

Hancock County Planning Commission's 2011 Greater Ellsworth Regional Household Hazardous/Universal Waste Collection



Hancock County Planning Commission
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*Final Report
2011*

Greater Ellsworth Regional Household Hazardous/Universal Waste Collection

Overview & Cost Breakdown – 2011

Purpose

The Hancock County Planning Commission (HCPC) provided planning assistance to participating municipalities of the household hazardous and universal waste collection held in August of 2011. A Rural Utilities Service grant from the United States Department of Agriculture for 2010-2011 enabled the HCPC to offer planning assistance to participating towns at no cost. The HCPC strongly encourages its municipal members to participate in HHW/UW collection events on a regular basis in order to work toward maintaining the best possible healthy and safe environment.

This report will outline major steps taken during the process and should be useful for:

- Municipal officials from year 2011 participating municipalities to examine how costs were determined;
- Municipal officials interested in becoming a sponsor for future collection events;
- Organizers of future HHW collections.

Each municipality that signed a services agreement with the HCPC for the 2011 collection will receive a copy of these breakdowns.

Overview

There were 9 participating municipalities in the household hazardous waste collection this year with two towns opting not to participate in the universal waste collection because they already provide those services to their residents.

This year's event was held on August 20, 2011 at the Ellsworth High School from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Environmental Projects, Inc. (EPI) was the HHW vendor selected for the project – Universal Recycling Technologies was selected as the UW vendor. The benefit to Hancock County this year was Universal Recycling technologies ability to accept TV's and computer monitors and dispose of them at no charge to residents or municipalities. There were 85 computer monitors brought to the collection. At a normal disposal rate of \$10 per monitor participating municipalities realized a savings of \$850.00. We also collected 107 TV's, with a normal disposal rate of \$12 per TV, this resulted in a savings of \$1,284.00 for participating towns. This year 1,137 units of universal waste were collected.

All but one town supplied a volunteer to assist us on the collection day and it was very much appreciated. This year, participants found themselves working in wonderful sunny, warm weather. We also had a wonderful canopy supplied by one of the volunteers and refreshments.

Mark Wright Disposal once again supplied a large roll-off container for non-hazardous material disposal.

Recommendations for Future Events

- Slow customers (i.e. those who need to write a check and get a receipt) should immediately be moved aside until the issue has been resolved. Also, it was previously recommended that the HCPC appointed recorder be next to the EPI appointed recorder and make note of the quantities EPI records so each entity has the exact same count. It should be recorded on the individual permits as well as a master count list. This worked out very well this year.
- Early birds did not seem to be abundant this year although there were some. A person should be appointed at the entrance to inform the early birds that they have to wait until the official start of the collection. In previous collections we felt that due to high volume of traffic early in the morning that more volunteers are needed in the morning and less as they day progresses. This was implemented this year and worked out very well.
- Advertising posters were sent to each town this year to be displayed. HCPC received a greatly reduced call volume this year from people stating they did not know of the event. It appears with the volume of waste collected this year; this strategy worked well.
- Volunteers should continue to be rewarded for their assistance in making the day go as smoothly as possible. Coffee and donuts were much appreciated early in the morning and pizza at the end of this year's event gave volunteers a chance to get to know one another and discuss future recommendations, etc. Hopefully, those volunteers will think of the experience as a positive one and be back in future years to again provide that much-needed assistance.



This brief summary was compiled by Sheri Walsh, HCPC Administrative Assistant and Planning Technician, with funding assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service program. For more information about responsible household hazardous and universal waste disposal, requests for environmentally-related education materials, etc., please contact our agency at 207-667-7131 or hpc@hpcme.org.