Clean Harbors. This contract was amended to allow for a two-year extension beginning in FY 2020/2021.

In addition, the County has a contract with the University of California at Santa Barbara to house the CHWCC on campus at the Environmental Health and Safety Facility.

The Household Hazardous Waste program continues to be an integral part of Santa Barbara County’s Recycling and Waste Management program, and is very popular with the community; feedback from the public has been positive and supportive. Since 1993, this program has served approximately 220,085 residents and small businesses, and has collected over 15,664,211 pounds of material.

## ***OTHER HHW SERVICES PROVIDED***

The County also coordinates other programs that offer residents and businesses additional options for disposing of hazardous waste, sharps, pharmaceuticals, batteries, and used motor oil:

- The public can drop off household batteries at more than 40 local retail sites and public facilities on the South Coast of the County; these retailers can then bring their batteries to the CHWCC for free or use a private hauler to pick up their batteries along with other hazardous waste they generate onsite. In FY 2019/2020, approximately 10,000 pounds of batteries were brought to the CHWCC from these sites. In addition, City of Goleta and Santa Barbara residents, and unincorporated County residents, can now put batteries in a baggie on top of their recycling container lid for curbside collection.
- The County, in partnership with the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) and the Cities of Buellton, Goleta, and Solvang, operates a regional Used Oil Recycling Program. The program provides free and convenient opportunities for the public to safely recycle used motor oil and filters. Within the

unincorporated area of the County and its partner Cities, there are nine certified used oil collection centers that include automotive supply stores, quick lubes, automotive repair shops, and a recycling buy-back facility. In FY 2019/2020, approximately 12,845 gallons of oil and 3,280 oil filters were collected from do-it-yourselfers at these sites. An additional 10,835 gallons of oil and 2,810 oil filters were collected at County and private “ABOP” facilities (sites that accept Antifreeze, Batteries, Motor Oil/Filters and Latex Paint).

- In addition to collection centers for the general public, the County provides a special used oil recycling program for the agricultural community. In partnership with Waste Management, the County operates two “ag oil” collection facilities – one in Buellton and one in Santa Maria. During FY 2019/2020, approximately 14,085 gallons of oil and 3,586 filters were collected from local farmers in the Santa Ynez and Santa Maria Valleys at these sites.
- The County also holds one-day collection events once a year at the New Cuyama Transfer Station and twice a year at the Santa Ynez Valley Recycling & Transfer Station, in order to accommodate residents who are not able to make it to the CHWCC due to its distance from their homes. In FY 2019/2020, residents dropped off 31,626 pounds of hazardous waste at these events (this includes electronic equipment); the April 2020 event in Santa Ynez was cancelled due to COVID-19.
- There are four ABOP (Antifreeze, Batteries, Motor Oil/Filters, and Latex Paint) facilities within the CHWCC service area: Santa Barbara County operates one at the Santa Ynez Valley Recycling & Transfer Station; MarBorg Industries operates two in the Cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara; and Waste Management operates one in the City of Buellton.
- The CHWCC does not accept sharps; however, the County offers a program in which residents can drop off sharps at five County clinics. Under this free program, residents can pick up a sharps container at one of the clinics and once the container is full they can bring it back to the clinic in exchange for a new, empty container. In FY 2019/2020, 4,567 pounds of sharps were collected at these clinics. In addition, trash haulers in both the South and North County offer a mail-back program for sharps.
- During FY 2019/2020, MED-Project, a stewardship program paid for by the pharmaceutical companies that sell products here in Santa Barbara County, collected 15,157 pounds of unwanted household medications from 39 collection sites located throughout Santa Barbara County; the service is provided free of charge to the community.

The hazardous waste programs offered throughout the County have successfully provided residents and small businesses with solutions for disposing of unwanted hazardous waste. Public education throughout the year continues to encourage participation in programs, increases public awareness regarding the harmful effects of improperly using and disposing of hazardous waste, and encourages residents to purchase smaller quantities of hazardous waste and to use less toxic alternatives.