



King County

King County Board of Health

Staff Report

Agenda Item No: 11
BOH Briefing: No: 17-B16

Date: September 21, 2017
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Subject

A general overview of the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County.

Summary

The Local Hazardous Waste Management Program (Program) operates as a regional partnership whose mission is *to protect and enhance public health and environmental quality throughout King County by reducing the threat posed by the production, use, storage and disposal of hazardous materials*. The Program serves residents and businesses across King County, and fulfills Washington State requirements for Moderate Risk Waste management (RCW 70.105.220) for King County as well as the cities and tribes within King County. The Program is authorized at the state level by the Department of Ecology and at the local level by the King County Board of Health.

Background

The Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County is a multi-jurisdictional program serving King County, Seattle, 38 cities and 2 tribes. The Program fulfills local government responsibilities under state law (RCW 70.105.220) for managing hazardous waste from residents and “small quantity” generating businesses. Medium and large quantity hazardous waste generators are directly regulated by the Washington Department of Ecology. The Program serves King County’s 2.1 million residents and 60,000 businesses, providing safe disposal of hazardous materials, as well as prevention programs to reduce exposure and risk from hazardous materials. The Program was chartered in 1990, and is locally authorized under King County Board of Health Code 11.04. Program funding comes through Local Hazardous Waste (LHW) fees, which are set by the King County Board of Health.

Program Funding Structure

Program funding comes primarily through Local Hazardous Waste (LHW) fees applied to solid waste collection accounts, transfer station use and wastewater utilities in King County. The approximate revenue proportion is: solid waste accounts (62%), transfer stations (17%), and wastewater (21%). LHW rates are periodically adjusted; the last increase occurred in 2012. The commercial solid waste rate structure was revised in 2015 to improve ratepayer equity.

Current LHW fees are shown in the table below:

Local Hazardous Waste Program - Fees		
Solid Waste Accounts	Single-family residential	\$0.84/mo.
	Commercial accounts	\$1.46 – 46.15/mo. <i>(based on volume)</i>
Transfer Station Use	Private vehicle	\$1.81/trip
	Commercial vehicle	\$4.73/ton
Wastewater		\$45.79/mil. gal. treated

A small amount of funding for the Program is received from state grants and interest. In addition, fund reserves are managed to meet revenue needs within a rate period. Reserves are accrued at the beginning of the period and used to augment fee revenue toward the end of a rate period. Overall funding is detailed below.

Local Hazardous Waste – Overall Revenue	2017	2018
Fee Revenue	\$16,081,968	\$16,028,909
Interest Revenue	\$53,956	\$15,094
State Grant	\$427,859	\$0
Fund Balance	\$2,572,781	\$3,547,221
TOTAL BUDGET	\$19,136,564	\$19,591,224

Program Operating Structure

Management Plan

The Program operates under a Management Plan, as required by the Washington State Hazardous Waste Management Act (RCW 70.105.220). The Management Plan is approved by the Washington State Department of Ecology, which has final authority for the plan content. LHWMP's 1990 Management Plan has been updated twice - in 1997 and in 2010. It is scheduled to be updated again in 2020.

Management Coordination Committee

The King County Board of Health delegated Program oversight to the Management Coordination Committee (MCC), including budget and annual work plans. The Washington State Department of Ecology designated the MCC as the official planning body for LHWMP.

The Management Coordination Committee is comprised of 5 representatives – one each from Public Health - Seattle & King County, the City of Seattle, the King County Solid Waste Division, the King County Water and Land Resources Division and the Sound Cities Association.

Budget, Staffing and Work Plans

The program budget is approximately \$19M annually (see above). Funds are provided to the partner agencies for their respective implementation responsibilities under the Program's work plans, and to cities and tribes via grants.

The Program funds approximately 70 FTEs, embedded within four partner agencies. These staff design and deliver the Program's services through matrixed, multi-agency teams and contracted service providers. Management responsibilities for the Program are delegated to LHWMP's Program Director, who reports to the MCC. Administrative supervision of staff is provided by the respective partner agencies.

The work of the Program is implemented through a Line of Business structure, and guided by annual work plans approved by the Management Coordination Committee.

Program Services

Service Area: The Program's service area is all of King County, including its 2.1 million residents and 60,000 businesses.

Service Objectives:

Reach: provide services across King County, and using strategies that are effective in reaching all the communities we serve.

Impact: provide services that address ratepayer needs, and are effective at reducing hazardous waste exposures.

Equity: provide services that are accessible, culturally appropriate, community informed and racially just.

Residential and Business Services:

Disposal: Hazardous waste disposal at four regular collection sites - in north Seattle, south Seattle, Factoria and Auburn; a mobile collection service (Wastemobile) that serves other areas of King County and a home collection service for homebound residents.

Prevention: Provide a range of programs and services to reduce exposure to hazardous materials and support residents and businesses in using safer alternatives and improving their management practices. Services include:

- Education, information resources and consultation.
- Technical assistance to help businesses and institutions comply with state and federal regulations and improve management practices.
- Incentives to encourage best management practices.
- Emphasis programs on specific issues, audiences and/or practices.
- Call center and online resources to provide information and connect residents, businesses and institutions to direct services in King County.

Policy: Advance state and local initiatives that address "upstream" opportunities for sustained change in the production, use and, disposal cycles of hazardous materials - including manufacturer responsibility for disposal of hazardous products.

Program services are supported by internal research and service equity teams. Their work informs policies and ensures that Program priorities and services are technically sound,

achieve the Program's equity goals, and meet the needs of our diverse communities across King County.

Conclusion and Next Steps

The Local Hazardous Waste Management Program thanks the Board of Health for its leadership in hazardous waste management, and its commitment to reducing hazardous waste exposures in King County. Additional near-term engagement with the Board of Health is anticipated on the following items:

LHW Rate adjustment: A proposal to adjust LHW fees for 2019 is expected to be brought to the Board of Health in early 2018.

2020 Management Plan Update: The Program's Management Plan is scheduled to be updated by 2020. Planning activities will begin in 2018.

Policy Initiatives: The Program is exploring local policy opportunities that could have a nexus with the Board of Health. Engagement will be requested as issues are further developed.