

# ANNUAL REPORT | 2018



**Hazardous Waste  
Management Program**

GOVERNMENTS WORKING TOGETHER FOR  
A HEALTHIER AND CLEANER KING COUNTY



Dear Reader:

We are pleased to share our 2018 Annual Report with you. The Hazardous Waste Management Program is proud of the important services we provide to residents and businesses of King County. Our goal is to reduce human and environmental exposures to hazardous materials, which we accomplish through a variety of approaches – including disposal services, prevention activities, and policy initiatives.

In the pages that follow, you will see some of our accomplishments over the past year. In 2018, we:

- Helped residents and businesses dispose of over 3,346,500 pounds of hazardous waste.
- Worked with a broad range of businesses to improve handling and storage practices, and shift from toxic chemicals to safer alternatives. In addition to providing general business assistance, we implemented specific cost-share initiatives with dry cleaners and auto body repair shops.
- Focused on reducing in-home exposures, including focused efforts related to lead and toxic cleaning products.
- Advanced policies, including the Safer Alternative Resolution with the King County Board of Health, which supports use of effective, less-toxic products in various applications, such as dry cleaning.

We are committed to recognizing and addressing disproportionate impacts of hazardous waste exposures in communities of color. To that end, we have established a racial equity vision—race is not a determinant of hazardous materials exposure in households and businesses in King County—to guide what future success will look like. We completed a Racial Equity Strategic Plan and a companion Racial Equity Implementation Plan to put that vision into action.

We continually improve HOW we work as well. We remain committed to using meaningful audience research and technical data to develop, deliver, and evaluate our services. We also strive to maintain effective and efficient operations and develop a diverse workforce to meet current and future challenges.

In 2019, we will begin updating our Comprehensive Plan. This process will build upon the lessons we've learned over the past 28 years and refine our knowledge of the toxics affecting our communities, the field of hazardous waste management, and how to adjust our services to remain relevant and effective.

We want to acknowledge our staff, along with our agency and community partners, for their great work in 2018. We are looking forward to achieving additional successes in the years ahead.



**Lynda Ransley**  
Program Director  
Hazardous Waste  
Management Program



**Dr. Darrell A. Rodgers**  
2018 Chair, Management Coordination Committee  
Public Health – Seattle & King County



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The Hazardous Waste Management Program's Management Coordination Committee (MCC) oversees the regional and multi-jurisdictional partnership of our program.

## 2018 MCC MEMBERS

**Darrell Rodgers, PhD, Chair**  
Public Health - Seattle & King County

**Councilmember Hank Myers, Vice Chair**  
City of Redmond Council,  
Sound Cities Association

**Susan Fife-Ferris**  
Seattle Public Utilities

**Jeff Gaisford**  
King County Solid Waste Division

**Joan Lee**  
King County Water and Land Resources Division

**Program Director**  
**Lynda Ransley**  
Director, Hazardous Waste Management Program  
Seattle Public Utilities

## OUR PROGRAM PARTNERS

The Hazardous Waste Management Program is a regional partnership for all jurisdictions in King County, which includes 38 cities, two tribes, and unincorporated areas.

King County Solid Waste Division

King County Water and Land Resources Division

Public Health - Seattle & King County

Seattle Public Utilities

Sound Cities Association

## INTRODUCTION

### THE HAZARDOUS WASTE PROBLEM

Many products that we use every day – including cleaning supplies, varnish, motor oil, oil-based paints, and pesticides – contain ingredients that are toxic, corrosive, flammable, or reactive. These products are considered “hazardous” because they can threaten the environment and human health.

Though the amount of hazardous waste coming from a single house or business may be small, the total amount from 2.1 million residents and more than 60,000 small businesses in King County threatens public health and the environment. Exposure to some hazardous products presents a risk even when they are used and disposed of properly.

The Washington State Department of Ecology sets stringent regulations for hazardous waste generated by “large quantity generating” businesses. It does not regulate similar wastes that are generated by small businesses or used in the home. This is the responsibility of local jurisdictions to manage.

