

HHW Collection Options

Single-Day HHW Collection Events

Single day Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) events are typically held on publicly owned sites, such as parking lots, transfer stations, schools, fire stations, public works buildings, or wastewater treatment plants. They are often scheduled on a Saturday in the spring or fall and appointments may or may not be required. Municipal staff usually provide traffic control and signage and are responsible for participant registration and surveys. Municipalities hire a qualified hazardous waste vendor to handle the HHW collection, transportation, and disposal of the materials collected. Currently, all HHW collections held in the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) region are examples of single day events.



1-5%

Percentage of households that single-day collections can expect to serve per year.

4,182

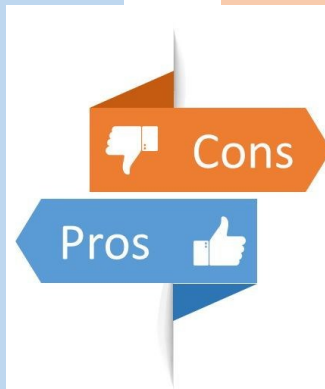
Number of households needed annually to reach a 5% participation rate in the region.

2024 Single-Day Participation Rates by Program

| Program | Total Participating Households | # of Eligible Households ¹ | Participation Rate |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Plaistow | 690 | 16,160 | 4.3% |
| Brentwood | 309 | 10,589 | 2.9% |
| Exeter | 313 | 16,045 | 2.0% |
| Portsmouth | 535 | 12,354 | 4.3% |
| Hampton | 727 | 8,716 | 8.3% |
| Raymond | 193 | 5,724 | 3.4% |
| Salem | 500 | 12,258 | 4.1% |
| Newton ² | 161 | 1,789 | 9.0% |
| TOTAL ³ | 3,428 | 83,635 | 4.1% |

1) Calculated using 2023 ACS 5 year estimates of Total Households. 2) Newton only holds 1 collection event every other year. 3) Includes the RPC region plus the non-RPC towns of Auburn, Chester, and Nottingham

- ◆ Set dates can provide motivation—some people respond well to an imposed deadline, making them more likely to participate in a collection event rather than utilize an ongoing facility.
- ◆ Manageable Cost—there is no need for large capital expenses. Municipalities have control over their budget by limiting the number of participants and events held.
- ◆ Sustainable—HHW vendors are likely to continue offering this service.
- ◆ Limited Liability—most of the liability falls on the vendor, who assumes generator status for the waste.
- ◆ Politically Acceptable—elected officials and the general public already support these events.
- ◆ Easy to Implement—these events are limited in duration, can be run as a turnkey operation by the vendor, follow the same procedures each event, and can be set up in a wide variety of locations.
- ◆ Easy to Promote—residents already have a good understanding about how single day events work.



- ◆ High Cost—single-day events have a high cost to volume collected ratio and significant setup charges.
- ◆ Limited Participation—even the best single-day events only serve 5% of their households per year.
- ◆ Event Limitations—the need for quick operations sometimes comes at the expense of efficient packing, which can add to costs. In addition, there is not time to set up a donation/reuse center.
- ◆ Weather Dependent—single day events are not typically held in winter months.
- ◆ Safety/Liability at the Event—the fast pace and large volume of waste make accidents more likely. Traffic congestion is also a concern.
- ◆ Safety at Households—if residents have to wait upwards of a year to dispose of their HHW it can create unsafe storage conditions for homeowners.
- ◆ Inconvenient—single-day collections provide limited opportunities for participation. In addition, single-day collections can have long lines and wait times, making them less convenient for residents.
- ◆ No Ongoing Educational Opportunities—single-day events require a concentrated outreach effort on a tight schedule. Outreach and education then typically stops until the next event, which can be up to a year later.



Permanent HHW Collection Facility

Unlike single day collection events, a permanent HHW facility is operated at the same location on a regular schedule and can receive HHW from residents on a continuous basis. Residents enter the site and drive their cars under a covered unloading area. Staff come out to the car, take the participant's contact information, and unload the HHW materials onto a cart. Residents then exit the site or park in designated spaces to visit the swap shop, if one is established. Next, staff log the materials and move them to a designated holding/sorting area. This is also the area where lab testing would occur if needed. Once the materials are identified and sorted, they are either lab packed or bulked in the processing area. Materials are then moved to a main storage room and stored by hazard type. Flammables and other high hazard materials are moved from the main building to a prefabricated hazmat storage building. Finally, the materials are transported from the permanent HHW collection facility by a licensed hauler when storage capacity or storage time limits have been reached.

HazWaste Center, Middlebury, VT



Photo Credit: Addison County Solid Waste Management District

North Seattle HHW Collection Facility



Photo Credit: By Joe Mabel, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=30569982>

Winona County, MN HHW Facility



Photo Credit: Winona County

10-15% = % of households that permanent HHW facilities can expect to serve per year.

