

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
HOUSEHOLD AND BUSINESS
HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAMS
FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021**

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. Four full-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 administering the program, including answering inquiries from the public; meeting with

and providing technical assistance to participating CESQGs; tracking tonnage, participant, and cost data; reviewing and processing invoices; completing State-required reporting; coordinating outreach and education activities; regularly corresponding with the hazardous waste disposal contractors that service the CHWCC; and performing other tasks to support the operation of the CHWCC.

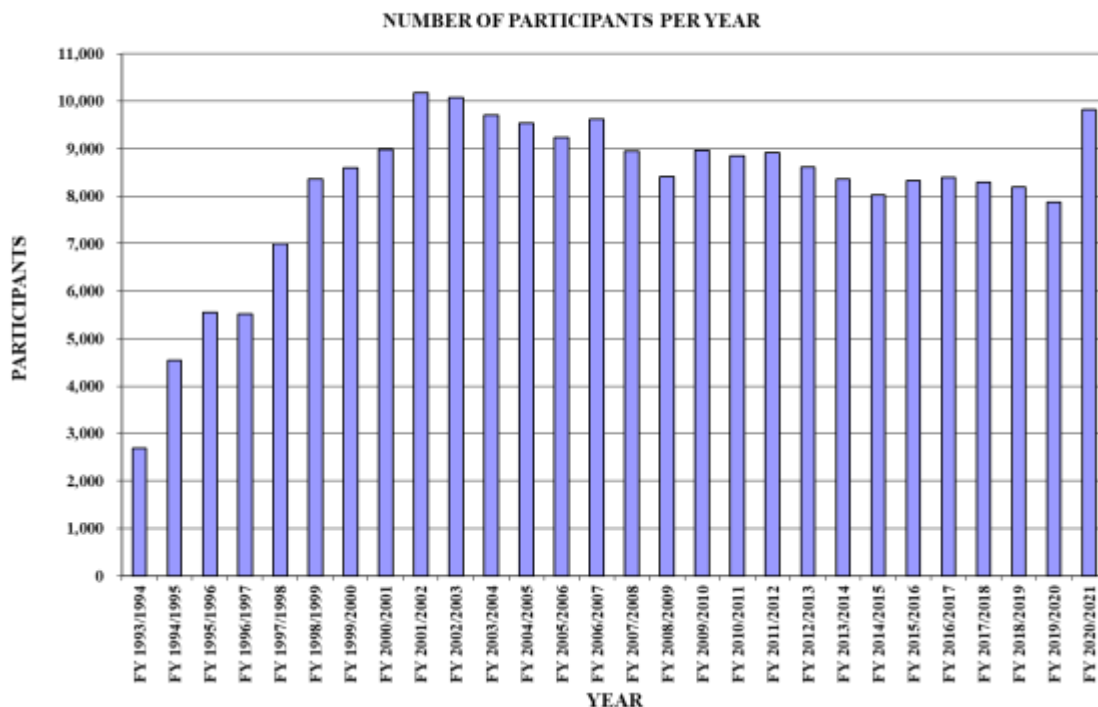
CHWCC SERVICE AREA AND PARTICIPATION

During Fiscal Year (FY) 2020/2021, the CHWCC served 9,625 residential customers. The participation breakdown for residents is listed below.

	<u>Number of Participants</u>
Unincorporated County	3,644 (38%)
City of Santa Barbara	3,584 (37%)
City of Goleta	2,314 (24%)
City of Solvang	38 (<1%)
Out of Area	<u>45 (<1%)</u>
TOTAL	9,625

