

# Memorandum

To: Board of Commissioners  
 From: Amanda Kain, Utilities and Engineering  
 Date: June 9, 2010  
 Subject: Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics One-Day Collection Report

Date of Event: May 1, 2010  
 Time of Event: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
 Location of Event: Government Center, Newton

Number of vehicles participating: 793  
 Number of households represented: 1,081

Cost for HHW collection: \$33,927.04  
 Cost for Electronic collection: \$ 4,982.80  
 Cost for advertising: \$ 2,324.70  
 Cost for misc items: \$ 167.74  
 Total: \$41,402.28

Funding from GDS (12,500.00)  
 GDS provides \$25,000 annually,  
 \$12,500 for each event.

Revenue for misc electronics: (349.11)  
 Revenue for lead acid batteries: (183.20)

**Cost for Catawba County  
 Solid Waste Enterprise: \$28,369.97**

(No County taxes were employed in this event)



## Cost Comparison for Catawba County Solid Waste Enterprise Fund:

Spring 10	Fall 09	Spring 09	Fall 08	Spring 08	Fall 07	Spring 07
\$28,369.97	\$29,337.11	\$24,345.18	\$17,298.34	\$23,952.03	\$16,013.40	\$15,186.84

Average cost

\$22,071.84

### Staff/Volunteers:

Jim Beebe, Catawba County  
 Jack Chandler, Catawba County  
 Rhonda Gomez, Catawba County  
 Beverly Hester, Catawba County

Amanda Kain, Catawba County  
 Bill Rogers, Catawba County  
 Brandy Watts, Catawba County  
 Teresa Wofford, Catawba County

To provide citizens with a means to dispose of general household hazardous waste (HHW) and electronics, Catawba County recently held its fifteenth household hazardous waste collection event.

The HHW collection accepts materials such as oil and latex paint, aerosols, used motor oil, antifreeze, mercury, etc. The electronics collection includes telephones, fax machines, copiers, stereo equipment, VCR's, camcorders, computers/laptops, keyboards, printers, etc. in addition to televisions. County and City staff implemented the event. Garbage Disposal Service (GDS) provides bi-annual funding for the event as outlined in the current Solid Waste Management Franchise agreement, in the amount of \$12,500.00.

In addition to actual funding, Garbage Disposal Service (GDS) co-sponsors the event by supplying roll off dumpsters, free of charge, for non-recyclable solid waste that is a by-product of the event.

This event was well attended with 793 vehicles passing through the drive-up collection representing 1,081 households. The cost to Catawba County Solid Waste was \$28,369.97. The total cost of the event is driven by the type and quantity of waste handled during the event.

The front and back parking area of the Government Center and the front part of the Sheriff's Office parking area was utilized creating a well-organized event. Due to the high number of vehicles participating in this event, attendees had between a 15 to 45 minute wait time with traffic running smoothly through the area.

### **How was the event promoted?**

Dave Hardin, Public Information Officer advertised the spring event by placing ads in the Newton Observer News Enterprise, Hickory Daily Record, Charlotte Observer-Catawba Valley Neighbors, News at Norman, WNNC Radio, and WHKY Radio and TV. Along with internal notifications by e-mail and publication in the "Spirit" newsletter, brochures were distributed to the County Libraries, county buildings, inter-departments, and both Permit Center locations. Also, local municipalities were given information about the event to distribute throughout their buildings and in newsletters.