# OUR REGIONAL RESPONSE

Washington State directed local governments to ensure proper management of hazardous materials and waste. As a result, local governments across King County established the Hazardous Waste Management Program to manage these wastes through a unified program.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to protect and enhance public health and environmental quality in King County by reducing the threat posed by the production, use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials.

## OUR VISION

Our vision is that the Puget Sound region is the cleanest in the country – one free of hazardous chemical exposure.

# HOW WE ACHIEVE OUR MISSION

## COLLECTION

We provide convenient hazardous waste collection services for residents and businesses in King County. We operate four regular collection sites, mobile collection events, and in-home collection services for seniors and residents with disabilities.



## PREVENTION

We offer education, outreach, technical assistance, and financial incentives to reduce exposures to toxic materials where people live and work. We use a research-based, community-centered approach to encourage the use of less toxic products and to help residents and businesses manage their hazardous materials safely.



## POLICY

We promote systematic changes in the production, use, and disposal of hazardous materials to help ensure that chemicals and products are safe for people and the environment. We work to create change through policy and product stewardship initiatives.



# COLLECTION

## PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT FROM HAZARDOUS WASTE

In addition to affecting human health, hazardous products damage our publically-funded solid waste and wastewater systems when they are put in the garbage or poured down sinks or storm drains. Ultimately, they can enter our groundwater and contaminate Puget Sound, rivers, and lakes.

**Our goal is to protect our waste systems and the environment by providing ratepayers with convenient ways to safely get rid of their hazardous waste.**

We operate three fixed facilities, a Wastemobile collection event held every weekend at The Outlet Collection Mall in Auburn, and Wastemobile collection events in communities throughout King County. We also provide in-home collection for seniors and residents with disabilities. We do not charge disposal fees because our services are funded through utility surcharges in King County.

In 2018, our collection services kept more than

**3,346,500 pounds**

of hazardous waste out of our waste systems and the environment.



**59,794**  
visits by residents



**1,093**  
visits by small businesses



**91**  
home collection visits for seniors  
and residents with disabilities

## PILOT PROJECT FOR ON-SITE COLLECTION SERVICES

The Hazardous Waste Management Program is dedicated to making collection services more equitable and accessible to people living in King County. In 2018, we launched a pilot project to collect batteries and light bulbs at two YWCA and three King County Housing Authority properties. Over 400 pounds of batteries and 306 pounds of compact fluorescent light bulbs were collected on-site. On-site collection events will be expanded to additional King County Housing Authority properties in 2019.

## SORTING TECHNOLOGY ALLOWS FOR PRODUCT REUSE

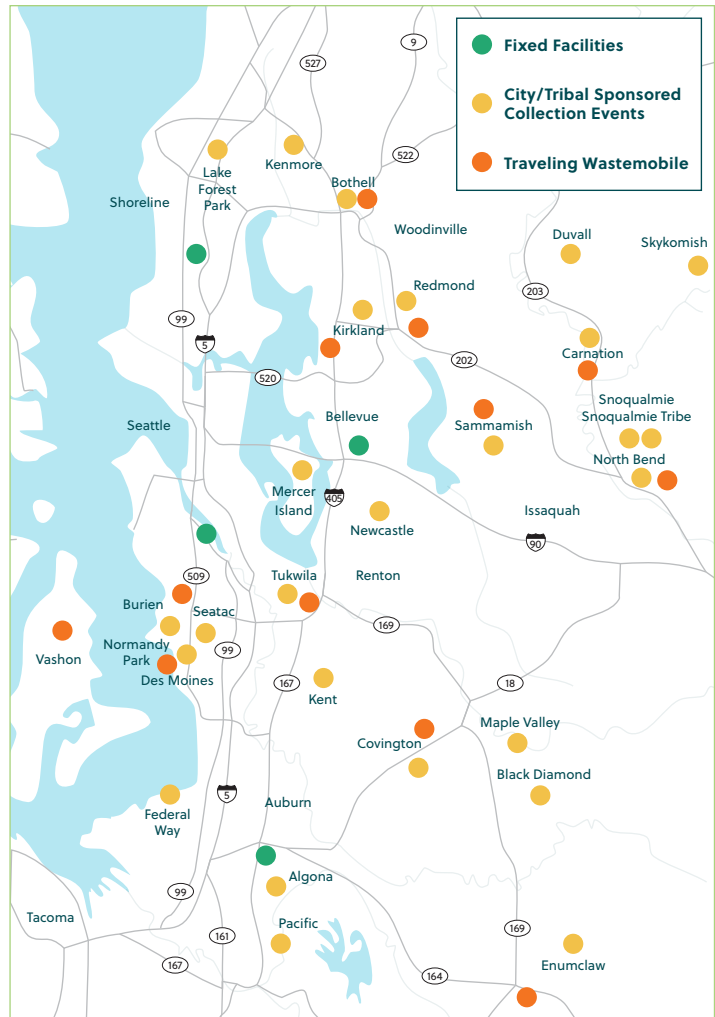
In 2018, the collection facility in Factoria used a new product barcode scanning technology to help staff identify household hazardous waste products. After identifying products, staff divert reusable materials—like automotive products and low-toxicity cleaners—to Habitat for Humanity reuse stores. A total of 31,138 pounds of reusable products were diverted for reuse in 2018.

