

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HOUSEHOLD AND BUSINESS HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAMS FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025

The County of Santa Barbara (County) provides a variety of opportunities for the community to safely 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 has supported the development and operation of the Community Hazardous Waste Collection Center (CHWCC), a public/private partnership between the County and the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) since October 1, 1993. The CHWCC provides residents and businesses with a convenient, safe, and environmentally sound way to properly dispose of unwanted hazardous materials on a weekly basis.

The CHWCC accepts hazardous waste from both residents and businesses located in the unincorporated communities of the Goleta Valley, Montecito, Summerland, and Carpinteria Valley, and the cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Solvang.

OPERATION OF CHWCC FACILITY

State and federal hazardous waste laws limit the use of this type of hazardous waste collection program to businesses that qualify as Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators ("CESQGs"). To qualify as a CESQG, a business must not produce more than 27 gallons or 220 pounds of hazardous waste per calendar month, including a maximum of 1 kilogram (1 quart or 2.2 pounds) of acutely hazardous waste. Businesses that generate more than this amount are required to use a licensed hazardous waste hauler to manifest and transport their waste. CESQGs are eligible to use the CHWCC's business program on Fridays, by appointment only.

Eligible residents use the household program on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., without needing an appointment. Serving a population of approximately 264,823, the CHWCC provided services to 7,940 residents and businesses during Fiscal Year 2024/25. 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 the type of waste, and packaging the material to be transported for appropriate disposal.

The County has one full-time employee who spends three-fourths of their time overseeing program operations and management of collected waste; regularly corresponding with contractors; coordinating all public outreach and an annual promotional campaign; handling daily inquiries from the public regarding the storage,

transportation, and end-of-life management of hazardous materials; submitting required reports; and performing other tasks associated with the CHWCC.

CHWCC SERVICE AREA AND PARTICIPATION

During Fiscal Year (FY) 2024/25, the CHWCC served 7,724 residential customers. The participation breakdown for residents is listed below.

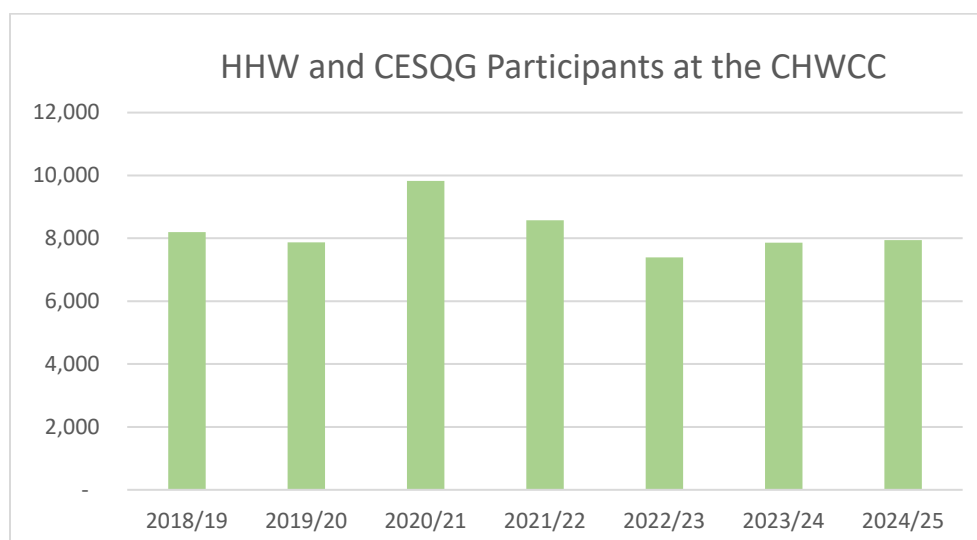
Jurisdiction	# of Participants
Unincorporated County	3,005 (39%)
City of Santa Barbara	2,713 (35%)
City of Goleta	1,555 (20%)
City of Solvang	6 (<1%)
Out of Area	445 (6%)
Total	7,724

In addition to residents, the CHWCC served 216 CESQGs in FY 2024/25. The participation breakdown for businesses is listed below.

