

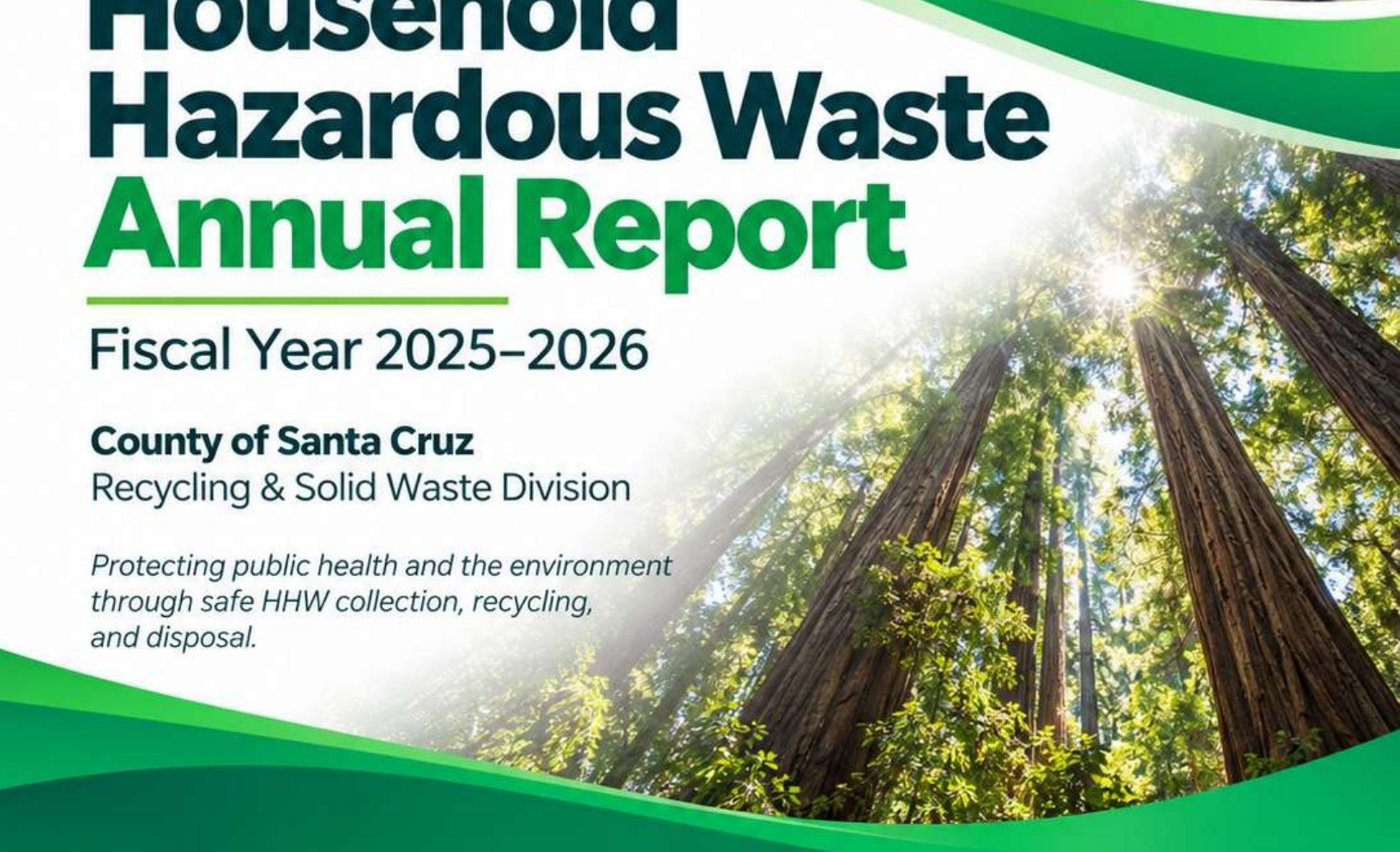


Household Hazardous Waste Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2025–2026

County of Santa Cruz
Recycling & Solid Waste Division

*Protecting public health and the environment
through safe HHW collection, recycling,
and disposal.*



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

2025/2026

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE
COLLECTION PROGRAM**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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2025/2026
Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program
Annual Report
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INTRODUCTION

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is a term that refers to any leftover or unwanted household products that can pose a threat to human health, animal welfare, or the environment if not handled or disposed of properly. HHW includes items such as paints, cleaners, batteries, pesticides, solvents, and electronic wastes. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Americans generate about 1.6 million tons of HHW each year¹.

HHW can cause various problems if it is discarded in the trash, poured down the drain, or dumped on the ground. For example, HHW can:

- Contaminate groundwater, surface water, and soil with toxic chemicals.
- Harm wildlife and plants that come into contact with polluted water or soil.
- Create fire, explosion, or gas hazards in waste collection vehicles, landfills or sewer systems.
- Injure sanitation and solid waste workers.
- Expose children and pets to poisoning or injury from ingesting or touching HHW.

To prevent these negative impacts, it is important to manage HHW in a safe and responsible manner. This is where household hazardous waste programs come in. The County of Santa Cruz HHW program collects, recycles, and properly disposes of HHW from residents and households within the County.

Household hazardous waste programs provide many benefits for the community and the environment. We are charged with:

- Protecting public health and safety by reducing the risk of exposure to HHW.
- Conserving natural resources and energy by recycling HHW materials that can be reused.
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution by limiting HHW from being burned or incinerated.
- Saving money and space by avoiding the cost and need for landfilling or treating HHW.

By participating in Santa Cruz County household hazardous waste program, you can help protect yourself, your family, community, and planet from the harmful effects of HHW.

¹<https://www.epa.gov/hw/household-hazardous-waste-hhw>

This report highlights the participation levels, analysis of hazardous waste delivered, and associated costs of the HHW Program for fiscal year 2025/2026. The program's high participation rate and the substantial amount of hazardous waste collected and responsibly managed each year underscore its significant benefits to public health and the environment.

The Santa Cruz County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program operates three permanent collection facilities:

Ben Lomond Transfer Station: Located in the inland northern part of the County.

Buena Vista Landfill: Near Watsonville, serving the southern section of the County.

Santa Cruz City Resource Recovery Facility: Serving the City of Santa Cruz and the northern coastal section of the County.

Since its inception in 1991, the HHW program has served a population of 210,615. The facilities operate on an alternating schedule:

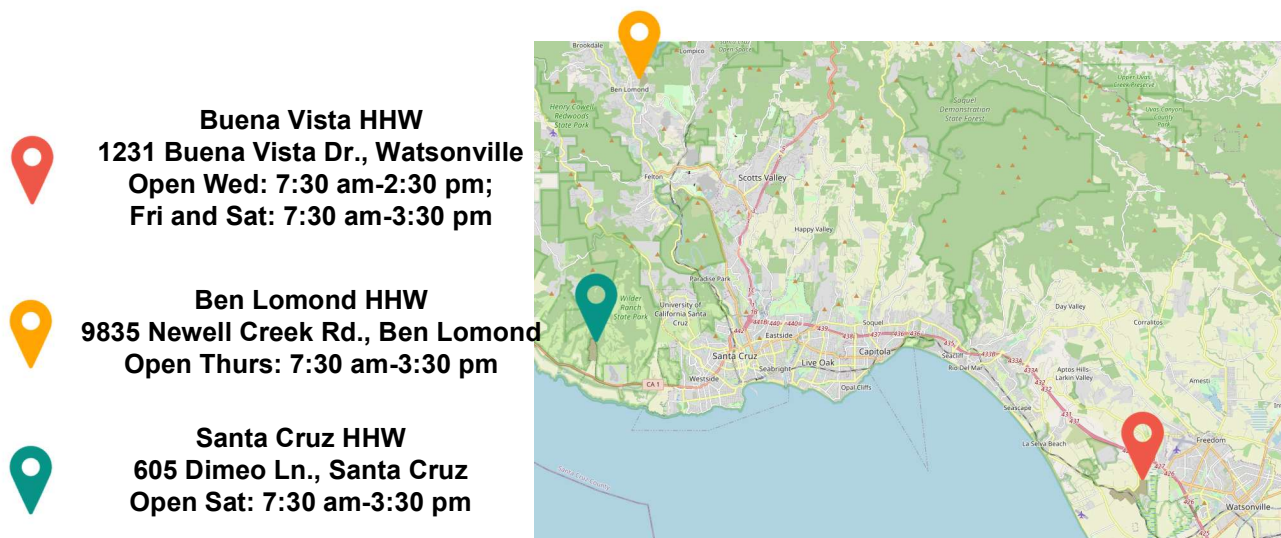
Buena Vista Landfill: Open three days a week (Wednesday, Friday, Saturday).

Ben Lomond Transfer Station: Open one day a week (Thursday).

Santa Cruz City Resource Recovery Facility: Open one day a week (Saturday).

