

# Local Hazardous Waste Collection Center Grant Program

## BACKGROUND

The Local Hazardous Waste Collection Center Grant Program started in 1985 with a \$500,000 Legislature appropriation to establish a statewide network of local and regional hazardous waste collection centers. These facilities collect and manage non-regulated hazardous waste from households and minimally regulated hazardous waste from small businesses. The waste is called Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) waste. Also, the centers educate citizens about the proper use, storage, and management of their household hazardous products and encourage good purchasing practices to reduce waste volume and toxicity.

The level of service and technical expertise at permanent collection centers increases each year the facility is in operation. Centers are being enlarged to handle new waste streams such as flares and electronics. New equipment is being installed such as paint can crushers, aerosol can puncturing/ draining devices, and antifreeze recycling machines. More counties are hiring chemists to staff the facilities which are open 5-6 days per week and are establishing transfer facilities, open 3-5 days per week, for collections. Cost of operations has decreased, as on-site chemists are qualified to sort, bulk, or pack the wastes into drums and sub-contract out various waste streams such as used motor oil or lead-acid batteries.

Recycling is an important component of the collection center operations. Several programs have "swap shops" where reusable products such as aerosols, polishes, waxes, paints, lawn care and pool products are given away. Antifreeze is recycled and reused in county vehicles. Vehicle and rechargeable batteries, used oil, and fluorescent lamps are sent to licensed recycled. County Departments also use automotive, lawn care and paint products internally when possible.

Paint, the most prolific waste stream collected, is being recycled and reused in a variety of ways. Most of the oil-based products are bulked and shipped off-site for fuel blending. Several counties reprocess the latex paint for distribution to the community. Several counties send their paint to several different Florida paint manufacturers where the paint is mixed, re-manufactured and packaged as a post-consumer product containing as much as 95% recycled paint. Several counties redistribute this recycled paint free or at nominal cost to residents for repainting their homes. Waste latex paint has also been used as alternative daily landfill cover for which it apparently works better at controlling flying debris and odor than specially formulated product. A recent multi-year project funded by the Legislature developed a roofing system based on waste paint.

At least nine Florida counties (Martin, Lake, Monroe, Marion, Leon, Volusia, Polk Okaloosa and Broward) are complementing their permanent collection center operation and periodic one-to-two day collection events with mobile unit collections. The county vehicles, trucks, large vans, trailers and ambulances have been customized for the safe collection and transportation of HHW. In addition to providing HHW collections at convenient locations, the vehicles' eye-catching side murals and lettering provide advertising for county HHW management program.

The Household Hazardous Waste Unique and Innovative Projects grant program has funded mobile collection units, pilot collections for end-of-life electronic equipment and pesticides, collection and management boater safety flares and ammunition, and collection and recycling programs for fluorescent lamps, freon, used motor oil and filters. Several public awareness and educational programs promoting both the proper management of HHW and the reduction of hazardous waste generation have also been funded through this program.

## **TYPES OF FUNDING**

- **Hazardous Waste Collection Center Grant**

Up to \$100,000 per county for constructing one or more safe, secure operational hazardous waste collection centers.

- **Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grant**

Up to \$35,000 per grant to reimburse 75% (with a \$25,000 limit) of a smaller county's collection event. The host County, experienced in hazardous waste collections, is reimbursed up to \$10,000 for assisting the neighboring county in holding its collection.

- **Unique Activities or Innovative Project Grant**

Up to \$50,000 per grant with the county providing a 100% match. Funding is only available to counties that are operating permanent hazardous waste collection centers and is in addition to Hazardous Waste Collection Center Grants and Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants.

- **Grants to reimburse expenses associated with local hazardous waste management**

Available to counties with established operational permanent facilities under the Hazardous Waste Collection Center Grant but have received funding less than their \$100,000 limit.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR THE HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION CENTER GRANT

- Contracting with a licensed, insured private hazardous waste management company that will be responsible for collecting hazardous waste and assuring the delivery of that waste to permitted recycling, storage, treatment or disposal facilities.
- Guaranteeing operation of the collection center for two years after the facility is constructed, including at least two days per year when HHW will be accepted from private citizens (non- business) at no charge. These "free collection days" will be well advertised to encourage private citizen participation.
- Offering at least two advertised collections per year when conditionally exempt small quantity generators can bring their hazardous waste to the collection center in order to obtain a reduced fee for proper management of the waste at permitted facilities.
- Working with a hazardous waste management company to establish expanded collection route services such as a "milk run" pickup service for small quantity generators of hazardous waste.