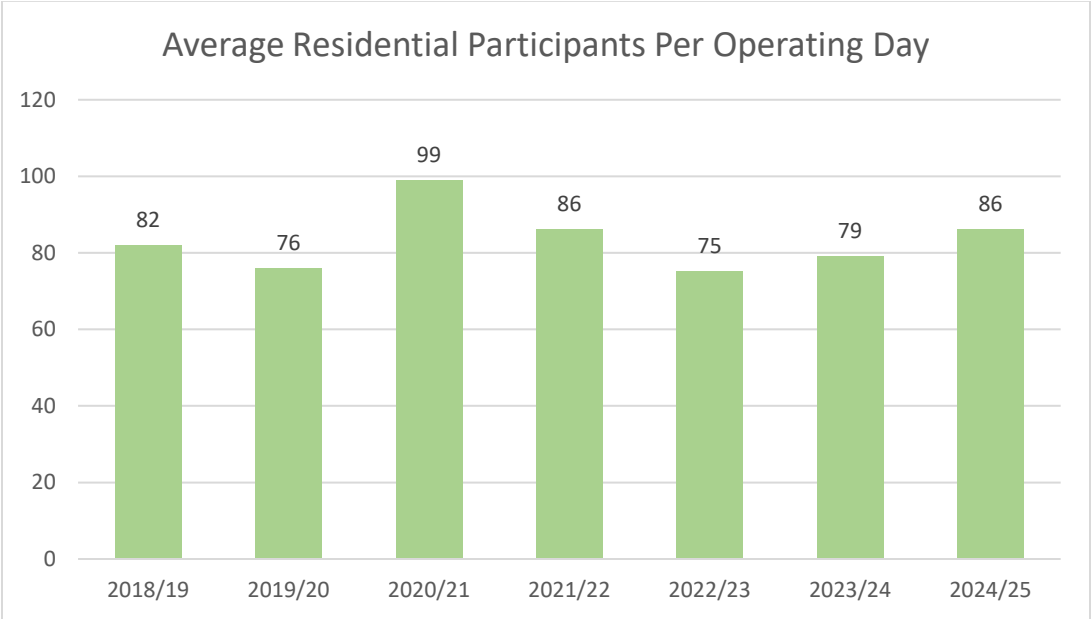
Jurisdiction	# of Participants
City of Goleta	85 (39%)
City of Santa Barbara	73 (34%)
Unincorporated County	58 (27%)
Total	216

The most common business types utilizing the program are engineering and manufacturing companies; painters and contractors; automotive repair companies; landscapers; property management firms; schools; dentists; analytical laboratories; public agencies; and research and development firms.

The graph below shows the number of participants over the last seven fiscal years, stretching to before the COVID-19 pandemic to show a return to normalcy after the FY 2020/21 spike.



To visualize how busy the CHWCC is on a given weekend date (Saturdays and Sundays), the graph below shows the average number of HHW participants per day:



CHWCC WASTE DISPOSAL

In FY 2024/25, the CHWCC safely processed 491,857 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 past several years.



METHODS OF DISPOSAL AT THE CHWCC

The County prioritizes reusing and recycling hazardous wastes as much 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 collected through the County's program are all recycled or reused – approximately 53.1% of the total hazardous waste received. This figure does not include the additional material reused through the CHWCC's "Materials Reuse Program."

The CHWCC's Materials Reuse Program helps reduce the amount of material that would otherwise be disposed of. Products brought to the CHWCC in good condition, still usable, at least half full, and in their original containers are removed from the waste stream and made available to the public at no cost. These materials include paint, cleaning products, fertilizers, automotive products, and home improvement products. Acceptable items are placed in accessible storage cabinets, and customers can take the products home for reuse by signing a release form. During FY 24/25, hazardous waste technicians added 5,395 pounds of material to the reuse cabinets located onsite at the CHWCC, and members of the public took 4,284 pounds for reuse. The most common items were cleaning chemicals, followed by stains/thinners and aerosols.

Prior to the implementation of the PaintCare Program at the CHWCC (described on page 7), the Materials Reuse Program achieved significant cost savings, as the CHWCC was responsible for covering the recycling/disposal costs for all paint products. Now that the CHWCC serves as a PaintCare site, the cost savings for the Materials Reuse Program are lower; however, the program still helps avoid disposal costs for non-paint products that can be reused. Further details about the CHWCC's cost-saving practices are included on page 7 of this report.

