

Rural Challenges for Used Oil/HHW Management

CalRecycle Used Oil/HHW Training & Conference

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It's not easy being *Rural*



Rural jurisdictions have additional challenges in the collection and management of HHW. Among these challenges are:

- Smaller population base of support
- Greater distances to downstream receivers
- Fewer HHW vendor options (More on this later)
- Supporting neighboring jurisdiction's populations that don't have a HHW facility
- Greater reliance on CESQG from commercial sector



Agricultural Oil

Ag oil collection is an important component in the overall used oil management program for rural/agricultural jurisdictions. However recent trends pose particular challenges. They are:

- Softer markets for oil and steel make it more costly to operate ag oil collection facilities
- As a result of these soft markets, higher volumes of oil and filters fall upon these “Free” programs due to customers now having to pay for disposal via traditional commercial channels.
- Given the increase in these new customers, the possibility of contamination of oil loads increases significantly
- Separating paper and metal filters at a minimally staffed locations proves to be difficult
- Crushing/puncturing metal filters at any location is diverting scarce resources away from core HHW/used oil management tasks

HHW Nightmare

In April of this year, PCB contaminated oil was detected from Asbury Environmental's milk run of a dozen accounts around Chico. Testing from the samples taken indicated the contaminated oil came from the Butte Regional HHW facility. Standard Clor-d-TECT testing does not sample for PCB's. Cost breakdown for cleanup/disposal was as follows:

- Total Labor: \$10,397.50
- Total Materials: \$10,619.58
- Total Disposal: \$44,198.67
- Total Transportation: \$25,581.76
(Chico to Aragonite, Utah)
- Grand Total **\$90,696.01**

As a result, we are sending samples of each drum to an offsite lab for analysis prior to pumping into collection vehicles.



Future Concerns...

- HHW Industry Consolidation – Are fewer vendor options going to result in reduced services at higher costs? *(This is a rhetorical question)*
- Additional Materials to manage (Solar panels, battery embedded smoke detectors, LED switch-outs resulting in large quantities of fluorescents and ballasts for disposal)
- Manufacturers steadfast refusal to embrace EPR (with some notable exceptions)
- More stringent regulations that now require allocating scarce resources to maintain compliance (Think oil filters)
- Will, by doing our jobs effectively in educating the public on the need for proper HHW disposal, increase our volumes to the point that it will require a wholesale re-examination of our funding mechanisms? (Hint: Yes, it will)

Questions & Comments?

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