FIGURE I-1

HHW LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ



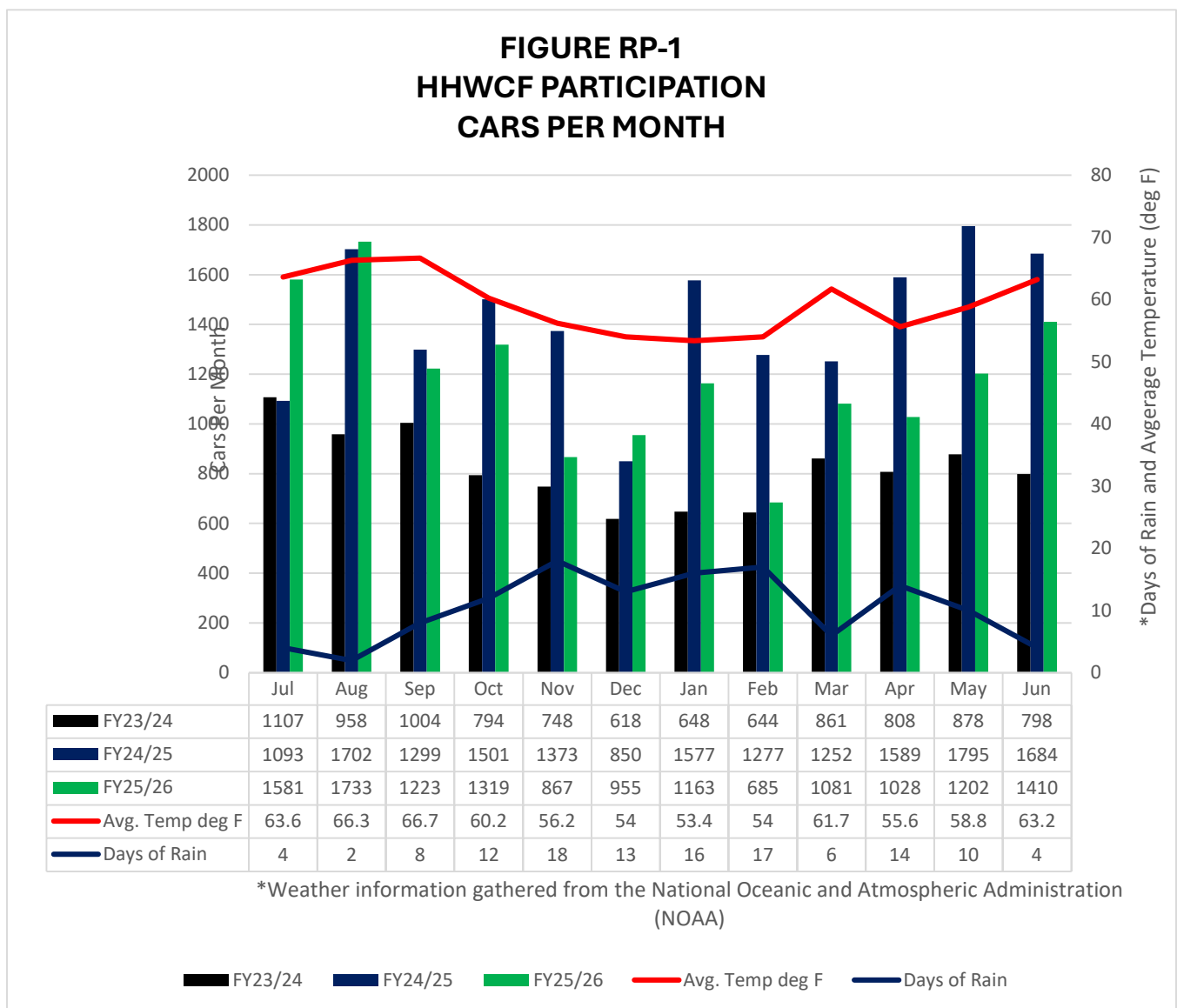
The program effectively diverts household hazardous waste (HHW) from illegal disposal at the County's and City's recycling and solid waste facilities by offering the public a safe, legal, and environmentally friendly disposal alternative. Residents can drop off their HHW at any of the designated facilities during their posted days of operation. Additionally, automotive batteries can be recycled at all three locations' respective recycling centers, six days a week (Monday through Saturday).

The HHW program also accommodates Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQGs), which are businesses generating less than 27 gallons of hazardous waste per month. VSQGs can schedule appointments to drop off their waste at the Buena Vista HHW facility.

RESIDENTIAL PARTICIPATION (RP)

The HHW program is completing its 34th year of operation. During fiscal year 2025/2026 the Santa Cruz County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program served the entire unincorporated County, and the Cities of Santa Cruz, Capitola, and Scotts Valley, which is comprised of 93,708⁴ households, with a population of approximately 210,615. The City of Watsonville provides their own HHW program to residents within their jurisdiction.

Figure RP-1 shows HHW program participation on a monthly basis. Participation ranged between 685 cars in February 2026 and 1,733 vehicles in August 2025. The lower participation during the winter months is attributed to fewer operating days due to the holidays, and seasonal fluctuations in participation presumably due to more inclement weather.



⁴ Number of households gathered from the E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2020-2026 with 2020 Census Benchmark

Figure RP-2 presents a comparison of the average number of cars per operating day for the last several fiscal years. This data serves as a tool for planning staffing levels through the different seasons and to promote the facility’s services. The trend line shows an increase in customer count with a correlation of determination of 62.91%.

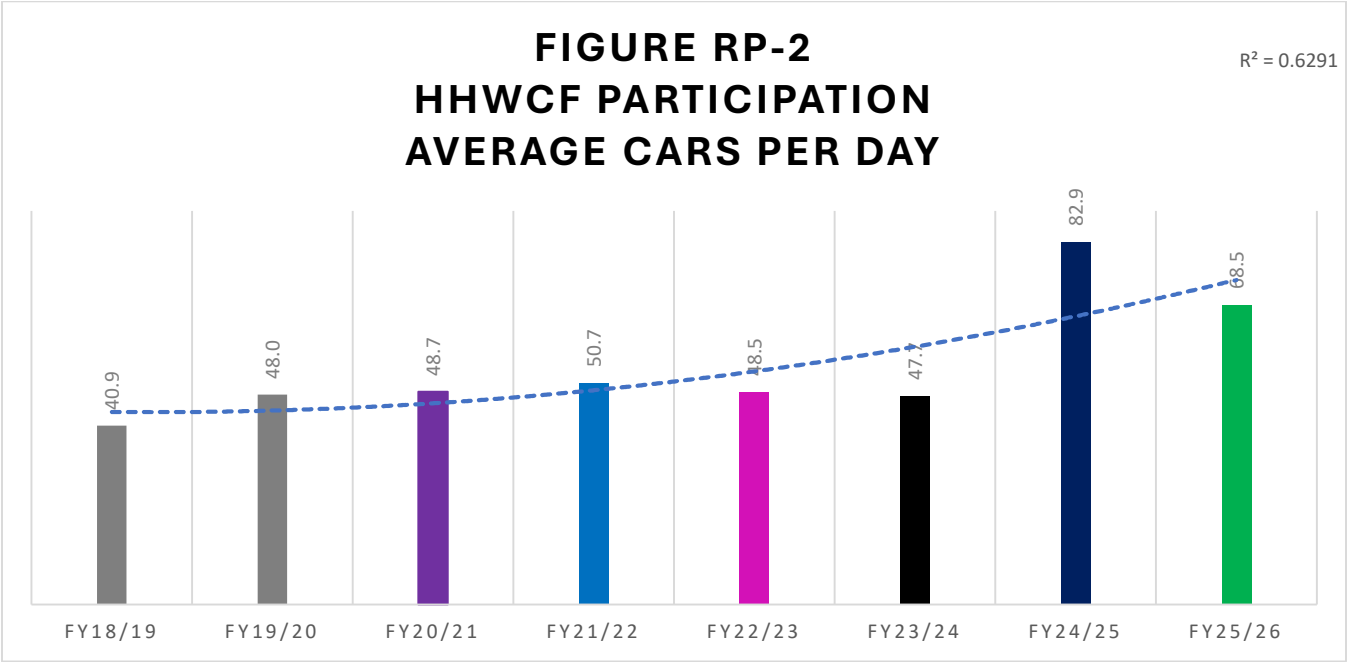


Figure RP-3 presents a comparison of HHW facility usage per community located throughout the County of Santa Cruz. Unincorporated Santa Cruz County includes unincorporated Watsonville which also includes the communities of La Selva Beach, and Corralitos.