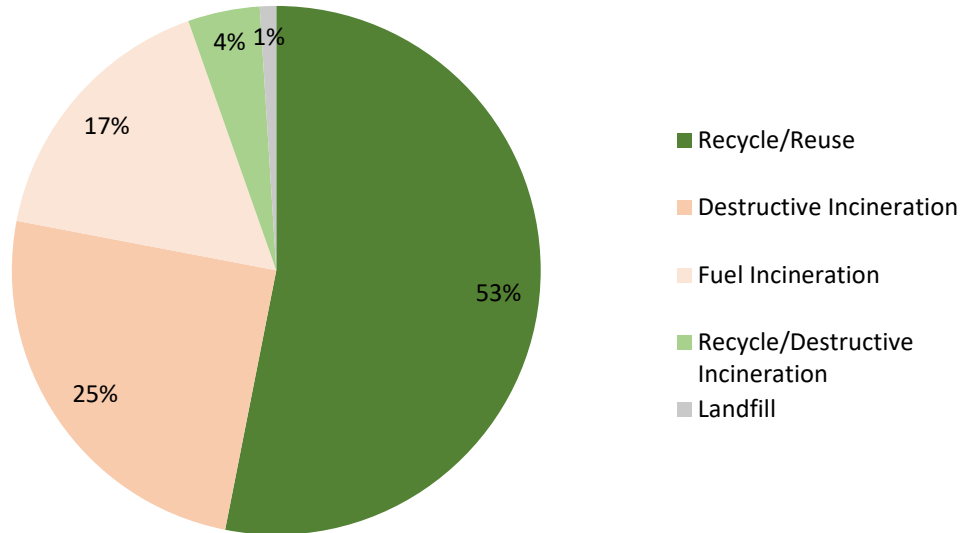
After reuse and recycling, the next method of waste management is fuels incineration, whereby hazardous waste material is blended into a fuel source for use in incinerators. Materials received at the CHWCC which are used in this process include gasoline, paint-related materials, solvents, and thinners.

Materials that can't be recycled, reused, or used for fuels incineration are sent to treatment facilities for neutralization and/or high temperature destructive 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. However, in the case of aerosols, the metal is most often recovered before the chemical is incinerated.

The final method of hazardous waste disposal is landfilling, which is the least preferred method. This is reserved for materials such as asbestos, which cannot be recycled or incinerated.

The chart on the following page shows the breakdown of waste management methods for FY 2024/25.

WASTE MANAGEMENT METHODS



The types and quantities of material collected at the CHWCC in FY 2024/25 are listed below, grouped by their management method.

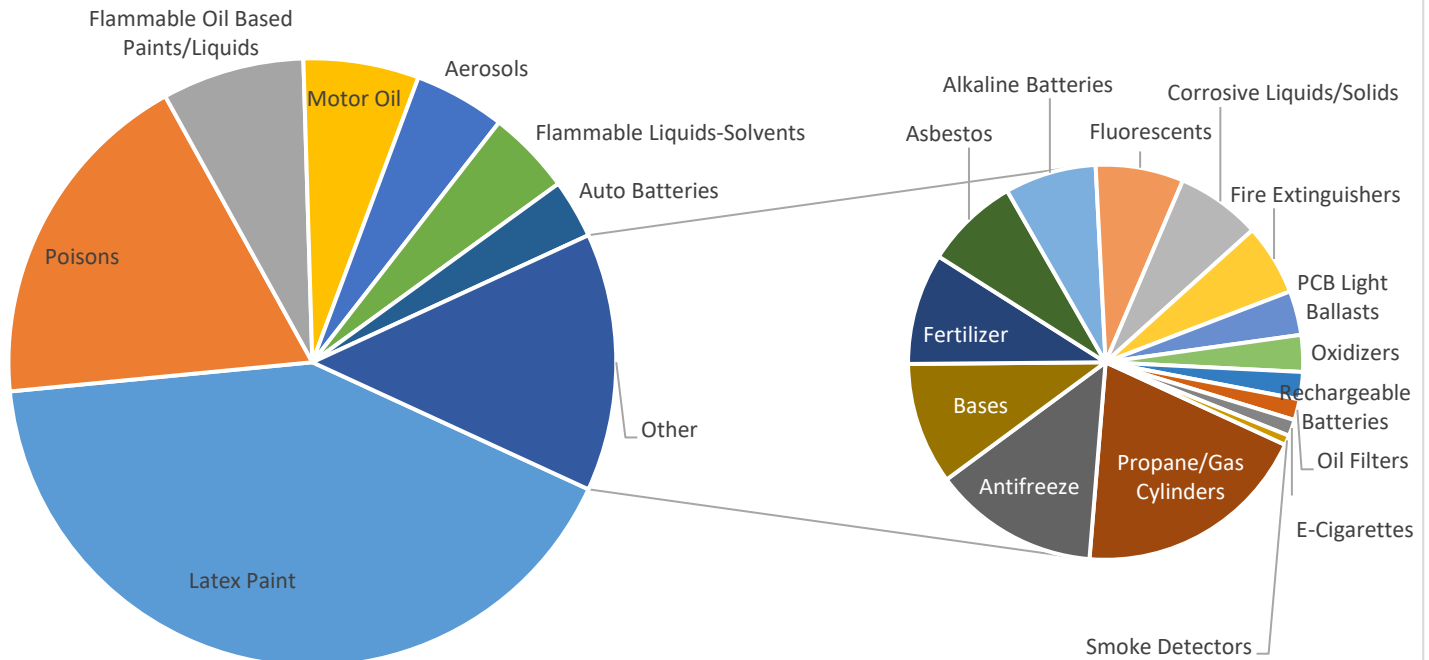
Recycle/Reuse		Pounds
Antifreeze		8,265
Batteries-Alkaline		4,560
Batteries-Auto		13,870
Batteries-Rechargeable		1,357
Fire Extinguishers		3,549
Fluorescent Lights		4,384
Latex Paint		184,473
Mercury Items		60
Motor Oil		27,225
Oil Filters		1,043
Propane/Gas Cylinders		11,803
Smoke Detectors		484
Total		261,073 (53%)
Destructive Incineration		Pounds
Corrosive Liquids/Solids		4,223
Fertilizer		5,556
Flammable Liquids-Solvents		19,867
Inorganic and Organic Bases		6,075
Other		816

