

Hancock County Planning Commission's 2015 Greater Ellsworth Regional Household Hazardous/Universal Waste Collection



*Final Report
2015*

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

Overview & Cost Breakdown – 2015

Purpose

The Hancock County Planning Commission (HCPC) organized and provided staff support for the municipalities that participated in the August 2015 greater Ellsworth household hazardous and universal waste collection.. A Rural Utilities Service grant from the United States Department of Agriculture for 2014-2015 enabled the HCPC to staff the collection at no cost to the participating towns. 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 and comply with state handling and disposal requirements.

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

- participating municipalities from year 2015 collection to examine how costs were determined;
- Municipal officials interested in joining future collection events;
- Organizers of future HHW collections.

Overview

There were 11 municipalities participating in the household hazardous waste collection this year with two towns opting not to participate in the universal waste collection because it already provides those services for its residents. We had 143 households participate.

This year's event was held on August 15, 2015 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 – North Coast Services was selected as the UW vendor. The benefit to Hancock County this year was North Coast Services' ability to accept TV's and computer monitors and dispose of them at no charge to residents or municipalities. There were 79 computer monitors and/or TV's brought to the collection. At a normal disposal rate of \$10 per monitor/TV participating municipalities realized a savings of \$790.00. This year 3,912 units of universal waste were collected. We also collected 227 units of household hazardous waste which equates to 1,135 gallons removed from the waste stream. This

collection removed nearly 4 tons of hazardous materials from the waste stream. More importantly, the participating towns benefited from the safe removal of some very dangerous substances. These included calcium chloride, sodium hydroxide, and sulfuric, nitric, and hydrochloric acids, as well as liquid mercury.

All but two towns supplied their required volunteer to assist us on the collection day, however the many recurring volunteers from previous years made it flow very well. It made for a long day for the volunteers present. We would like to remind towns that they have to supply a volunteer for the collection. There are far too many jobs for the limited hands we have available. This year, participants found themselves working in wonderful sunny, warm weather. We also had a wonderful canopy and refreshments supplied by HCPC.

The collection event ran very smoothly as did the traffic and there were no issues with early birds, late comers or individuals who were required to pay from non-participating towns. This is attributed to the experience of the HCPC staff, recurrent volunteers from previous collections, and in general a well organized event. 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.

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.



This brief summary was compiled by Sheri Walsh, HCPC Administrative Assistant, with funding assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service program. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the funding agency. 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 swalsh@hpcme.org.