## INCREASING COLLECTION OPPORTUNITIES AND EDUCATION THROUGH CITY AND TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Hazardous Waste Management Program provides financial grants serving 36 cities and one tribe to help more residents safely manage their hazardous materials. Grants are combined with other funding sources to support education and collection events for limited types of hazardous waste and recyclable solid wastes. These city and tribal-hosted collection events make safe hazardous waste disposal more convenient for people living throughout King County.

In 2018, the cities of Auburn, Bellevue, Bothell, Federal Way, Issaquah, Lake Forest Park, North Bend, and Shoreline provided hazardous waste education activities for their residents. Activities included workshops and outreach on hazardous waste disposal locations and safer alternatives through newsletters, billing inserts, direct mail, television, and social media.

## 2018 COLLECTION SITES



**\$490,187**

provided to city and tribal partners



**47**

city/tribal-sponsored  
collection events



**31,261**

residents and businesses attended  
the city/tribal-sponsored events



**207,920 pounds**

of hazardous waste collected

*Some city data is not submitted at the time annual reports are published. Customer counts and volume data includes what was received by the date of publication, plus any unreported data from the previous year.*

# PREVENTION *AT WORK*

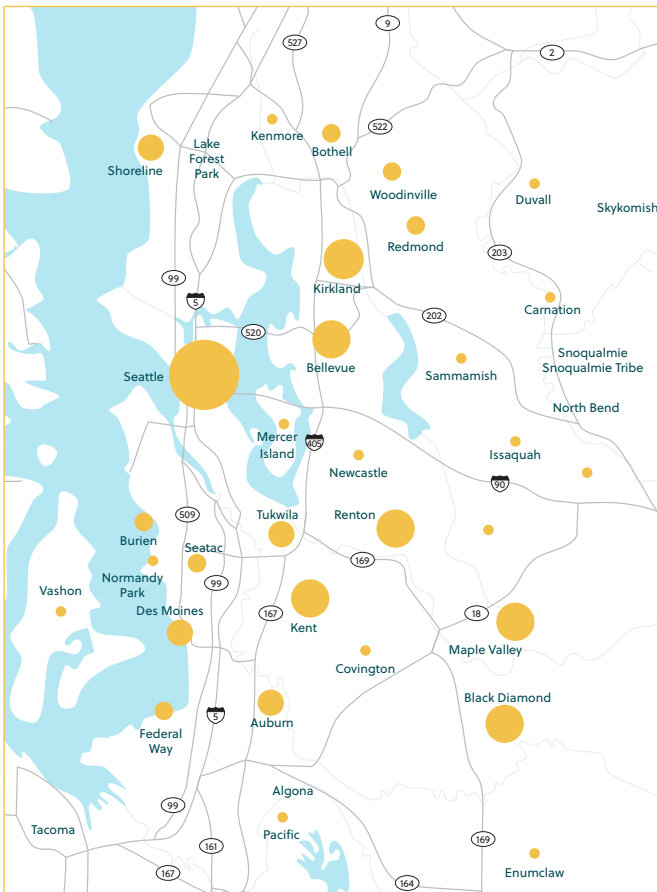
## REDUCING EXPOSURE TO TOXIC MATERIALS AT WORK

Most businesses generate some type of hazardous waste. We believe the best way to deal with hazardous waste is not to produce it—or to produce less of it.