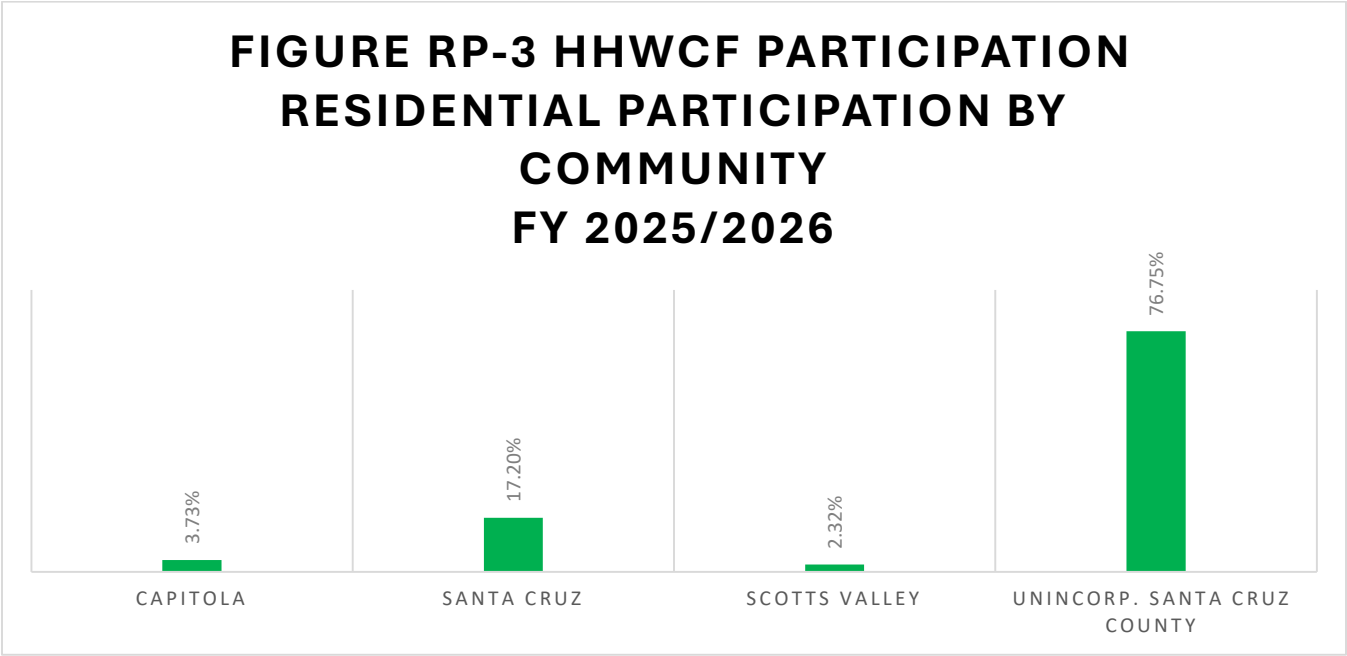


Table RP-1
Residential Participation by Community
FY 2025/2026

Table RP-1 presents a comparison of HHW facility usage per community located throughout the County of Santa Cruz.

Community	¹ Number of Households	% Of Households in Service Area
Capitola	5,568	5.94%
Santa Cruz	25,066	26.75%
Scotts Valley	5,036	5.37%
Unincorporated Santa Cruz County	58,038	61.93%
Total	93,708	100.00%

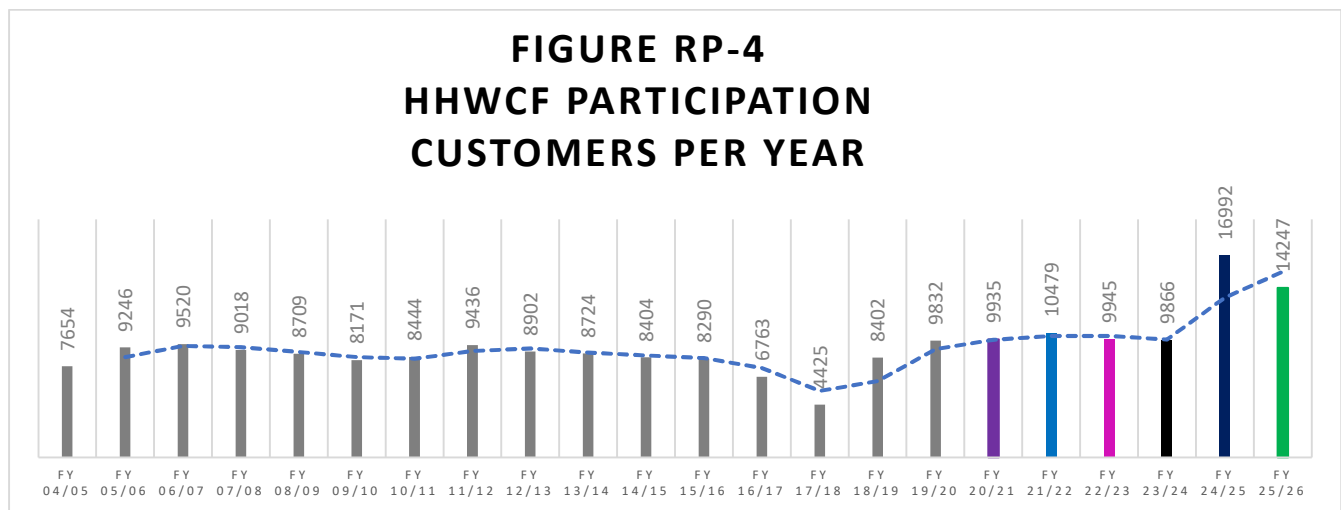
⁵ Total number of households excludes City of Watsonville HHW. The City of Watsonville provides their own HHW program to residents within their jurisdiction.

Table RP-2
Percentage of Households in Service Area and Participation by Community
FY 2025/2026

Community	¹ Number of Households	% Of Households in Service Area	HHW Facility Participation	% Of Total Served
Capitola	5,568	5.94%	532	3.73%
Santa Cruz	25,066	26.75%	2,451	17.20%
Scotts Valley	5,036	5.37%	330	2.32%
Unincorporated Santa Cruz County	58,038	61.93%	10,934	76.75%
Total	93,708	100.00%	14,247	100.00%

⁶ Santa Cruz County estimate based on E-5 Population and Housing Estimates January 2026 California Department of Finance data. Total number of households excludes City of Watsonville HHW. The City of Watsonville provides their own HHW program to residents within their jurisdiction.

Figure RP-4 presents a comparison of HHW facility usage per community located throughout the County of Santa Cruz. The trend line shows the two-period moving average.



QUANTITIES OF WASTES COLLECTED (WC)

The HHW Facilities had 14,247 tracked customers last year, disposing over 716,300 pounds of hazardous and universal waste. Permanent hours of operation at all three facilities allow the public to drop-off their HHW without an appointment to residents (businesses are required to make an appointment with accordance to Title 22, Cal. Code Regs., sections 67450.25 (a)(3)(B) and 67450.4(b)(9)).

Reuse is always the first preference for managing any waste stream. Latex paint is sent to PaintCare facilities that recycle or re-process it into new paint or other latex based products.

Recycling is the second priority for the program. Oil, antifreeze, used oil filters, batteries, fluorescent lights, ballasts, and miscellaneous household products are all recycled through the program. Flammable liquid wastes are blended for shipment to fuel supplement programs. Many of the non-reusable thinners, solvents, cleaners, and waxes are bulked together to minimize costs and maximize reuse as a fuel supplement. Most non-poisonous and non-corrosive aerosol spray cans are depressurized and fuel blended at permitted facilities. No suspected dioxin precursors, reactive material, unknown materials, or pesticides are fuel blended.

Beginning the 2013-2014 fiscal year the County entered into an agreement with PaintCare, a product stewardship program, to become a PaintCare “Drop Off” Facility. Architectural latex and oil-based paints and stains are collected under the program and PaintCare funds the transportation and disposal costs. Oil based paints and stains are no longer bulked together into drums but are placed in cubic yard boxes to be processed at PaintCare approved facilities. PaintCare contracts directly with haulers and hazardous waste treatment facilities to transport and properly dispose of the oil-based paint products collected at the County’s HHW Facilities. PaintCare has agreements with some local paint retailers allowing residents and businesses the opportunity to drop off unwanted paint at a participating retail store. This provides convenient location options for paint disposal throughout the County and lessens the burden of the HHW Program having to manage and dispose of the paint.

Waste treatment is the disposal choice for a small part of the waste stream. Inorganic acids, bases and most oxidizers are sent to treatment facilities that perform neutralization. Other wastes such as pesticides, organic acids, organic peroxides, reactive wastes, and certain special wastes are sent for high temperature destructive incineration at a permitted hazardous waste incinerator.

Landfill, though the least expensive of disposal options, is the final and lowest priority option for waste disposal and is reserved for the very minor amounts of wastes that have no other treatment or reuse method, such as asbestos. Landfilled materials are sent to a Class I Landfill permitted to accept hazardous waste.

The HHW Collection Program disposed or recycled 716,300 pounds of waste during FY 2025-2026. This is about 45,508 pounds increase compared to last year (+6.78% from the previous fiscal year). An average of about 50.28 pounds of HHW per car was dropped off by 14,247 customers (residents and small business appointments). The wastes were shipped from the HHW Collection Facility for reuse, recycling, fuel blending, incineration, treatment, or landfill.

The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) requires a Form 303 report each fiscal year (July through June) summarizing the amount, the types of hazardous waste processed and a breakdown of the waste management method for each type of hazardous waste collected. The FY 2025-2026 Form 303 report is included in Appendix I.

The average weight of hazardous waste collected per car increased from the previous year from 43.52 pounds (values were updated to exclude auto type batteries) of waste to 50.28 pounds of waste. The trend line shows an increase of waste with a correlation of determination of 94.56%. See Figure WC-1.

