



Household Hazardous Waste Management in MA

June 24, 2024

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Current Status

- “System” is under severe strain, in need of reform
- Need a place to discuss big picture in a unified, organized and ongoing manner
- Proposed that the DEP Commissioner form formal HHW Subcommittee of the SWAC, similar to those for organics, C&D etc.
- We sent a letter in April 2023 and we’ve been working with staff at DEP since

Challenges

- Inadequate HHW disposal capacity
- Illegal dumping, HHW to MSW disposal facilities
- HHW costs rising much faster than muni budgets
- Gaps in coverage from October – April
- Fewer vendors available, staffing issues
- Few permanent transfer sites

Challenges

- Facility siting
- Liability concerns
- Lack of funding
- Municipal staff overwhelmed- demands on time, new programs
- Some municipalities have no coverage

Needs

- Comprehensive state-wide master plan
- Information sharing
- Updated, earlier procurement process
- Training
- Disaster preparedness
- Paperwork help or reduction
- VSQG options

Stakeholders

- Municipal managers
- Producers
- Disposal, processing and transfer facility operators
- Water districts and suppliers
- Legislators
- Fire Departments
- Health Departments
- Industry organizations
- Environmental organizations
- Federal, State and local environmental agencies

Role of Municipalities

- Education
- Support legislation such as EPR
- Increase diversion programs
- Adequate funding
- Prepare for increased long term costs
- Regional cooperation

Potential Work Plan

- Identify all collections sites and how they operate
- Gather and organize HHW collection data
- Work with vendors, disposal facilities to understand the overall management system
- Identify gaps in coverage- geographic, seasonal, material and demographic
- Plan for VSQGs
- Bring in nationally recognized experts for advice
- Other state for models
- Educate public, legislators, municipal officials, business, government employees...

Potential Work Plan

- Identify potential locations including state and federal properties
- Identify resources in MA such as DAR, State Fire Marshall, OSD, DCAMM, OTA, EEA
- Other resources- Federal, industry, non-profit
- Identify funding sources for: grants, infrastructure, DEP
- Streamline paperwork, notifications and procedures
- Legislative, regulatory and policy updates
- Training programs for staff
- Source reduction strategies
- Technology assessment, reuse

Key Questions

- Do we want to control our own fate?
- What role can the state play from the cabinet level on down?
- Who will build and operate facilities?
- What if the private sector opts out?
- What if municipalities opt out?
- What partnerships can be developed?