**Our goal is to reduce the risk of chemical exposures by providing equitable services to help businesses safely manage hazardous materials and make safer product choices.**

We provide on-site consultations, phone advice, trainings, and incentives for businesses. Our field staff help businesses safely manage hazardous materials, find safer products, comply with regulatory requirements, and reduce waste.

## 2018 BUSINESS VISITS



In 2018, we provided  
**516 on-site consultations**  
to 392 small businesses  
in King County



**396,755 pounds**  
of hazardous materials moved  
to proper storage or disposal



**693 people**  
attended 13 educational events



**125 King County businesses**  
certified by Envirostars,  
in recognition of their  
green business practices



## COST-SHARE PROGRAMS FOR BUSINESSES TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS

The Hazardous Waste Management Program offers up to \$599 in reimbursements to businesses that make changes to protect workers or the environment from hazardous product use, storage, or disposal. By making a one-time financial investment, we help create lasting change.



**126**  
businesses received  
reimbursements



**\$546,579**  
total cost of  
improvements



**\$235,996**  
reimbursements by  
the Hazardous Waste  
Management Program



**200% return**  
For every \$1 we spent,  
small businesses invested \$2

## HELPING BUSINESSES SWITCH TO SAFER PRODUCT ALTERNATIVES

### AUTO BODY REPAIR SHOPS

In 2018, we partnered with paint industry representatives to help auto body repair shops switch to waterborne paints. Waterborne paints contain lower quantities of volatile organic compounds, which contribute to poor air quality and can harm workers' health.

We offered technical assistance and grants up to \$20,000 to help shops switch to safer paints. In 2018, six shops requested to participate in the program and two shops completed their conversion to waterborne paints.

### DRY CLEANING SHOPS

We are working with local dry cleaners to eliminate the use of perchloroethylene (also known as PERC) in King County by 2025. We are providing financial and technical assistance to help dry cleaners switch from using PERC to professional wet cleaning, which uses water instead of a cancer-causing solvent.

In 2018, the Hazardous Waste Management Program awarded seven \$20,000 grants to help dry cleaners switch from using PERC to professional wet cleaning. We will offer up to ten \$20,000 grants per year until all dry cleaners in King County have switched from PERC to safer alternatives.

In King County, most dry cleaning business owners are first-generation immigrants from South Korea. Many employees are Latino/Latinx. This effort is a positive step in helping eliminate dangerous chemical exposures that disproportionately impact people of color, neighboring communities, and the environment.



# PREVENTION *AT HOME*

## PREVENTING EXPOSURE TO TOXIC MATERIALS AT HOME

We prevent toxic exposures by increasing awareness of hazardous products and providing equitable services and resources that encourage safer purchasing choices and behaviors.

We use a research-based, customer-centered approach to inform our planning, investments, and services. Program planning incorporates knowledge about the needs, barriers, and practices of our ratepayers as well as technical and scientific data.



**3,634 calls**

received by the hazardous waste customer service line



**19 workshops**

with ESL classes that represented 22 languages



**6,003 people**

reached through 174 Garden Hotline classes and events



**2,526**

calls and emails to the Garden Hotline

## PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR RESIDENTS

The Hazardous Waste Management Program provides phone consultations, education, and outreach to help residents safely manage the toxic materials that are present in most homes.

Our call center connects residents to an expert who can answer their questions about product disposal and safer alternatives. We also host English as a Second Language (ESL) educational workshops to teach attendees practical information about household hazardous products.

We also partner with Seattle Public Utilities to fund the Garden Hotline. The Garden Hotline provides phone and email advice on using less toxic chemicals for lawn and garden care. The Garden Hotline also presents at classes and events, prioritizing services for underserved populations and King County residents living outside Seattle.

