



Household Hazardous Waste **Policy Statement**





Policy Statement

This policy statement has been developed to outline the roles and expectations of Government and industry in respect to the management of Household Hazardous Waste in Western Australia.

Background

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is a small but significant component of the waste stream which requires specialised strategies to manage responsibly. If not managed well, HHW has the potential to cause harm to human health and the environment. HHW is anything that is labelled toxic, flammable, corrosive, reactive, infectious or radioactive and can threaten personal health and safety if used improperly or disposed of improperly. HHW is distinguished by the characteristics of being likely to be found on residential premises and likely to find its way into the Local Government managed waste stream. Examples of hazardous products are cleaners, hydrocarbons, paint, solvents, swimming pool chemicals, pesticides and the packaging that these products come in.

Under the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007*, Local Government is empowered to collect and manage Local Government waste, which includes waste from the Local Governments own activities and households. Local Government is committed to being a responsible link in the management chain for HHW.

The involvement of State Government, Federal Government and those manufacturers producing material which becomes HHW is essential to ensure a sustainable system for managing Household Hazardous Waste.

The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program was established in 2008 and is administered by WALGA. The objective of the program is to support Local Governments to safely collect and manage hazardous materials generated by households that present a significant risk to human health and the environment. The program supports permanent collection sites for Household Hazardous Waste, operated by Local Governments and Regional Councils, as well as ad hoc drop off days, allowing households to safely dispose of these materials. The Program works with, or seeks to establish, Product Stewardship Schemes to facilitate producer responsibility for the materials collected through the Program.

Roles and expectations

Local Government

- Resourcing and operating (or contracting operation) of drop-off points to accept Household Hazardous Waste, from the community.
- Complying with regulatory requirements specific to handling and storage of Household Hazardous Waste, including Environmental and Work Health and Safety considerations.
- Collecting and reporting on data on Household Hazardous Waste accepted through drop off facilities and temporary collection days.
- Undertaking behaviour change activities to support safe Household Hazardous Waste collections and waste avoidance.

Collection contractors

- Undertaking collection, transport and reuse, recycling, recovery or disposal of HHW material from drop off points and temporary collection days.
- Identification of unknown materials, from all facilities.
- Reporting accurately on collection and processing amounts, recovery activities and end markets for collected materials.

State Government

- Funding Programs to ensure the safe collection, transport and reuse, recycling, recovery or disposal of HHW from Local Government or Regional Council drop off facilities, or temporary collection days.
- Developing, and resourcing, behaviour change campaigns and tools to assist Local Government with educating and engaging the community in safe Household Hazardous Waste collection and waste avoidance.
- Developing guidelines for Local Government and Regional Council on the appropriate procedures for handling and storage of Household Hazardous Waste.
- Supporting the development and implementation of Product Stewardship Schemes for Household Hazardous Waste.

Federal Government

- Supporting the development and implementation of Product Stewardship Schemes for Household Hazardous Waste.

Producers/Manufacturers of Household Hazardous Waste

- Work with Government to develop and implement Product Stewardship Schemes for Household Hazardous Waste.
- 