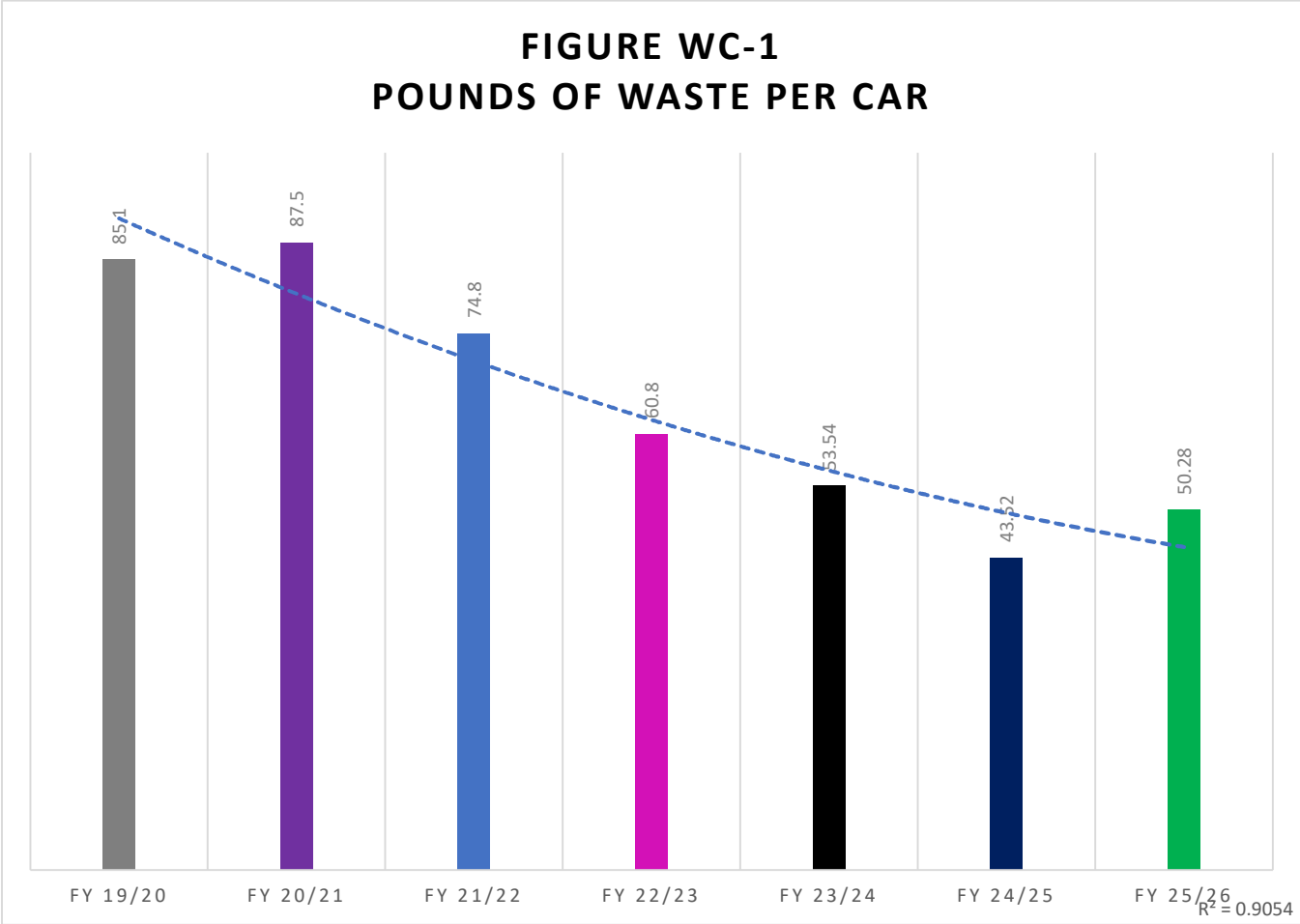


Figure WC-2 presents a breakdown of hazardous wastes processed by type of waste. The transportation classifications on the shipping documents were used as the primary means for segregation into waste type.

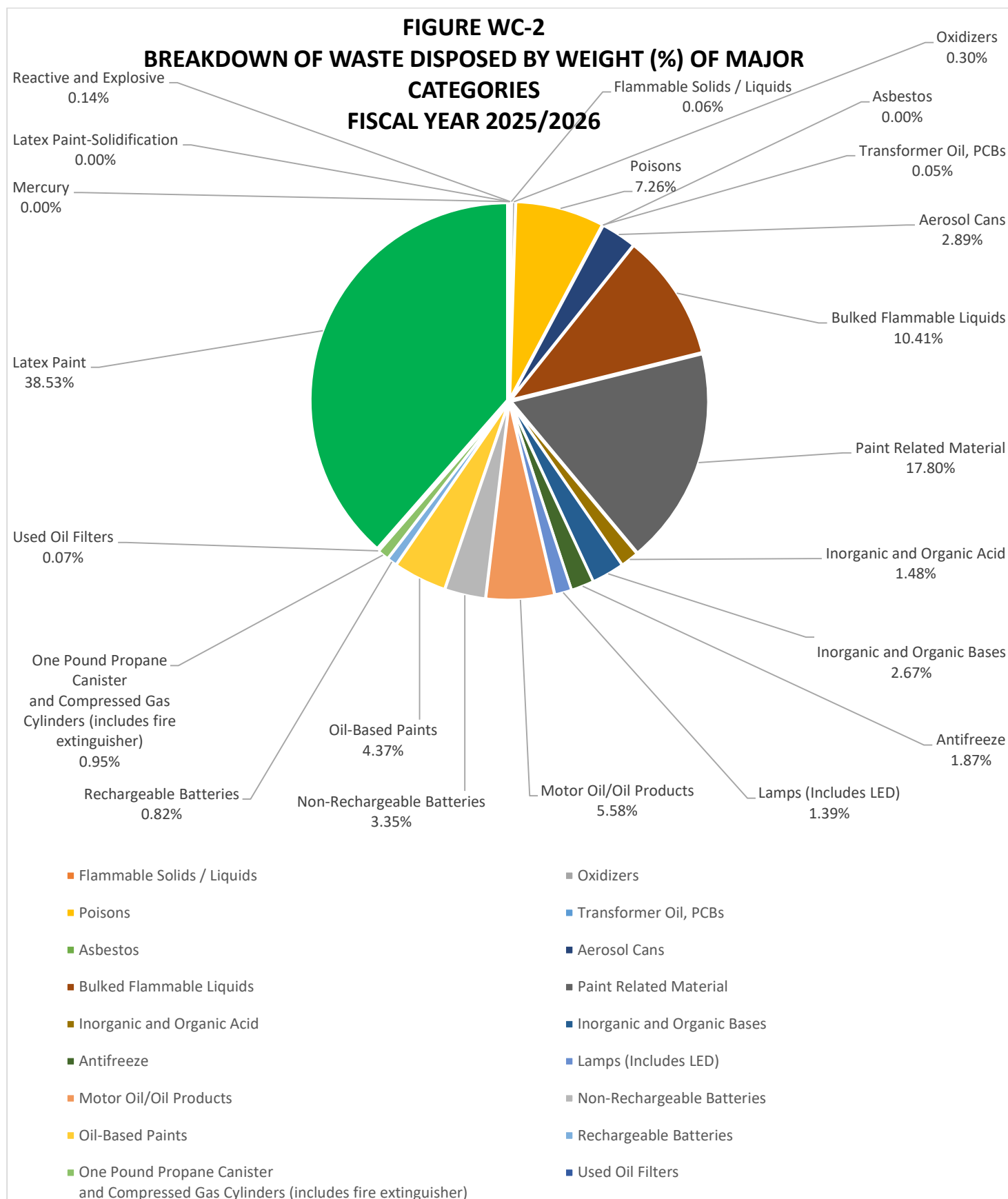


Figure WC-3 presents the distribution of hazardous wastes processed by management method.