## REDUCING EXPOSURES TO LEAD

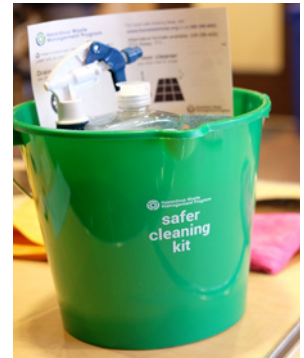
We work with the Washington State Department of Health to investigate and manage cases of King County children under 14 years with elevated levels of lead in their blood. We help families identify potential sources of lead in their homes and, together with the child's caregiver, we develop recommendations to reduce the child's lead exposure. In 2018, we responded to 161 cases of children with elevated levels of lead in their blood. Fifty-one of these cases were successfully closed because the child's blood lead level dropped below the threshold of concern.

Through partnerships with Community Health Services and Refugee Clinics, we increased the number of families receiving culturally-appropriate services. Refugee Clinics provide healthcare support as well as nutritional and development assessments, while we provide case management, environmental assessments, and exposure reduction plans.

## ENCOURAGING SAFER CLEANING PRACTICES

Hazardous Waste Management Program is working to reduce the number of exposures to cleaning products in King County. Using an equity process that considered reach and impact, we selected the Spanish-speaking immigrant population as our priority audience.

In 2018, we worked with Sea Mar, a community-based organization with deep ties to the Latino/Latinx community, to conduct 49 in-home inventories of chemical cleaning products and practices. We also used surveys and community conversations with 177 community members to develop outreach materials and cleaning kits that encourage safer cleaning behaviors.



## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP: LATINO AMBASSADOR PROJECT



The Latino Ambassador Project is led by a group of community partners who have a passion for learning and sharing information that keeps families healthy. This project uses a community-centered decision making model that embodies King County and Hazardous Waste Management Program cultural competency principles. Through partnerships like this one, we involve communities in planning for future policies, services, outreach, and practices.

In 2018, the ambassadors planned and facilitated an educational workshop for 51 guests from the Latino/Latinx community. The ambassadors presented information about safer cleaning practices and shared stories about how they changed their own behaviors around toxic product use. They also taught attendees how to identify hazardous products and compare prices of toxic products and safer alternatives. In 2019, the ambassadors and project team will develop a Spanish-language outreach and education campaign to promote safer cleaning practices more broadly throughout the Latino/Latinx community in King County.

# POLICY

## WORKING UPSTREAM

The Hazardous Waste Management Program works to improve policies and regulations that impact the creation, use, and end-of-life management of hazardous products. We work with partners at many levels of government. We also partner with other local, regional, and national groups to achieve change.

## OUR STATEWIDE POLICY EFFORTS

In 2018, we continued to work on three statewide policy efforts:

**The Paint Stewardship Bill (HB 1652)** would create a statewide, producer-funded product stewardship program for waste paint. Program staff served as chair of the Northwest Product Stewardship Council subcommittee on paint. We also met with the bill sponsor and helped coordinate testimony for the Legislative Committee hearings. The bill is currently active in the 2019 legislative session.

**The Preventing Toxic Pollution Bill (SB 5135 and companion bill 1194)** would require the Washington State Department of Ecology, in consultation with the Washington State Department of Health, to identify and make regulatory decisions about priority chemicals and consumer products. Our staff collaborated with Toxic-Free Future in its drafting of this new bill and testified on the bill's behalf.

**The Chemical Action Plan for Per- and Poly-Fluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS)** will identify the potential health and environmental impacts of PFAS and recommend strategies to reduce or eliminate them. This effort is led by the Washington State Department of Ecology; the Hazardous Waste Management Program participates on the advisory committee. This year, we participated in efforts to evaluate safer alternatives to firefighting foams and food contact paper, two common sources of PFAS. We are actively monitoring revisions to the Chemical Action Plan and Alternatives Assessments which are expected to be completed in mid-2019.