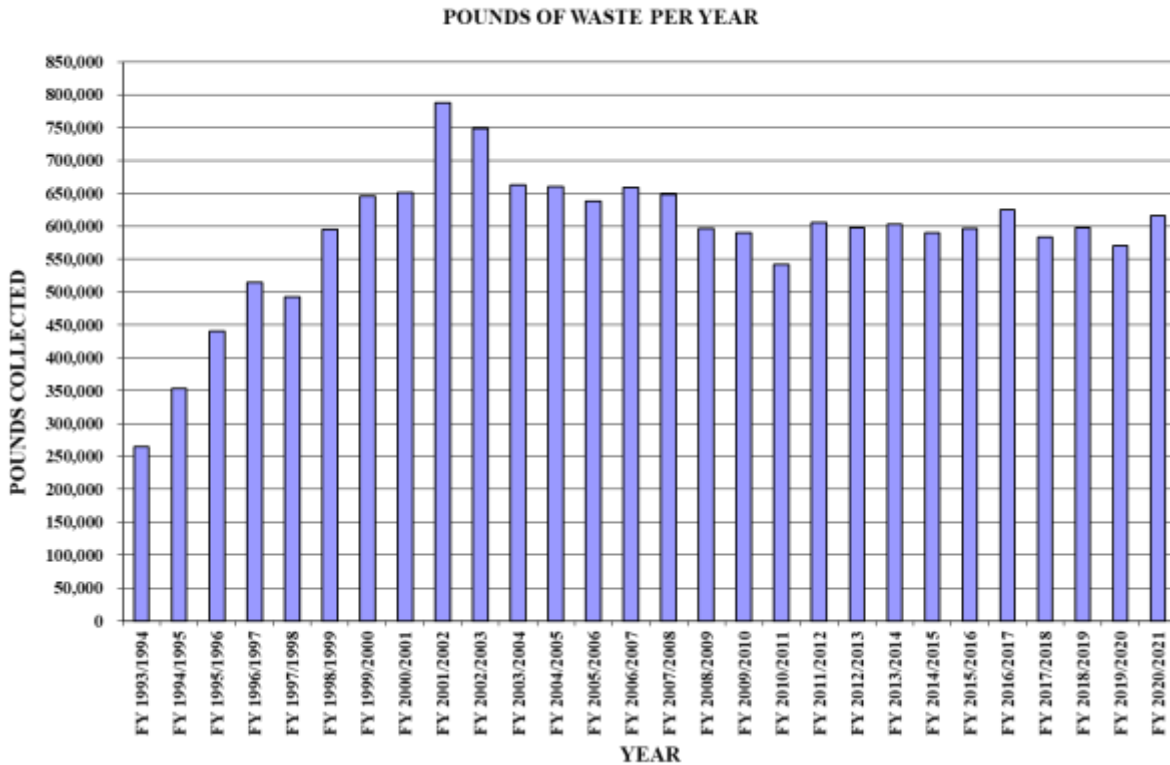
In addition to the 9,625 residents, 265 businesses also used the CHWCC in FY 2020/2021. Because these businesses serve customers from jurisdictions all over the county, a breakdown of where they are located is not as useful in determining trends and is not shown for purposes of this Report.

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



CHWCC WASTE DISPOSAL

In FY 2020/21, the CHWCC served 9,890 residential and business customers who disposed of 616,272 pounds of hazardous waste. The following graph illustrates the 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

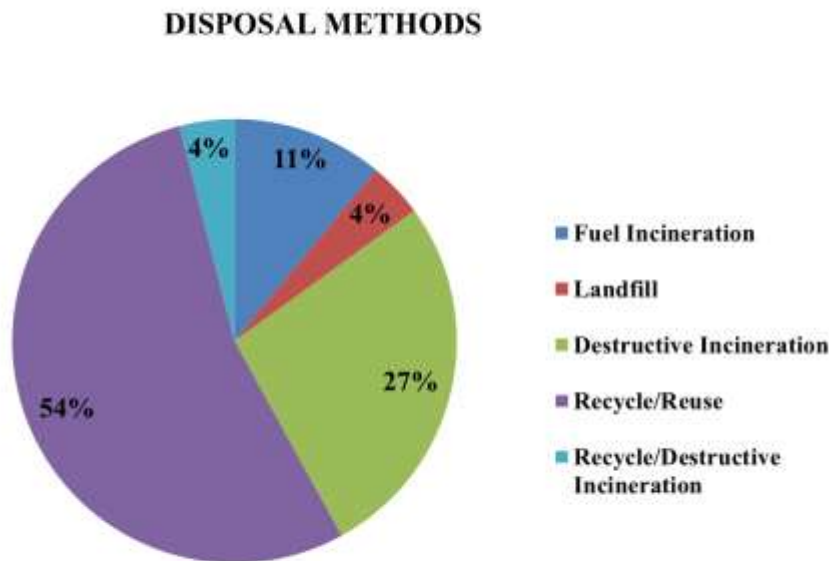
The County has set a priority of trying to recycle and reuse as much of the hazardous waste stream as possible before resorting to other management methods. Batteries, fluorescent lighting, mercury, latex and most oil-based paint, propane tanks, motor oil and oil filters, antifreeze, and a small number of other products are all recycled or reused through the County’s program – approximately 54% of the total hazardous waste received. The CHWCC also has a “Materials Reuse Program” which helps reduce the amount of HHW that would otherwise be disposed. 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. Incoming products are placed in an accessible storage cabinet, and customers can take the products home for reuse by signing a release form. In FY 2020/2021, the CHWCC distributed approximately 1,911 pounds of material back to the public through this program with a cost savings of approximately \$5,029. The quantity of products distributed back to the public is significantly lower than in previous years (approximately 44% less than in FY 2019/20 and 75% less than in FY 2018/19) due to the temporary closure of the program 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 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 2020/2021:



The types and quantities of material collected at the CHWCC in FY 2020/2021 are listed below in pounds and grouped by disposal category.