FIGURE WC-3
WASTE MANAGEMENT METHOD
BREAKDOWN PERCENTAGE
OF WASTE PROCESSED BY WEIGHT
FY 2025/2026

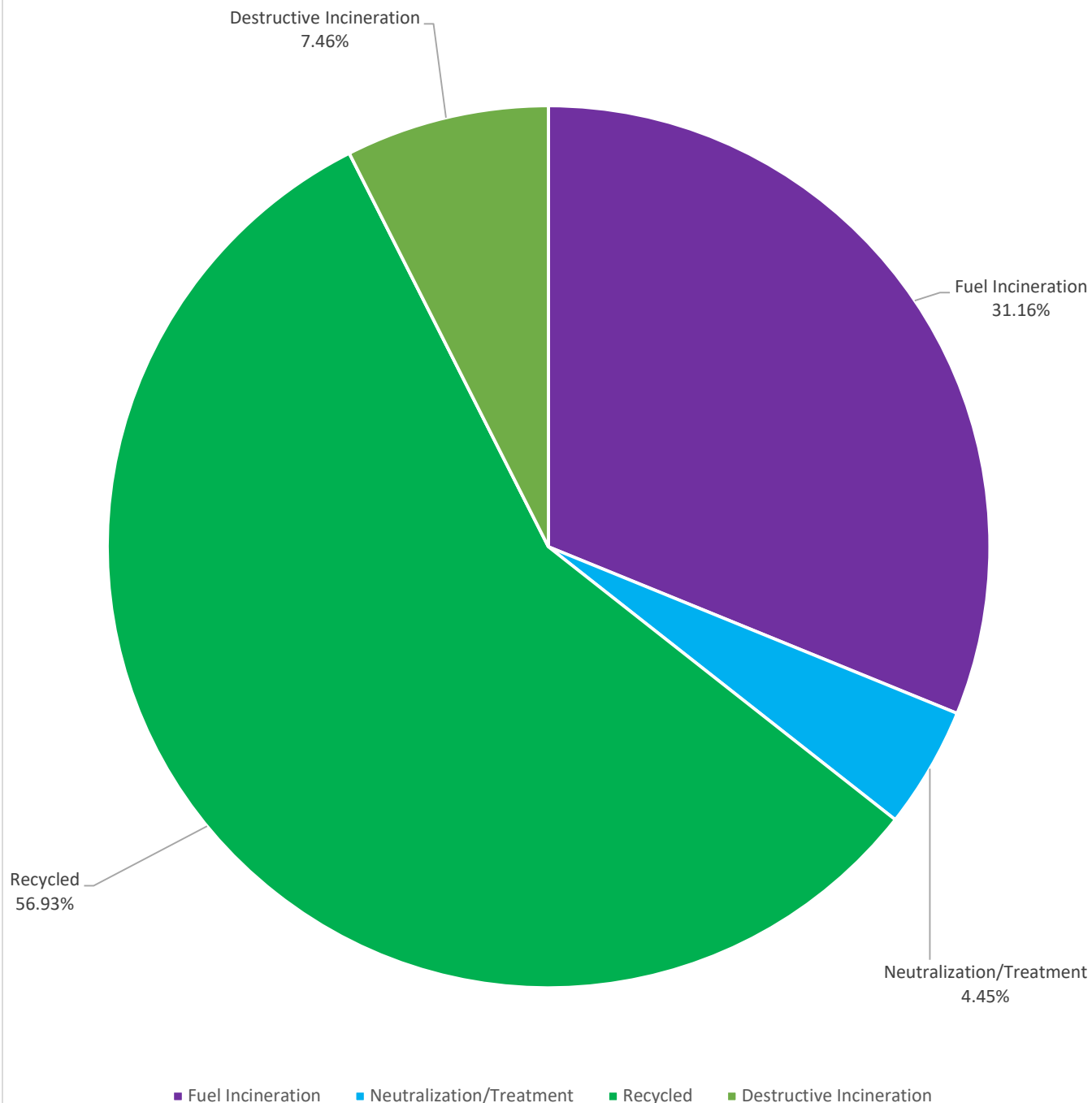


TABLE WC-1
QUANTITY OF LANDFILL DIVERTED WASTE AND DISPOSAL METHOD
FY 2025/2026

The following is a breakdown of the types and quantities of hazardous waste disposed by all sites compared with the previous fiscal year.

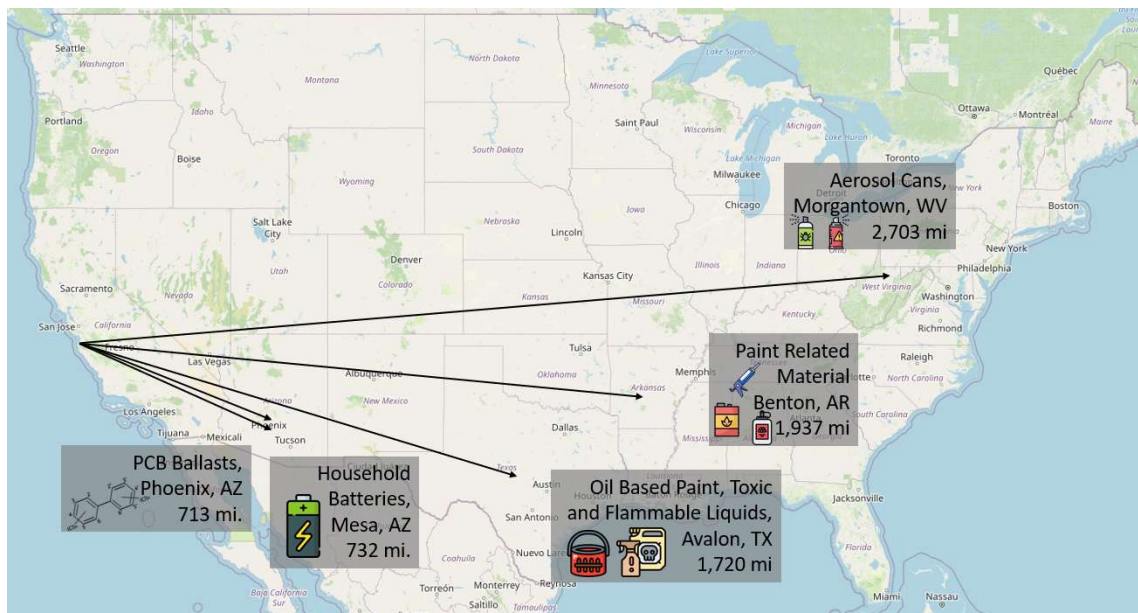
Management Method	Material Type	FY 21/22 Quantity (Pounds)	FY 22/23 Quantity (Pounds)	FY 23/24 Quantity (Pounds)	FY 24/25 Quantity (Pounds)	FY 25/26 Quantity (Pounds)	%Change Between FY 24/25 and 25/26	Disposal Company
Destructive Incineration	Reactive and Explosive/Marine Flares	110	0	0	0	1018	N/A	Clean Earth
Fuel Incineration	Flammable Solids / Liquids	260	275	6,220	181	445	145.86%	Clean Earth
Stabilization/ Destructive Incineration	Oxidizers	2,615	978	1,967	2,338	2,146	-8.21%	Clean Earth
Destructive Incineration	Poisons	40,300	38,050	38,662	44,549	52,016	16.76%	Clean Earth
Destructive Incineration	Transformer Oil, PCBs	348	660	200	116	388	234.48%	Clean Earth
Landfilled (Not at Buena Vista)	Asbestos	580	1,235	100	0	0	0.00%	Clean Earth
Fuel Incineration	Aerosol Cans	21,675	11,800	22,475	24,200	20,689	-14.51%	Clean Earth
Fuel Incineration	Bulked Flammable Liquids	52,715	60,975	60,125	55,534	74,567	34.27%	Clean Earth
Fuel Incineration	Paint Related Material	66,050	65,100	54,003	112,865	127,530	12.99%	Clean Earth
Neutralization / Treatment	Inorganic and Organic Acid	9,600	8,280	9,325	10,974	10,610	-3.32%	Clean Earth
Neutralization / Treatment	Inorganic and Organic Bases	14,900	11,801	16,765	19,138	19,122	-0.08%	Clean Earth
Recycled	Antifreeze	27,871	11,262	19,869	14,749	13,365	-9.38%	Bayside Oil II
Recycled	Lamps (Includes LED)	8,585	9,935	7,150	10,665	9,940	-6.80%	ReVolt Recycling
Recycled	Motor Oil/Oil Products	98,480	64,312	66,832	58,239	39,975	-31.36%	Bayside Oil II
Recycled	Non-Rechargeable Batteries	35,860	20,250	28,060	31,938	23,962	-24.97%	Clean Earth
Recycled	Oil-Based Paints	36,543	34,123	23,241	6,678	31,326	369.09%	PaintCare
Recycled	Rechargeable Batteries	4,175	1,250	5,700	2,703	5,880	117.54%	Clean Earth
Recycled	One Pound Propane Canister and Compressed Gas Cylinders (includes fire extinguisher)	1,915	1,977	2,643	3,994	6,819	70.73%	Clean Earth
Recycled	Used Oil Filters	3,000	2,850	1,400	700	525	-25.00%	Bayside Oil II
Recycled	Latex Paint	284,714	215,603	110,800	271,172	275,962	1.77%	PaintCare
Recycled	Mercury	53	55	222	59	15	-74.58%	Clean Earth
Reused/Treatment	Latex Paint-Solidification	10,440	7,546	0	0	0	0.00%	Santa Cruz County
Total waste throughput, including reused, recycled, and disposed		720,789	568,317	475,759	670,792	716,300	6.63%	

FIGURE WC-4 HHW PROCESSING AND DISPOSAL SITES (CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA) FY 2025/2026

The figures WC-4 and WC-5 illustrate the processing and final disposal sites and their distances of household hazardous waste that is transported from each of the HHW collection facilities. The closest processing site is in Santa Cruz for motor oil and oil filters, the farthest for aerosol cans in Morgantown, West Virginia.



FIGURE WC-5 HHW PROCESSING AND DISPOSAL SITES (NATIONAL) FY 2025/2026



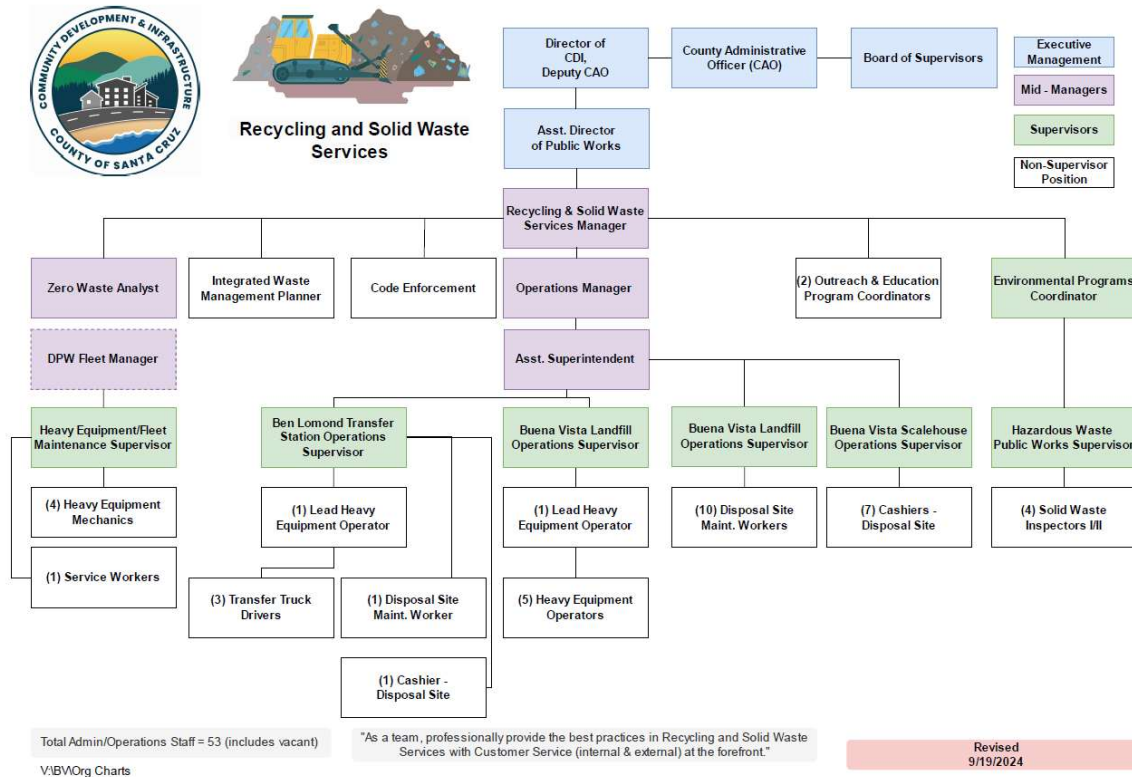
BUDGET ITEMIZATIONS – FACILITIES OPERATION