## SAFER ALTERNATIVES STRATEGY RESOLUTION

On April 19, 2018, the King County Board of Health unanimously passed a Safer Alternatives Resolution (Resolution No. 18-07). The resolution supports the Hazardous Waste Management Program's work to prioritize chemicals of concern, identify safer alternatives, and help businesses and residents make safer chemical choices. The Board of Health was supportive of the program's leadership and impact in reducing exposures to toxic chemicals. We were also recognized for applying a racial equity lens to this initiative.

## DEVELOPING POLICY OPTIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY

Community perspectives help ensure that our policy efforts are relevant and equitable. In 2018, we piloted a project in White Center to determine how we can create more effective policies and provide better services. In November, we co-hosted the White Center Community Summit with the White Center Community Development Association. The event was an important opportunity to connect with ratepayers and learn about issues affecting this diverse and unincorporated community.

## POLICY UPDATE

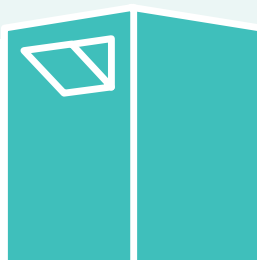
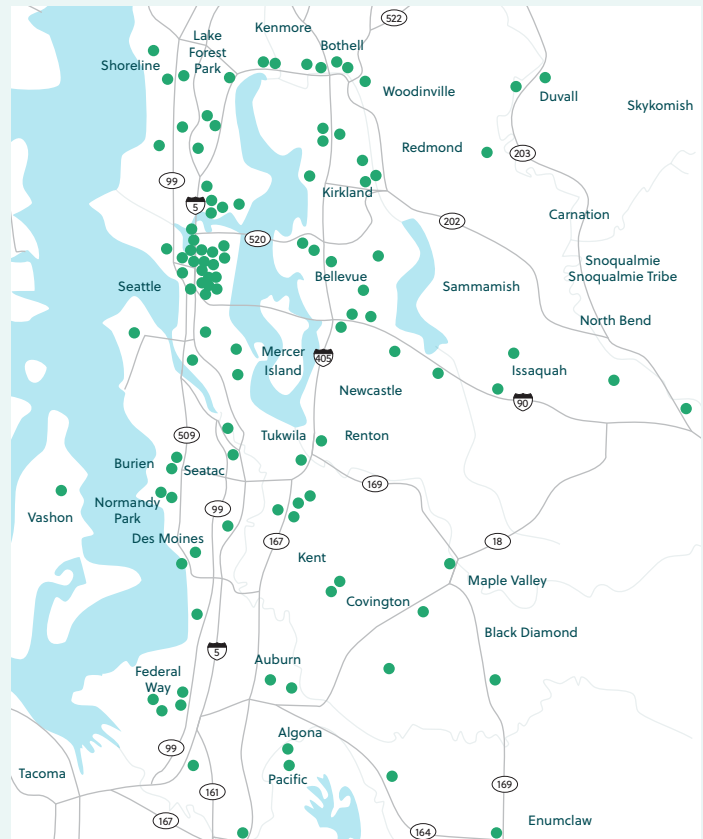
### SECURE MEDICINE RETURN PROGRAM

King County's Secure Medicine Return Program is an environmentally safe way to dispose of expired or unwanted over-the-counter and prescription medications. Drug take-back programs also protect kids, families, and communities from preventable poisonings, drug abuse, and overdose.

There is no cost to residents to use this service. Drug producers fund and operate this product stewardship program, as required under King County Board of Health rule and regulations adopted in 2013.

Collection locations are conveniently and equitably located throughout King County at pharmacies and law enforcement offices. Collections have increased since the program's launch in 2017. Residents became more aware of the program in 2018 through television broadcast of public service announcements, advertising on buses, and other outreach and education.

### 2018 MEDICINE DROP BOX SITES



**110**  
secure  
drop boxes



**39,137 pounds**  
of medicine collected



**44** mail-back envelopes  
collected from residents  
with limited mobility

# LOOKING FORWARD

We are proud of our work to protect human health and the environment in King County over the past 28 years. However, toxic material exposure is a significant problem that continues to impact our communities. In 2019, we will continue to focus on prevention, sustainable system changes, and providing equitable services for King County ratepayers.