68% = % of RPC Regional Master Plan survey respondents who said it would be beneficial to have a permanent HHW facility.

Permanent Facility vs Single Day Collection Cost Comparison

Operating costs at permanent HHW collection facilities are almost always less than at single day events. There are a number of factors that contribute to this, including:

- ◆ More efficient packaging and consolidation of waste, which reduces packing supplies, shipping, and disposal costs.
- ◆ Waiting to ship until there are full containers and a full truckload, rather than having to ship partially filled containers at the end of an event.
- ◆ Ability to divert good products to local community reuse by establishing a Swap Shop.
- ◆ Leveraging existing administrative and operational resources to reduce reliance on contractor staff.
- ◆ Avoidance of higher weekend contractor labor costs.



- ◆ Convenient—residents can dispose of HHW when they want/need to, rather than having to wait up to a year for a single day collection event. In addition, there are not long wait times to drop off materials once residents arrive at the site.

- ◆ Higher participation rates—it is not uncommon for permanent HHW collection facilities to serve 10% of households per year, with some well-established facilities serving 14-17% of households.

- ◆ More opportunities for reuse—it is easier to set up a swap shop at a permanent facility.

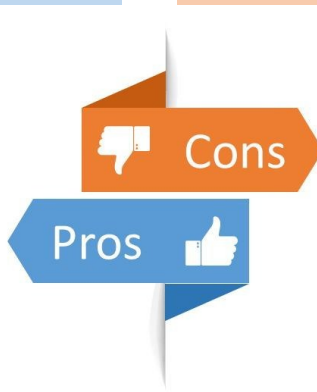
- ◆ Ongoing Education—permanent facilities allow for year-round educational opportunities.

- ◆ Lower Cost—once established, they tend to have a lower cost per pound of HHW collected and a lower cost per household than single-day events.

- ◆ Not Weather Dependent—permanent HHW collection facilities can operate year-round.

- ◆ Safety at Households—residents can dispose of HHW whenever they want to, which decreases the need for potentially unsafe storage conditions.

- ◆ Safety/Liability at the Facility—permanent facilities can spread out participant arrivals, allowing for a slower pace that makes accidents less likely and decreases traffic congestion concerns.



- ◆ Capital Costs—unless a community enters into a public/private partnership, capital costs must be raised to construct a permanent HHW collection facility.

- ◆ Operating Budget—permanent HHW collection facilities require larger annual operating budgets than single-day events due to higher participation rates.

- ◆ Driving Distance—depending on where the facility is located, it may be a further drive for some residents than their current single-day event.

- ◆ Siting—finding a suitable location for a permanent HHW collection facility could be challenging.



Fresno County, CA HHW Facility—this photo shows where cars enter the covered unloading area, carts used to unload vehicles, prefabricated hazmat storage buildings.

Photo Credit: Fresno County Division of Public Works and Planning



City of Los Angeles, CA—this photo shows prefabricated hazmat storage buildings, used for flammables and other high hazard materials, under a roof.

Photo Credit: CA Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery

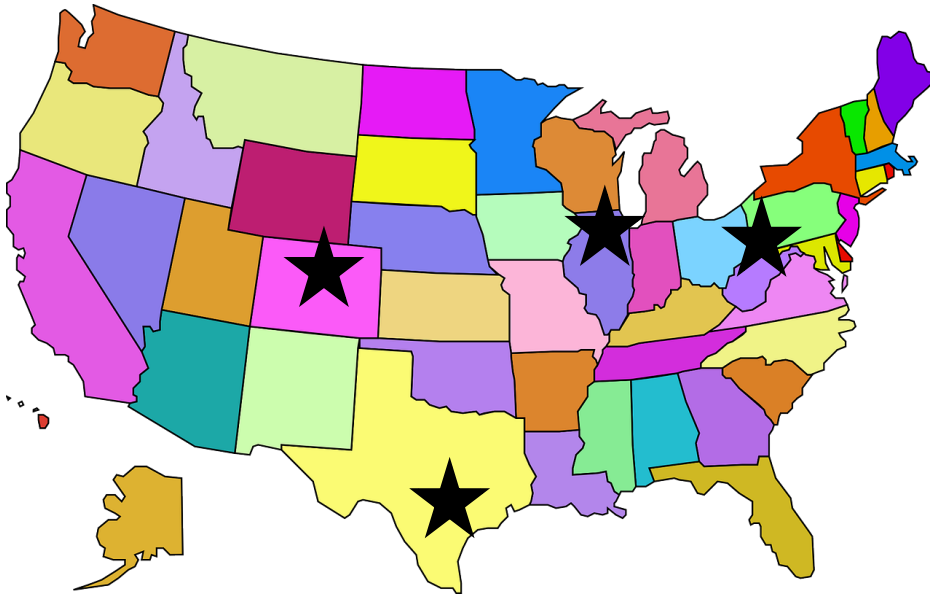


San Bernardino County, CA HHW Facility—this photo also shows prefabricated hazmat storage buildings under a roof structure.