### **Waste collected at the event**

#### **General Household Hazardous Waste**

Contractor: Clean Harbors, Reidsville, NC

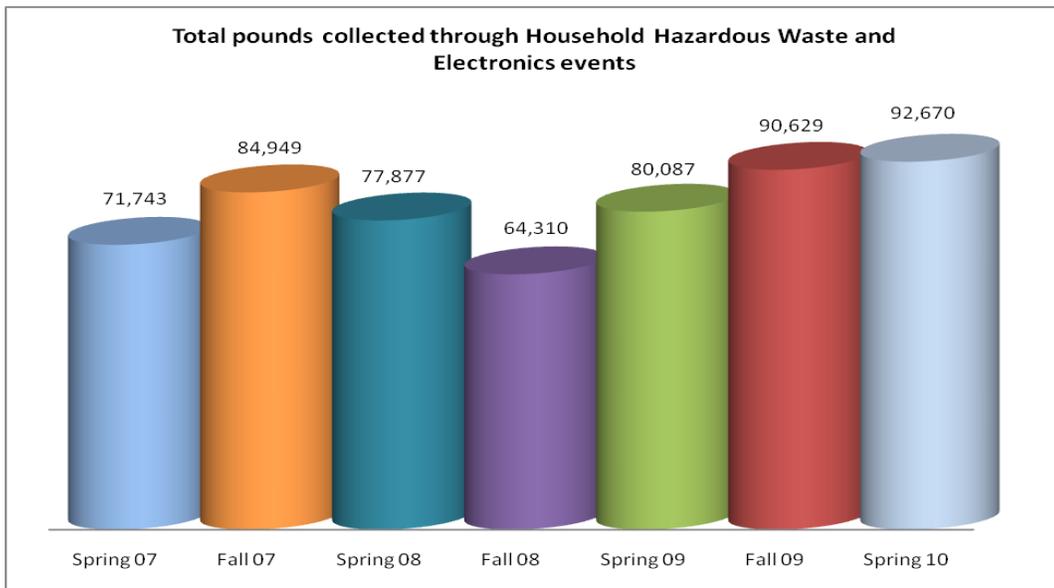
Total HHW collected = 51,308 lbs

#### **Electronics and Computer Waste**

Contractor: Synergy Recycling LLC, Madison, NC

Total electronic and computer waste collected = 41,362 lbs

**Grand total collected = 92,670 lbs**

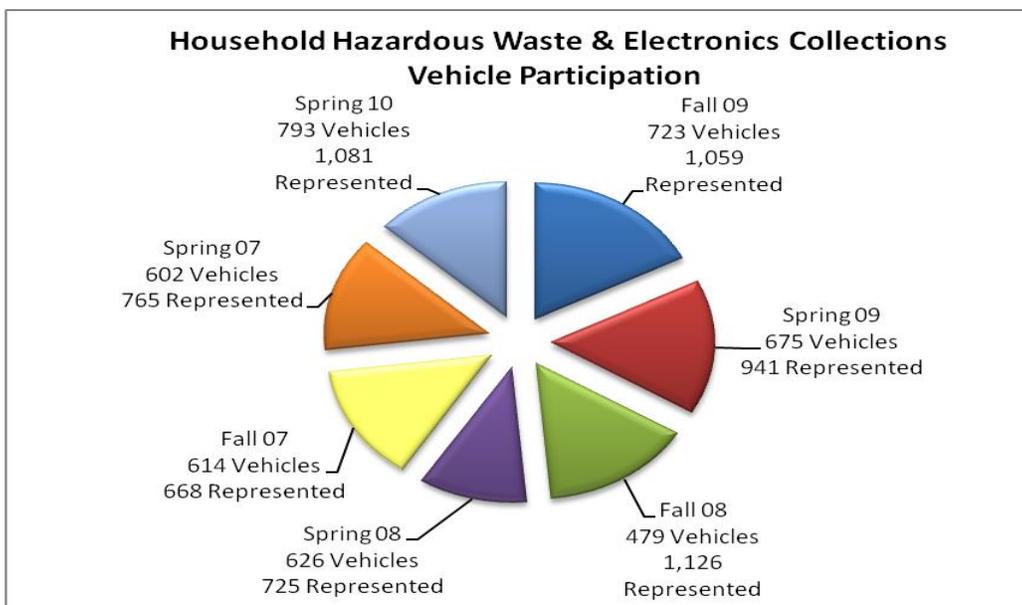


**Materials collected at no cost to Catawba County**

- ✓ Pesticides - NC Department of Agriculture
- ✓ Used oil – Clean Harbors
- ✓ Certain types of Computer Monitors, CPU’s, Peripheral, Misc Electronics, Circuit Boards, Wire, Lead Acid Batteries, Ink Cartridges, and Cell Phones – Synergy Recycling LLC collects free of charge and pays County revenue for the items listed above as per stated in contract.

**What about this year’s survey?**

Citizens were surveyed as they proceeded through the disposal line indicating once again that the newspaper was the most effective means of advertising by reaching 500 participants followed by word of mouth then radio. One of the survey questions was an attempt to locate the participants’ household to learn if all areas of the County were represented. Responses indicated that 318 participants were from Hickory, 201 from Newton, 120 from Conover, 66 from Maiden, and 43 from Claremont. The remaining 45 participants were well spread throughout the County. Survey responses are used for future County Solid Waste planning.



### **Where Do We Go After The Event?**

Having two events at different locations has proven to be an economical and feasible method of household hazardous waste collection, disposal and reduction. While the County has an obligation to be frugal with funds, we are also charged with being good stewards of the environment. Indeed, the County has made an attempt to fulfill this role. The County currently provides recycling for cell phones and ink jet cartridges at all five Solidwaste Convenience Centers, used motor oil and filters at four Centers, used anti-freeze collection at Bethany Church Rd and Blackburn Centers and paint collection at the Blackburn Center, all free of charge. The County has, partnered and will continue to partner, with the State to dispose of empty pesticide containers free of charge for county farmers at our Blackburn, Newton, and Oxford Convenience Centers.

Catawba County residents and businesses have access to a computer recycling program called ReConnect, offered by Goodwill Industries and Dell Computers in partnership with the County. Catawba County has four convenient Goodwill drop off locations that will accept unwanted computers and computer related materials from residents and businesses, free of charge.

We will continue to utilize various outlets for waste reduction and education through the waste reduction coordinator/educator's outreach to schools, local and state committees, pamphlets, web pages, Keep Catawba County Beautiful, etc.

In closing, staff recommends continuing the two events next year, one in the spring at the Government Center and one in the fall in the City of Hickory. Both events are accounted for and included in the approved FY10/11 budget.

Please feel free to contact me at 828-465-8217 with any specific questions you have concerning household hazardous waste or electronics collection recommendations.