## KEY ACTIONS FOR 2019

### LEADING WITH RACIAL EQUITY

We know that race can be a determinant of hazardous waste exposure. The Hazardous Waste Management Program has committed to “leading with racial equity” to confront the disparities that exist in our communities. By leading with racial equity, we address the root causes of inequities and focus on areas where we can have the greatest impact.

In 2018, we adopted a Racial Equity Strategic Plan that sets a path to improve our policies, practices, and service delivery for the next five years. We also completed a companion Racial Equity Implementation Plan to operationalize this work in our operations and services. Staff continue to receive trainings to increase their knowledge and capacity to advance racial equity priorities in their work.

### SAFER ALTERNATIVES TO HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

After the King County Board of Health passed the Safer Alternative Resolution, a staff team formed to assess the current state of our safer alternatives work and make recommendations for a cohesive program-wide strategy. That strategy informs our prevention and policy work. We will increase adoption of safer alternatives by King County residents and businesses, create a uniform system to identify safer alternatives, promote interagency partnerships and systems change, and ensure that this work is developed and executed through a racial equity lens.

### UPDATING OUR MANAGEMENT PLAN

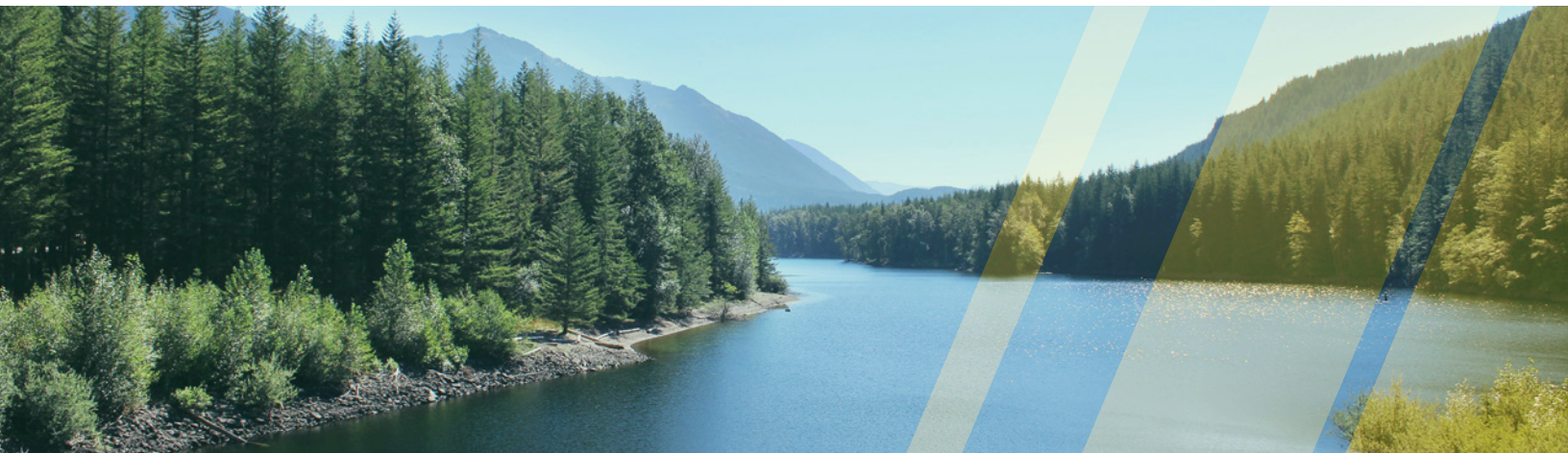
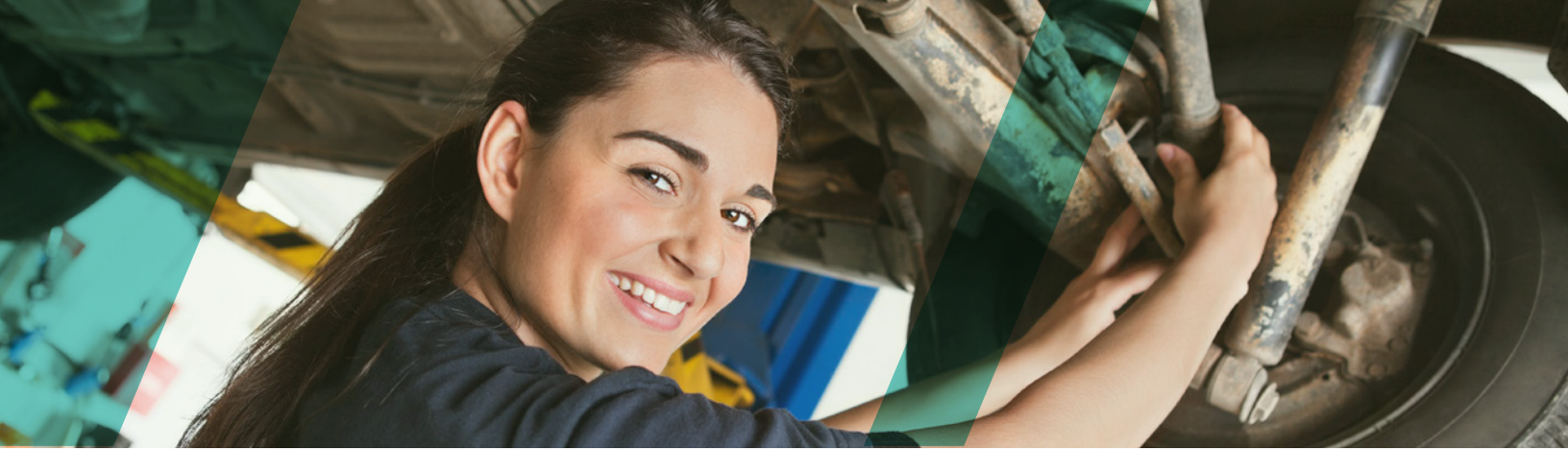
In 2019, the Hazardous Waste Management Program will begin updating our state-required comprehensive plan. This plan update will establish a strategic path forward for our services, resource allocations, and policies to most effectively manage hazardous materials in King County.