REVENUE AND EXPENSES (RE)

Personnel Overview

The Household Hazardous Waste Program staff consists of 4.5 full-time employees (FTE) Solid Waste Inspectors, 1.0 FTE Public Works Supervisor for HHW, and 0.65 Environmental Programs Coordinator. All Inspectors are trained in hazardous materials handling and complete the required eight-hour OSHA Hazardous Waste Operation certification annually. Due to this advanced training, the Inspectors respond to any County solid waste facility related incidents involving hazardous materials. The Inspectors also perform load checking and environmental monitoring of ground water, leachate, landfill gas, surface water and stormwater, which consumes approximately 0.5 FTE. The Public Works Supervisor and Solid Waste Inspectors are under direct supervision of the Environmental Programs Coordinator, which is a staff position in the Recycling and Solid Waste Services section of the Public Works Department.

FIGURE RE-1
SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING ORGANIZATION CHART
FY 2025/2026

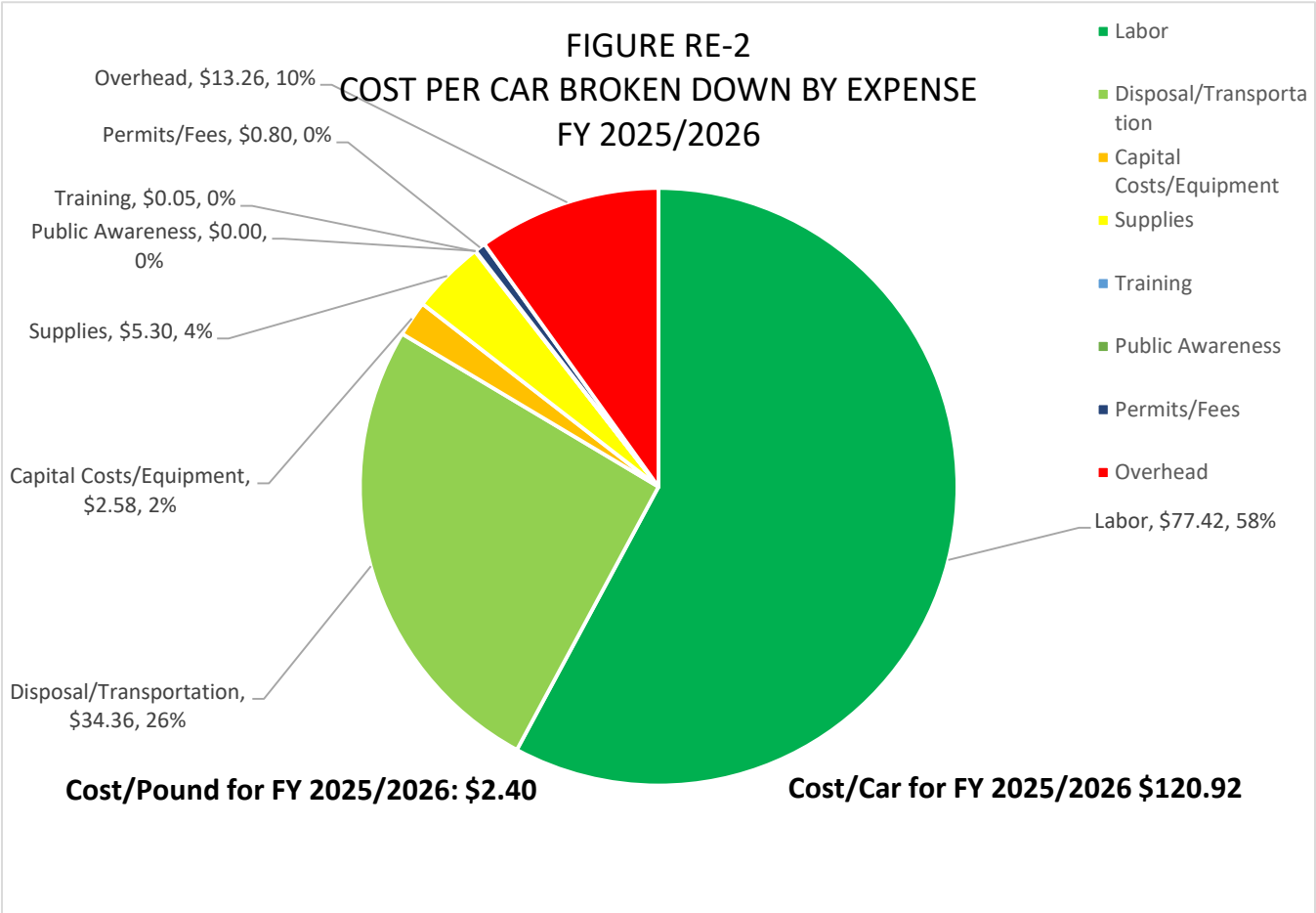


**TABLE RE-1
REVENUE AND EXPENSES
FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026**

Table RE-1 presents a full summary of revenue and expenses for the HHW Collection Facility for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025/2026 compared to the previous year.

HHW Program Expenditures			
Program Expense / Revenue	FY 2023/2024	FY 2024/2025	FY 2025/2026
PERSONNEL EXPENSES			
Administrative (Management/Supervision)	\$163,440	\$179,634	\$185,086
Public Works Supervisor (1.0 FTE) and Solid Waste Inspectors (4.5 FTE)	\$605,890	\$775,405	\$796,457
Personnel Labor Total	\$769,330	\$955,039	\$981,543
DISPOSAL – HAZARDOUS AND UNIVERSAL WASTE			
Clean Earth (formerly Stericycle) – Transportation and disposal services, supplemental labor, supplies, and FY 2025/2026 Marine Flare Take-Back Event services through Clean Harbors	\$342,874	\$355,997	\$444,534
Bayside Oil II – Transportation and recycling services for antifreeze and absorbent*	\$2,473	\$5,355	\$535
ReVolt Recycling – Transportation and recycling services for fluorescent and LED lights	\$17,589	\$25,221	\$31,286
Services for Sharps/Hypodermic Needles**	\$0	\$0	\$0
Disposal Total	\$362,936	\$386,573	\$476,355
PUBLIC EDUCATION – Costs associated with public education, including advertising, brochure duplication, mailing, and HHW Information Exchange Meeting participation.			
Public Education Total	\$0	\$0	\$0
TRAINING SERVICES – 40-Hour OSHA HAZWOPER and annual 8-hour refresher training.			
Training Services Total	\$0	\$450	\$662
MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES – Miscellaneous purchases for supplies, safety gear (PPE), construction materials, labels, uniforms, tools, office supplies, and related items.			
Supplies Total	\$31,729	\$33,761	\$67,169
PERMITS AND COMPLIANCE – County of Santa Cruz Environmental Health Household Hazardous Waste Facility permit fees and engineering consultant costs associated with HHW facility environmental permit compliance.			
Permits and Compliance Total	\$9,345	\$9,903	\$10,148
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS – Buena Vista Household Hazardous Waste trailer replacement and forklift replacement. FY 2025/2026 includes the fourth of five annual payments for the trailer replacement and the second of three annual payments for the replacement forklift.			
Capital Improvements Total	\$20,768	\$30,733	\$32,768
Department Overhead (FY 2025/2026 – 11.00%)	\$143,293	\$170,659	\$168,075
Program Subtotal	\$1,337,401	\$1,587,118	\$1,736,720
Revenue from Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQGs), charged in accordance with the County Unified Fee Schedule	(\$12,217)	(\$14,951)	(\$14,013)
PaintCare Revenue – PaintCare no longer reimburses the County for paint handling and processing beginning in FY 2022/2023.	\$0	\$0	\$0
NET PROGRAM EXPENDITURES	\$1,325,184	\$1,572,167	\$1,722,707

Figure RE-2 breaks down that cost by major expenses categories: labor, waste, materials, capital, and other.



A critical component of the HHW Collection Program is the collection of hazardous wastes from small businesses that qualify as “Very Small Quantity Generators” (VSQG) under Federal and State hazardous waste management laws. This program is intended to offer small businesses a cost-effective and convenient hazardous waste disposal option. A very small quantity generator is a category of hazardous waste generators who produce the least amount of hazardous waste in a calendar month. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a VSQG generates 100 kilograms or less per month of hazardous waste or one kilogram or less per month of acutely hazardous waste. VSQGs must identify all the hazardous waste they generate and comply with basic requirements for waste determination, notification, management, storage, and disposal. They may not accumulate more than a certain amount of hazardous waste or acutely toxic hazardous waste on-site at any time. The VSQG program was developed to help businesses and nonprofit organizations dispose of their hazardous waste in compliance with state and federal regulations. VSQGs must comply with three basic waste management requirements to remain exempt from the full hazardous waste regulations that apply to generators of larger quantities. These requirements include: Identifying hazardous waste; Storing hazardous waste safely; Disposing of hazardous waste properly.