Photo Credit: Brandon Barsugli

Curbside HHW Collection

A curbside HHW collection program allows residents to dispose of their HHW directly from their home, rather than traveling to an event or a permanent HHW facility. Municipalities contract with a vendor to provide all aspects of curbside HHW service. Residents contact the vendor to schedule a home pick-up of their HHW items. The vendor sends a collection kit to the resident and the resident prepares their materials for collection. On the set collection date, the vendor picks up the packaged materials directly from the resident's home. Curbside HHW pickup is offered year-round. While there are currently no examples of curbside HHW collection in New Hampshire, it is widely used across the country.



Curbside HHW collection has been successfully implemented in communities of all sizes.

Large Cities:

- [Denver, CO](#) (population = 716,577)
- [Austin, TX](#) (population = 979,882)

Small Towns:

- [North Fayette, PA](#) (population = 16,167)
- [Aleppo Township, PA](#) (population = 1,758)

At the regional/county level:

- [Kane County, IL](#) (population = 520,997)

6.6%

National participation rate for Waste Management's curbside HHW collection program in 2024.

There are currently no vendors who provide curbside HHW collection services in NH.

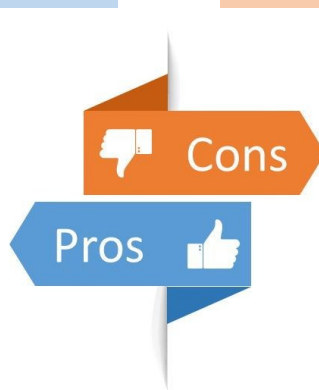
Waste Management's curbside HHW collection program is called [At Your Door](#). While it is not currently available in NH, the company is "in the early phase of siting a potential WM At Your Door facility" that would serve the RPC region.



\$1.25-\$2.50

Cost per home per month to participate in Waste Management's curbside HHW collection program on a year-round, unlimited basis.

- ◆ Most Convenient Option—residents can schedule unlimited pickups, year-round, whenever they choose.
- ◆ No Transportation Required—the only option that allows residents who cannot leave their homes or do not have transportation to participate. It also eliminates the chance of accidents when self-transporting HHW.
- ◆ Immediate Implementation—municipalities can begin participating immediately, assuming there is a vendor operating in their area. There are no capital costs to raise or facilities to site and construct.
- ◆ Turnkey Service—Waste Management schedules pickups and answers questions from the public.
- ◆ Individual Contracts—each municipality contracts directly with the vendor, so there is no critical mass of municipalities needed to participate.
- ◆ Education—curbside collection offers opportunities to provide education directly to all residents.
- ◆ Curbside collection has a higher participation rate on average than single day events.
- ◆ Relatively low cost per household—households pay \$15 to \$30 per year for unlimited usage. By comparison, participants pay \$15 to attend one single-day collection in Exeter.



- ◆ Curbside collection has a lower participation rate on average than permanent facilities.
- ◆ Residential Participation Only—curbside HHW collection programs are typically designed for residential customers and do not allow Small Quantity Generators to participate.
- ◆ No Public Investment—the money residents pay for curbside collection service is primarily being invested into a private company rather than into a public asset, as would be the case with a publicly owned and operated permanent facility. At a 6% annual participation rate, most of the money collected by Waste Management is profit. The \$15-\$30 per year paid by each household could easily cover operating costs for a publicly owned and operated permanent facility.
- ◆ Curbside HHW collection conducted by a private company would not be eligible for NH DES HHW grant funding.
- ◆ All residents in a participating municipality must pay into the program. There is no option to “opt out.”

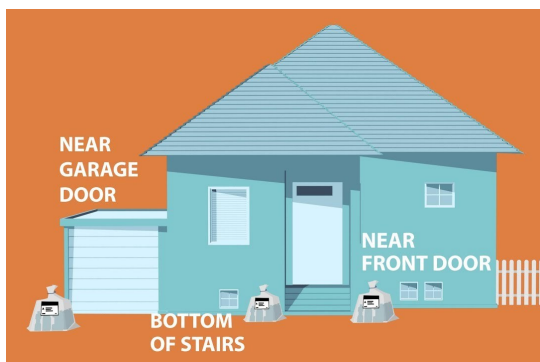


Photo Credits: Waste Management

This fact sheet highlights data found in RPC's HHW Feasibility Study. For more information and the complete report, visit <https://www.therpc.org/hhw> or contact Jill Longval, jlongval@therpc.org.