Oxidizers	1,830
PCB Light Ballasts	2,202
Poisons	81,984
Propane/Gas Cylinders	31
Water Reactive Chemicals	94
Total	122,678 (24.9%)
Fuel Incineration	Pounds
Flammable Liquids-Solvents	48,015
Flammable Oil Based	
Paints/Liquids	33,560
Total	81,575 (16.6%)
Recycle & Destructive Incineration	Pounds
Aerosols	21,516
Total	21,516 (4.4%)
Landfill	Pounds
Asbestos	4,965
Total	4,965 (1.1%)

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

The graph on the following page provides a visual representation of the materials collected at the CHWCC. Please note that the smaller pie chart encompasses all the material found in the “Other” category in the larger pie chart. The larger pie chart includes the most common materials accepted at the CHWCC.

Material Categories Accepted at the CHWCC



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 is a statewide product stewardship program whereby a point-of-purchase fee on each container of paint sold in the state is used to fund the collection and recycling of paint and other "program products" that are delivered to PaintCare's free collection sites. Participating collection sites do not pay for expenses related to paint transportation, recycling, and disposal. During FY 2024/25, participation in the **PaintCare program saved the CHWCC approximately \$206,124 in disposal costs.**

It is very rare that the CHWCC processes paint for disposal outside of the PaintCare program, especially since the type of paint products accepted into the program recently expanded. Historically, the PaintCare program only allowed products in their original containers with secure fitting lids and the original manufacturer's printed labels, and in sizes no larger than five gallons each. In October 2021, PaintCare staff authorized the CHWCC Hazardous Waste Technicians who

are 40-hour HAZ-WOPER-certified to have autonomy in decision-making when segregating paint. The technicians are now able to divert paint in container sizes larger than five gallons and/or without an original label to the PaintCare program, if the paint meets the program's other acceptance criteria.

The costs of operating 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 2024/25, fixed costs, including facility rental fees, staffing, administration, and promotion of the program, represented 75.4% of the program's overall costs. These costs are allocated based on population percentages. For FY 2024/25, the population breakdown was as follows:

Jurisdiction	Population
Unincorporated County	139,870 (52.8%)
City of Santa Barbara	86,451 (32.6%)
City of Goleta	32,747 (12.4%)
City of Solvang	5,755 (2.2%)
Total	264,823

Waste disposal costs are considered variable costs and represented 24.6% of the program's overall costs for FY 2024/25. The variable costs are allocated based on the breakdown of residential participants using the CHWCC. During FY 2024/25, the participation percentages were as follows:

City of Goleta - 20.1%
City of Santa Barbara - 35.1%
County Unincorporated - 44.8%

Combining the fixed and variable costs, the percentage of total costs covered by each jurisdiction for FY 2024/25 is as follows:

City of Goleta – 14.3%
City of Santa Barbara – 33.3%
County Unincorporated – 52.4%

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 \$2.29. An analysis of current costs for FY 2024/25 shows that County administration costs (including advertising and supplies) make up roughly 7% of the total cost per pound; transportation and management/disposal of the hazardous waste make up approximately 25% 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 68% of the total cost per pound. The graph on the following page shows the cost per pound to operate the CHWCC over the past several years. Please note that after the publication of last year's HHW Annual Report, the FY 23/24 cost per pound needed to be updated. These updates are accounted for in this year's graph.



PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR CHWCC

The County has an extensive public education program that includes print advertisements, television and radio ads, online media, 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. Santa Barbara County’s Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA), the agency that handles hazardous waste inspections, also gives out the CESQG brochure to small businesses that produce less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month. All literature, radio ads, and social media ads are translated into Spanish to reach the Spanish-speaking population in our community. The County also offers a tour of the CHWCC in collaboration with the annual Creek Week celebration, as an opportunity for community members to learn more about the County's hazardous waste collection and disposal programs.

ADMINISTRATION OF CHWCC

County staff oversee two large contracts related to the CHWCC, one with Clean Harbors Environmental Services (Clean Harbors) for the transportation and end-of-life management of the collected hazardous waste and one with UCSB for use of the facility and associated staffing. In May 2025, the County Board of Supervisors approved a two-year extension with Clean Harbors, with the contract now running through June 30, 2027. UCSB’s current two-year contract runs through June 30, 2026.

The Household Hazardous Waste program continues to be an integral part of Santa Barbara County’s solid waste management system and is very popular with the community; feedback from the public remains positive and supportive. Since 1993, the program has served approximately 261,316 residents and businesses and has collected 18,166,712 pounds of material.

OTHER HHW SERVICES PROVIDED

The County and its franchised waste hauler, MarBorg Industries, offer additional options for community members to safely dispose of hazardous waste like batteries, automotive fluids, and paint as well as home-generated sharps and medications.

Household Batteries

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 clear plastic bag and placing it on top of their curbside recycling container lid on collection days. The public can also drop off household batteries at numerous retail sites and public-facing facilities in Santa Barbara County; a complete list of locations can be found at www.LessIsMore.org/batteries. 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 2024/25 approximately 5,917 pounds of batteries were collected and recycled at the CHWCC.

Used Motor Oil and Filters

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, seven certified used oil collection centers, including automotive supply stores, quick lubes, and automotive repair shops, collect used motor oil from the public for free. In FY 2024/25, approximately 25,190 gallons of oil and 4,875 oil filters were collected from do-it-yourselfers at these sites. Additionally, used oil and filters were collected at County-run and private “ABOP” facilities (described below).

ABOP Materials

Six “ABOP” facilities operate within the county for the collection of antifreeze (A), batteries (B), motor oil/filters (O), and latex paint (P). The County operates an ABOP program at the Santa Ynez Valley Recycling & Transfer Station; the City of Carpinteria operates one at the City’s Public Works Yard (please note that the County does not track or report data for the City’s hazardous waste collection program); and MarBorg Industries operates four, in the cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara, Buellton, and Santa Maria.

Temporary Collection Events

During FY 2024/25, the County held three one-day household hazardous waste collection events: one at the New Cuyama Transfer Station in the fall, and two at the Santa Ynez Valley Recycling & Transfer Station in the fall and then spring, to accommodate residents who cannot make it to the CHWCC due to its distance from their homes. In FY 2024/25, 676 residents dropped off 81,006 pounds of hazardous waste, including electronic equipment, at these events.

Home-Generated Sharps and Medications

The CHWCC does not accept home-generated sharps; however, the County offers a program in which residents can drop off sharps at five County-run health clinics. Under this free program, residents can pick up a sharps container at one of the clinics and once the container is full, bring it back to the clinic in exchange for a new, empty container. In FY 2024/25, 3,629 pounds of sharps were collected at these clinics. In addition, MarBorg Industries offers a free sharps mail-back program. In FY 2024/25, 960 customers requested a mail-back container, totaling an estimated 5,244 pounds of sharps collected.

Statewide, residents can also request a free sharps mail-back container from MED-Project, a stewardship organization funded by the pharmaceutical industry. Additionally, MED-Project operates a free medication collection program throughout California, including a mail-back program similar to the sharps mail-back

program, as well as numerous collection sites at pharmacies, clinics, and law enforcement offices. During FY 2024/25, MED-Project collected 17,416 pounds of unwanted household medications from 48 collection sites throughout Santa Barbara County. Inmar, the other medication stewardship program operating locally, collected 1,735 pounds of pharmaceutical waste.

The County graciously thanks its partners and the community for helping to keep hazardous waste out of our landfills and the environment.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

**Resource Recovery &
Waste Management Division**

Innovative Environmental Solutions