Non-profits, landlords, apartment managers, and businesses who generate hazardous waste are considered small businesses and are not exempt from disposal fees.

GRANT-FUNDED HHW PROGRAM AND FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS (G)

During FY 2025–26, the County of Santa Cruz Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program continued to pursue outside funding to improve hazardous waste collection infrastructure, address difficult-to-manage waste streams, and provide safer and more convenient services to residents throughout Santa Cruz County.

Through the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program, the County secured funding for three significant initiatives: a regional marine flare collection and waste-prevention program, replacement of aging hazardous-material storage buildings at the Buena Vista and Ben Lomond HHW facilities, and major improvements to the Ben Lomond HHW collection facility.

Together, these projects represent approximately \$508,000 in CalRecycle grant funding supporting the County's HHW program.

Marine Flare Take-Back and Waste-Prevention Program

CalRecycle Grant Funding: \$100,000

In November 2025, the County of Santa Cruz and its regional partners conducted a special Marine Flare Take-Back Event to address expired and unwanted pyrotechnic marine flares. Marine flares present a difficult disposal challenge because they contain energetic and hazardous components and cannot be accepted through the County's routine HHW collection program.

The November 9, 2025, event provided recreational boaters and eligible public agencies with a safe local option for surrendering these materials. The event served 145 participants and collected 1,703 marine flares, including flares dating back to 1984. In total, more than 1,000 pounds of expired and unwanted marine flares was removed from the community and directed to proper management and disposal.

In addition to collection, the program emphasized source reduction and pollution prevention. Participants were encouraged to transition, where appropriate, to approved reusable electronic visual distress signaling devices rather than continually purchasing single-use pyrotechnic flares that eventually expire and require hazardous waste management.

The project was supported by a \$100,000 CalRecycle grant and implemented through a collaborative effort involving the County of Santa Cruz, City of Santa Cruz, City of Capitola, Santa Cruz Port District, California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC), and the California Boating Clean and Green Program. CPSC assisted with program implementation, education, and incentives promoting reusable electronic marine distress signals.

Following the success of the November 2025 collection, another Marine Flare Take-Back Event is planned for October 2026, providing the community with an additional opportunity to properly dispose of expired marine flares while continuing education regarding reusable alternatives.

G-1 - MARINE FLARE TAKE-BACK EVENT



The November 2025 Marine Flare Take-Back Event removed more than 1,000 pounds of expired marine flares from the Santa Cruz County community while promoting reusable electronic visual distress signals.

HD42 – Hazardous Materials Storage Building Replacement

CalRecycle Household Hazardous Waste Construction Grant

Grant Award: \$158,000

The County received a \$158,000 CalRecycle Household Hazardous Waste Construction Grant, Cycle HD42, to replace aging and failing hazardous-material storage buildings at the County's Buena Vista Household Hazardous Waste Facility and Ben Lomond Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

These specialized storage buildings are an important component of HHW operations. They provide dedicated areas for the safe segregation and temporary storage of hazardous materials collected from the public before those materials are consolidated, recycled, treated, or transported to appropriately permitted facilities.

Replacement of the aging storage buildings will improve the reliability and safety of HHW storage operations at both County facilities. Modern storage units will provide improved containment and weather protection and will help maintain appropriate separation of incompatible hazardous waste streams.

The improvements also support employee safety and environmental protection by reducing the potential for deterioration of storage structures to affect the County's ability to securely contain hazardous materials.

The Buena Vista and Ben Lomond HHW facilities are owned and operated by the County and provide regional HHW services benefiting residents of the unincorporated County and participating cities. County records associated with the grant specifically recognize the regional benefit of the facilities, which are shared with the cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz, and Scotts Valley.

The HD42 project is consistent with CalRecycle's HHW grant objective of helping local governments establish, expand, and improve safe household hazardous waste collection infrastructure. The construction grant program specifically supports improvements to existing permanent HHW collection facilities where projects can enhance program services, capacity, operational efficiency, and safe collection.

G-2 – BUENA VISTA HHW STORAGE BUILDING



HD42 grant funding supports replacement of aging hazardous-material storage infrastructure at the Buena Vista HHW facility.

G-3 – BEN LOMOND HHW STORAGE BUILDING



The HD42 project also provides replacement hazardous-material storage infrastructure at the Ben Lomond HHW facility, improving long-term containment, security, and operational reliability.

HD44 – Ben Lomond HHW Facility Improvements
CalRecycle Household Hazardous Waste Construction Grant
Grant Award: \$250,000

During FY 2025–26, Santa Cruz County was awarded a \$250,000 CalRecycle Household Hazardous Waste Construction Grant, Cycle HD44, to offset a portion of the cost of major improvements to the Ben Lomond Household Hazardous Waste collection facility.

The HHW improvements are being incorporated into the County's broader Ben Lomond Transfer Station Improvement Project, a major capital project intended to modernize the facility, improve employee and customer safety, strengthen environmental protections, and extend the useful life of the transfer station.

A major component of the HHW work is construction of a new approximately 1,000-square-foot canopy over the Household Hazardous Waste collection area. The project also includes improvements to spill containment designed to reduce the potential for hazardous-material releases to the surrounding environment.

These improvements will provide a more protective operating environment for HHW collection activities and improve the County's ability to safely receive, sort, manage, and temporarily store hazardous materials collected from residents.

The Ben Lomond Transfer Station project also includes broader environmental and operational improvements, including utility and electrical upgrades, improved traffic circulation, structural repairs, and construction of a covered recycling area. The County estimates the overall transfer station improvement project at approximately \$8 million, with the \$250,000 CalRecycle HD44 award specifically helping offset costs associated with the HHW facility improvements.

CalRecycle's HD44 Construction Grant program is intended for projects that construct new permanent HHW facilities or expand and upgrade existing permanent HHW collection facilities. Santa Cruz County was one of only two recipients statewide awarded funding under the HD44 Construction Grant cycle, with the County receiving the maximum individual award of \$250,000.

Construction at the Ben Lomond Transfer Station began in August 2026. To safely complete improvements, the Ben Lomond HHW facility temporarily closed on August 21, 2026, with reopening anticipated in September 2027. During the temporary closure, residents continue to have access to HHW collection services at the County's Buena Vista facility and the City of Santa Cruz Resource Recovery Facility.

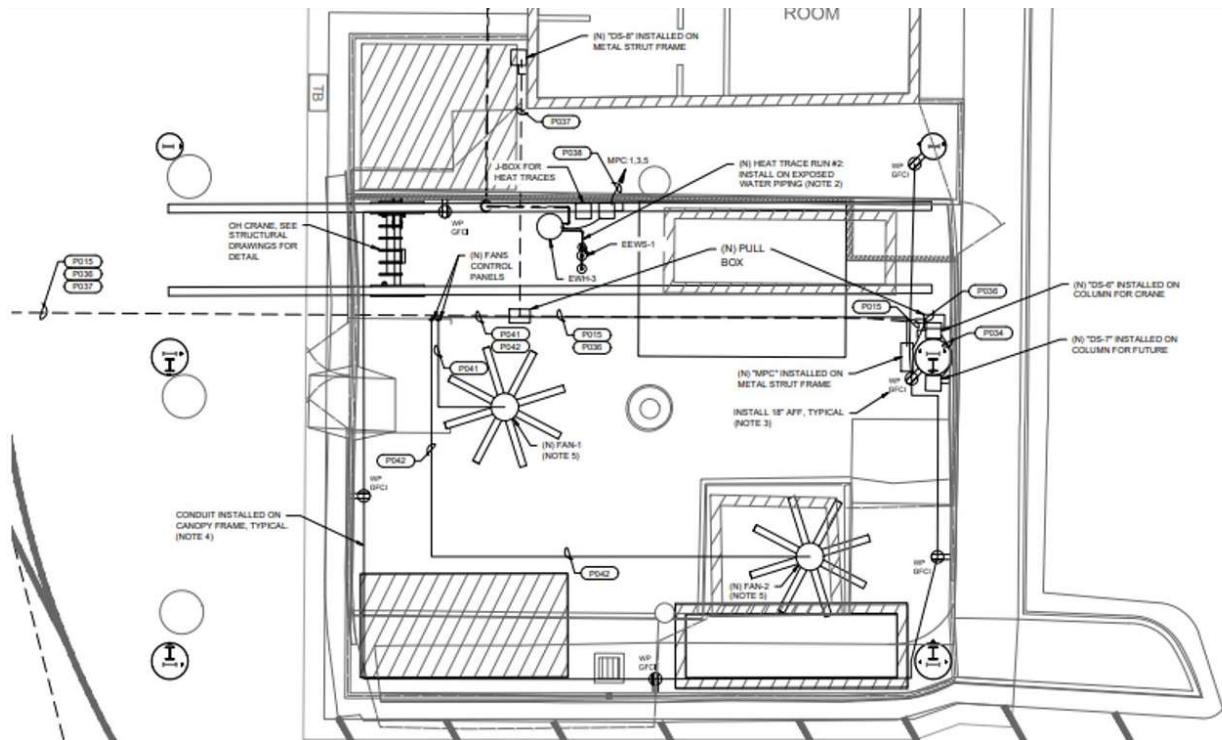
Once completed, the project will provide a safer and more environmentally protective HHW collection area serving residents throughout Santa Cruz County.