## Hazardous Waste Collection Center Grant Program History and Awards

- 1986 The Legislature appropriated \$500,000 to establish local or regional hazardous waste collection centers in Florida. The grant limit per county for capital outlay expenses was \$50,000. In 1987, the following 7 counties took advantage of this opportunity to establish one facility in each county: Brevard, Citrus, Escambia, Indian River, Lake, Marion, and Volusia.
- 1988 The Legislature reauthorized the Hazardous Waste Collection Center Grant Program and appropriated \$1,000,000 funding. The grant limit per county, again primarily for capital outlay for collection center construction, was raised to \$100,000. Requests for funding exceeded the appropriation and awards were made to the following 11 counties: Alachua, Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Highlands, Hillsborough, Monroe, Orange, Palm Beach, Sarasota, and Seminole. Several of these counties have established multiple collection centers.
- 1989 The Legislature again appropriated \$1,000,000 for the Grant Program with the limit remaining at \$100,000 per county. Awards for funding were made to the following 9 counties: Clay, Dade, DeSoto, Duval, Lee, Leon, Martin, Pasco, and St. Lucie.
- 1990 The \$1,000,000 appropriation was used to award grants of \$100,000 each to Hamilton, Manatee, Osceola, Pinellas, Putnam, St. Johns, and Suwannee Counties.
- 1991 The Legislature again appropriated funding for the Grant Program. Awards of \$100,000 each were made to the following 6 counties: Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Madison, Okaloosa, and Polk. The Grant Program was amended to include the Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grant to provide some financial incentive for a county with a permanent collection center to assist a smaller county in holding a State-subsidized collection event. Eleven counties were awarded these cooperative grants.
- 1992 Funding from this appropriation was used to establish a local hazardous waste collection center in Jefferson County and upgrade permanent facilities in several other counties.
- 1993 Three counties: Bradford, Okeechobee, and Taylor received grants for permanent collection center construction. The legislature also provided an additional funding opportunity from the appropriation for the Unique or Innovative Project Grant. This grant is intended for programs or activities that are designed to decrease the generation of household and conditionally exempt small quantity generator hazardous waste and increase the proper management of such wastes.
- 1994 The appropriation was used to fund grants for permanent collection center construction in Flagler, Levy, and Liberty counties. Ten counties were awarded funding for Unique or Innovative Projects and funding was provided for collections in 14 counties under the

Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grant.

- 1995 Franklin and Gadsden Counties received grants for permanent collection center construction. Eight grants provided funding for Unique or Innovative Projects and 13 counties held collection events under the Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants. Four counties received grants to reimburse expenses associated with local hazardous waste management.
- 1996-97 The appropriation was used for 14 grants each year to fund both Cooperative Collection Center Arrangements and Unique or Innovative Projects.
- 1998 Fourteen smaller counties received collections funded in part from Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants and three counties were recipients of grants for Unique or Innovative Projects.
- 1999 Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants funded collection events in 15 smaller counties. Unique or Innovative Projects were funded in 4 counties.
- 2000 Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants funded collection events in 11 smaller counties. A Unique or Innovative Project was funded in Monroe County. Most of the appropriation was used to reimburse expenditures incurred completing last year's projects, as the 1999-2000 appropriation was not certified forward as expected.
- 2001 Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants funded collection events in 15 smaller counties.
- 2002 Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants funded collection events in 15 smaller counties and construction of a permanent collection center in Bay County. Through the Unique or Innovative Project grants the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach developed an HHW database and Sarasota County initiated a small, non-refillable gas cylinder product stewardship project.
- 2003 Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants funded collection events in 14 smaller counties. Putnam County received funding for permanent collection center construction. Two Unique and Innovative Projects were funded: the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach maintained the state-wide HHW database and Alachua County initiated a pharmaceutical collection and management program.
- 2004 Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants funded collection events in 17 smaller counties. The Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach maintained the state-wide HEIW database under a Unique and Innovative Project grant.
- 2005 Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants funded collection events in 17 smaller counties.

- 2006 Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants funded collection events in 17 smaller counties. A Unique and Innovative Project was funded in Okaloosa County to research and test the effects of using waste latex paint in the mixing of concrete (Phase 1).
- 2007 Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants funded collection events in 20 smaller counties. A Unique and Innovative Project was funded in Okaloosa County to research and test the effects of using waste latex paint in the mixing of concrete (Phase 2).
- 2008 Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants funded collection events in 22 smaller counties. A Unique and Innovative Project was funded in Okaloosa County to research and test the effects of using latex paint in roofing materials (Phase 1).
- 2009 Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants funded collection events in 22 smaller counties. A Unique and Innovative Project was funded in Okaloosa County to research and test the effects of using latex paint in roofing materials (Phase 2).
- 2010 Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants funded collection events in 22 smaller counties. A Unique and Innovative Project was funded in Okaloosa County to research and test the effects of using latex paint in roofing materials (Phase 3).
- 2011 Cooperative Collection Center Arrangement Grants funded collection events in 22 smaller counties. A Unique and Innovative Project was funded in Collier County to promote and provide hazardous waste services to immigrant communities.