The plan update will guide us over the next ten years, accommodating changes to King County’s population, business sectors, and ever-changing threats from hazardous materials.

# FINANCIALS

The Hazardous Waste Management Program received \$15,893,971 in revenue during 2018, primarily from fees on solid waste and sewer services. These fees, which apply throughout King County, are authorized by the King County Board of Health under Board of Health Code 11.04.060. Fees are collected by public and private utility providers (i.e., solid waste haulers, wastewater treatment plant operators, transfer station operators, and cities), which in turn pay them into the Program.

<b>FUND BALANCE</b>		
2018 Beginning		<b>\$16,234,994</b>
	<b>2018 BUDGET</b>	<b>2018 ACTUAL</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Wastewater Fee Revenue	\$3,406,272	\$3,457,319
Transfer Station Fee Revenue	\$2,857,567	\$2,528,995
Solid Waste Account Fee Revenue	\$9,881,771	\$9,593,406
Interest Income	\$146,115	\$314,252
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$16,291,725</b>	<b>\$15,893,972</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Seattle Public Utilities	\$3,810,208	\$3,792,926
King County, Solid Waste Division	\$4,400,695	\$3,578,070
King County, Water & Land Resources Division	\$7,308,749	\$6,067,870
Public Health – Seattle & King Co.	\$4,390,242	\$3,208,906
City and Tribal Contracts	\$520,033	\$490,186
City and Tribal Event Inspections	\$23,734	\$23,734
Disaster Debris Contingency	\$25,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$20,478,661</b>	<b>\$17,161,692</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>		
2018 End		<b>\$14,967,274</b>



## Hazardous Waste Management Program

150 Nickerson Street, Suite 204, Seattle, WA 98109

206-296-4692 | [HazWasteHelp.org](http://HazWasteHelp.org)

Alternative formats available: 206-263-1650 | TTY Relay 711

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