G-4 – BEN LOMOND HHW FACILITY BEFORE CONSTRUCTION



The existing Ben Lomond HHW collection area prior to construction of the HD44-funded facility improvements.

G-5 – BEN LOMOND HHW CONSTRUCTION / IMPROVEMENTS



The \$250,000 HD44 CalRecycle grant is helping fund a new approximately 1,000-square-foot HHW canopy and spill-containment improvements as part of the Ben Lomond Transfer Station Improvement Project.

Investing in Long-Term HHW Services

The three grant-funded initiatives demonstrate the County's continued effort to leverage State funding to strengthen its Household Hazardous Waste Program.

The marine flare program addresses a difficult waste stream while emphasizing source reduction and reusable alternatives. The HD42 project replaces aging hazardous-material storage infrastructure at both County HHW facilities. The HD44 project represents a substantial investment in the long-term safety, environmental protection, and operational capabilities of the Ben Lomond HHW facility.

Combined, these projects provide approximately \$508,000 in CalRecycle funding toward improvements and services that benefit residents throughout Santa Cruz County while reducing the amount of local ratepayer funding that would otherwise be required to accomplish the same work.

FUTURE OF PROGRAM

The County of Santa Cruz Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program will continue providing countywide hazardous waste collection, recycling, transportation, disposal, public education, and pollution-prevention services during FY 2026–27. The approved program budget for FY 2026–27 is \$1,695,000. This budget includes a \$75,000 increase to the Clean Earth Environmental Services contract reflect hazardous waste disposal rate increases. All other purchase orders have been renewed at or near existing service levels to maintain continuity of HHW operations.

Waste transportation and disposal services will continue through the County's existing hazardous waste service contract. Clean Earth Environmental Services, which has historically provided hazardous waste transportation and disposal services to the County, underwent an ownership transition to Veolia effective July 1, 2026. Veolia will continue providing transportation and disposal services for hazardous wastes generated through County HHW operations and may also provide emergency hazardous materials cleanup services when requested by the County. ReVolt Recycling and Bayside Oil II will also continue providing specialized recycling and transportation services for applicable HHW waste streams.

During FY 2026-27 and subsequent years, the HHW Program will focus on maintaining reliable collection and disposal services while completing major grant-funded infrastructure improvements at Buena Vista and Ben Lomond.

The combination of approximately \$508,000 in CalRecycle grant funding, the Ben Lomond facility modernization, replacement of hazardous-material storage infrastructure at both HHW facilities, continuation of the Marine Flare Take-Back Program, and ongoing public education represents a significant investment in the long-term sustainability of the County's HHW program.

These efforts will improve employee and public safety, strengthen environmental protection, increase the reliability of the County's HHW infrastructure, provide solutions for difficult-to-manage hazardous waste streams, and help ensure that Santa Cruz County residents continue to have access to safe and convenient household hazardous waste management services.

APPENDIX

CALRECYCLE FORM 303 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION INFORMATION FOR 2025/2026



DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES RECYCLING AND RECOVERY

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P.O. BOX 4025, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95812

Form CalRecycle 303 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Information For 2025-2026

Name of Public Agency Reporting: County of Santa Cruz
HHW Program Manager: Kasey Kolassa ,Recycle & Solid Waste Srv. Mgr.
Address: Santa Cruz Co. Dept. of Public Works 701 Ocean Street, Room 410 Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Phone Number: (831) 454-2160
Fax Number: (831) 454-2385
Email: dpw128@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Contractor's Name: Clean Earth Inc. (formally Stericycle)
Participating Households: 14,247 **Method:** Number of Vehicles
Participating Households includes non-residential (CESQG,schools,nonprofits,etc.): Yes
Service Area Households: 93,708

Participants Represented by Reporting Jurisdiction/Agency (i.e., individual city(ies), county(ies), other agency(ies)):

Capitola Santa Cruz Santa Cruz-Unincorporated Scotts Valley

Permanent Facilities within Program Service Area:

Facility Name	EPAID	Site Contact	Phone	Facility Address	County
Buena Vista Landfill	CAH111000015	Kasey Kolassa	(831) 454-2160	Public Works 150 Rountree Lane Watsonville, CA 95076	Santa Cruz
Ben Lomond Transfer Station	CAH111000016	Kasey Kolassa	(831) 454-2160	Public Works 9835 Newell Creek Road Ben Lomond, CA 95005	Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz City Resource Recovery Facility	CAH111000949	Kasey Kolassa	(831) 454-2160	City of Santa Cruz, Public Works 605 DiMeo Lane Santa Cruz, CA 95060	Santa Cruz

Program Types:

Program Type	EPAID	Program Type	EPAID	Program Type	EPAID	Program Type	EPAID
Permanent Facility	CAH111000015	Permanent Facility	CAH111000016	Permanent Facility	CAH111000949	Temporary (periodic) Facility	CAH777002044
Buena Vista Landfill		Ben Lomond Transfer Station					



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Collection (pounds)	Material Type	Permanent Facility	Temporary (periodic) Facility	Mobile Facility	Recycle-only Facility	Door to Door (residential) Program	Curbside Program	Load Check	Other
Flammable and Poison	Flammable solids / liquids	445							
	Bulked flammable liquids	74,567							
	Oil-based paints	31,326							
	Paint Related Material (PRM)	127,530							
	Poisons	52,016							
	Reactive and explosive	14							
	Compressed gas cylinders	1,783							
	1 lb propane canister	3,157							
	Flammable and Poison subtotal	290,838							
PCB-containing	PCB-containing paint								
	Other PCB waste (includes ballasts)	388							
	PCB-containing subtotal	388							
Reclaimable	Antifreeze	13,365							
	Auto type batteries (motor vehicles)								47,803
	Latex paint	275,962							
	Motor oil/oil products								
	Used oil filters (recyclables only)								
	Reclaimable subtotal	289,327							47,803
Acid	Inorganic and organic acid	10,610							
Base	Inorganic and organic base	19,122							
Oxidizer	Neutral oxidizers, Organic peroxides, Oxidizing acid/base	2,146							
Asbestos	Asbestos								
Universal Waste (UW)*	Mercury containing automatic switches / thermometers / and novelties	15							
	Mercury containing thermostats								
	Mercury containing waste (other)								
	Lamps	9,940							
	Photovoltaic Modules								
	Other batteries	23,962							
	Aerosol cans	20,689							
	Rechargeable batteries	5,880							



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Collection (pounds)	Material Type	Permanent Facility	Temporary (periodic) Facility	Mobile Facility	Recycle-only Facility	Door to Door (residential) Program	Curbside Program	Load Check	Other
Electronic Devices (UW)	Covered Electronic Devices	143							
	Other Electronic Devices								
	Electronic Devices (UW) subtotal	143							
	Universal Waste (UW)* + Electronic Devices (UW) subtotal	60,629							
Other	Home-generated sharps waste								
	Home-generated pharmaceutical waste								
	Treated wood								
	Fire Extinguisher and/or expelled fire extinguisher waste	1,879							
	Other								
	Pyrotechnic for Technical Purposes 1.1 and 1.3G; DOT-SP 20599	375	629						
	Reuse Total								
	Other subtotal	2,254	629						
	Grand Total	675,314	629						47,803



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Disposition (pounds)	Material Type	Destructive Incineration	Fuel Incineration	Landfill	Neutralization / Treatment	Recycled	Reused	Stabilization	Steward
Flammable and Poison	Flammable solids / liquids	445							
	Bulked flammable liquids		74,567						
	Oil-based paints								31,326
	Paint Related Material (PRM)	5,184	122,346						
	Poisons	49,676	2,340						
	Reactive and explosive	14							
	Compressed gas cylinders					1,783			
	1 lb propane canister					3,157			
	Flammable and Poison subtotal	55,319	199,253			4,940			31,326
PCB-containing	PCB-containing paint								
	Other PCB waste (includes ballasts)	388							
	PCB-containing subtotal	388							
Reclaimable	Antifreeze					13,365			
	Auto type batteries (motor vehicles)					47,803			
	Latex paint								275,962
	Motor oil/oil products								
	Used oil filters (recyclables only)								
	Reclaimable subtotal					61,168			275,962
Acid	Inorganic and organic acid				10,610				
Base	Inorganic and organic base				19,122				
Oxidizer	Neutral oxidizers, Organic peroxides, Oxidizing acid/base	894						1,252	
Asbestos	Asbestos								
Universal Waste (UW)*	Mercury containing automatic switches / thermometers / and novelties					15			
	Mercury containing thermostats								
	Mercury containing waste (other)								
	Lamps					9,940			
	Photovoltaic Modules								
	Other batteries					23,962			
	Aerosol cans	19	20,670						
	Rechargeable batteries					5,880			



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Disposition (pounds)	Material Type	Destructive Incineration	Fuel Incineration	Landfill	Neutralization / Treatment	Recycled	Reused	Stabilization	Steward
Electronic Devices (UW)	Covered Electronic Devices					143			
	Other Electronic Devices								
	Electronic Devices (UW) subtotal					143			
	Universal Waste (UW)* + Electronic Devices (UW) subtotal	19	20,670			39,940			
Other	Home-generated sharps waste								
	Home-generated pharmaceutical waste								
	Treated wood								
	Fire Extinguisher and/or expelled fire extinguisher waste					1,879			
	Other								
	Pyrotechnic for Technical Purposes 1.1 and 1.3G; DOT-SP 20599	1,004							
	Reuse Total								
	Other subtotal	1,004				1,879			
	Grand Total	57,624	219,923		29,732	107,927		1,252	307,288