<u>Recycle/Reuse</u>	
Alkaline Batteries	5,600
Lead Acid (Rechargeable) Batteries	4,420
Antifreeze	11,560
Auto Batteries	20,480
Fire Extinguishers	2,829
Fluorescent Lights	5,638
Latex Paint – PaintCare	185,420
Latex Paint – Non-PaintCare	13,153

Mercury Items		
(Not including Fluorescent Lights)	1,498	
Motor Oil	40,120	
Oil-Based Paint – PaintCare	26,448	
Oil Filters	2,625	
Photochemicals	1,020	
Propane & Gas Cylinders		
(Not including Fire Extinguishers)	13,620	
Smoke Detectors	<u>746</u>	
TOTAL	335,117	(54% of Total Waste)

Fuel Incineration

Flammable Liquids – Solvents	41,990	
Flammable Oil-Based Paints/Liquids	<u>24,629</u>	
TOTAL	66,619	(11% of Total Waste)

Destructive Incineration

Contaminated Soil	1,019	
Corrosive Liquids – Inorganics/Solids	11,535	
Fertilizers	10,863	
Flammable Liquids/Solids	25,409	
Flammable Liquids – Fuel Blends	12,091	
Fusee	700	
Organics	266	
Oxidizers	1,563	
PCB Light Ballasts	2,305	
Poisons	98,032	
Water Reactive Chemicals	99	
Sharps	15	
Others	<u>4,034</u>	
TOTAL	167,931	(27% of Total Waste)

Recycle and Destructive Incineration

Aerosols	<u>23,483</u>	
TOTAL	23,483	(4% of Total Waste)

Landfill

Asbestos	<u>23,062</u>	
TOTAL	23,062	(4% 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 reduce 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. During Fiscal Year 2020/21, participation in the PaintCare program saved the CHWCC program approximately \$69,137 in disposal costs.

The costs to operate the CHWCC are shared among the participating jurisdictions and are allocated to each jurisdiction based on the previous year's cost of service. During FY 2019/20, fixed costs, including facility rental fees, staffing, administration, and promotion of the program, represented 54% of the program's overall costs. These costs are allocated based on population percentages. For FY 2019/20, the population breakdown was as follows:

City of Goleta – 16.8%
City of Santa Barbara – 48.8%
County Unincorporated – 34.3%

Waste disposal costs are considered variable costs and represented 46% of the program's overall costs for FY 2019/20. The variable costs are allocated based on the breakdown of residential participants using the CHWCC. During FY 2019/20, the participation percentages were as follows:

City of Goleta – 25%
City of Santa Barbara – 35%
County Unincorporated – 40%

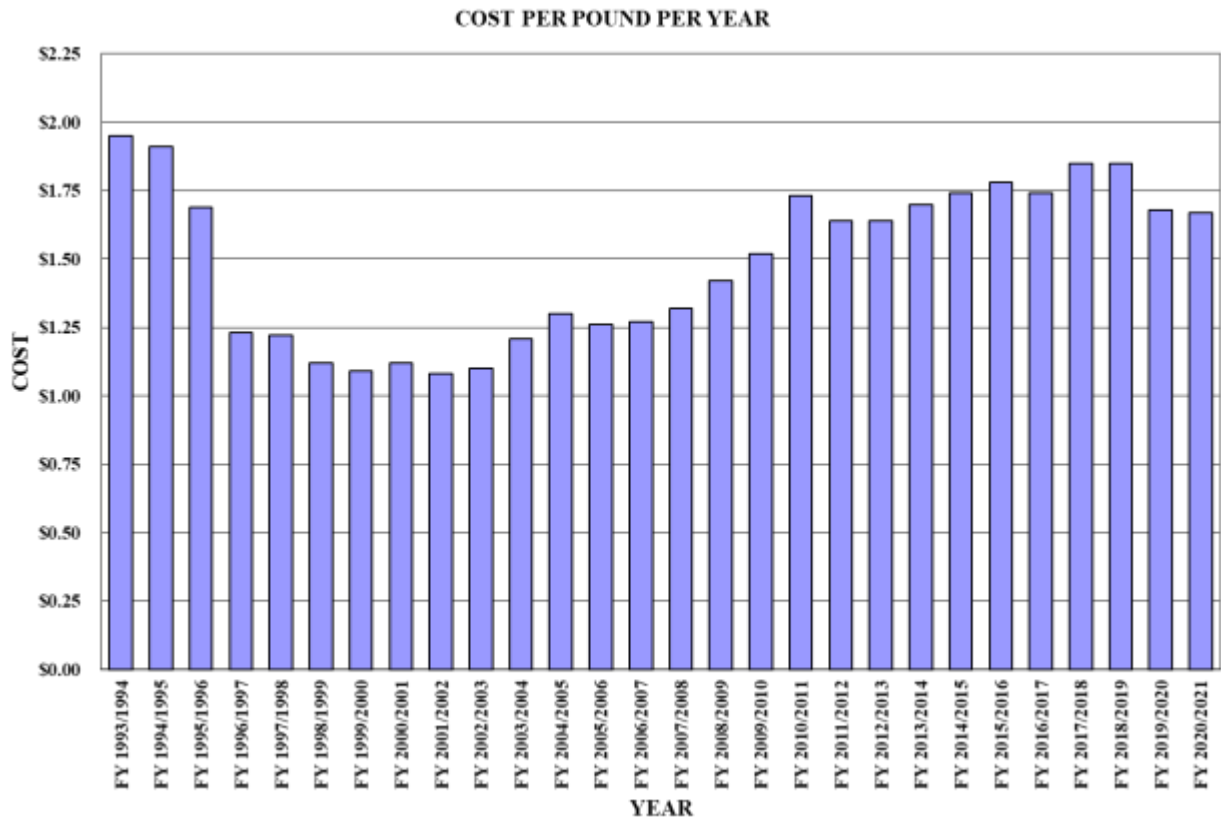
Combining the fixed and variable costs, the percentage of total costs covered by each jurisdiction for Fiscal Year 2019/20 is as follows:

City of Goleta – 20.6%
City of Santa Barbara – 42.5%
County Unincorporated – 36.9%

Please note that the County's allocation includes participants from the City of Solvang and other incorporated areas outside of the cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara. Solvang's participation in the CHWCC program is relatively small, as Solvang residents tend to more frequently utilize the County's biannual Santa Ynez Valley household hazardous waste collection events which are closer in proximity to the City of Solvang.

Currently, the cost per pound for operation of the CHWCC program is \$1.67. An analysis of current costs for FY 2020/2021 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 40% 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 51% of the total cost per pound. The following graph shows the cost per pound to operate the CHWCC since its inception.



PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR CHWCC

The County has an extensive public education program that includes print advertisements, television and radio ads, distribution of flyers, tabling at public events, displaying of information on County websites, inclusion of articles in waste hauler newsletters sent to residents and businesses; and the use of 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 disposal 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 remains positive and supportive. Since 1993, the program has served approximately 229,975 residents and small businesses, and has collected over 16,280,483 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, home-generated sharps, household pharmaceuticals, batteries, and used motor oil:

- Residents in the Cities of Goleta and Santa Barbara and in the unincorporated areas of the County can recycle batteries at home by putting their batteries in a baggie on top of their curbside recycling container lid. The public can also drop off household batteries at approximately 26 local retail sites and public facilities in Southern Santa Barbara County. These retailers are eligible to 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 2020/2021, approximately 11,806 pounds of batteries were collected and recycled at the CHWCC.
- 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 Motor 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 2020/2021, approximately 19,299 gallons of oil and 5,797 oil filters were collected from do-it-yourselfers at these sites. An additional 9,670 gallons of oil and 12,987 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 2020/2021, approximately 3,935 gallons of oil were collected from local farmers in the Santa Ynez and Santa Maria Valleys at these sites.
- The County also holds household hazardous waste 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 2020/2021, residents dropped off 96,414 pounds of hazardous waste at these events (including electronic equipment).

- 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 home-generated 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 2020/2021, 3,937 pounds of sharps were collected at these clinics. In addition, the franchised waste haulers in both the South and North County offer a mail-back program for sharps. In FY 2020-21, 537 customers requested sharps containers from the haulers (71 in North County and 466 in South County).
- During FY 2020/2021, MED-Project, a stewardship program paid for by the pharmaceutical companies that sell products here in Santa Barbara County, collected 13,696 pounds of unwanted household medications from 38 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.