

A Mad Dash, then Smooth Sailing with Hazardous Waste Day

By Dani McGarry, Executive Director

On August 21st, the cars lined up along Bean Street and US-10 in Scottville to await their chance to safely dispose of hazardous household materials. A total of 288 cars came through the line, bringing materials from 312 households. After the early morning rush, the event ran at a steady pace, with cars bringing in seemingly less material than in recent years.

The Conservation District works with three different contractors to safely dispose of electronics, batteries, and hazardous materials. This year, that included Comprenew, Battery Solutions, and ERG Environmental, respectively. These companies generally can take a month or more to process all of the material and report back with a categorized list of material accepted at collection day. Those final weights are recorded in the table below, showing a total of over 30,000 pounds of material being safely disposed of at our collection day!

In addition to the material sent with contractors, approximately 757 pounds of car batteries were taken to Padnos for recycling (thanks to a very dedicated volunteer, Mr. Gary Dittmer) and about 350 gallons of used motor oil was drained and set aside. A local farm takes most of the used motor oil every year to reuse for heating fuel, which saves thousands of dollars in disposal costs for the collection.

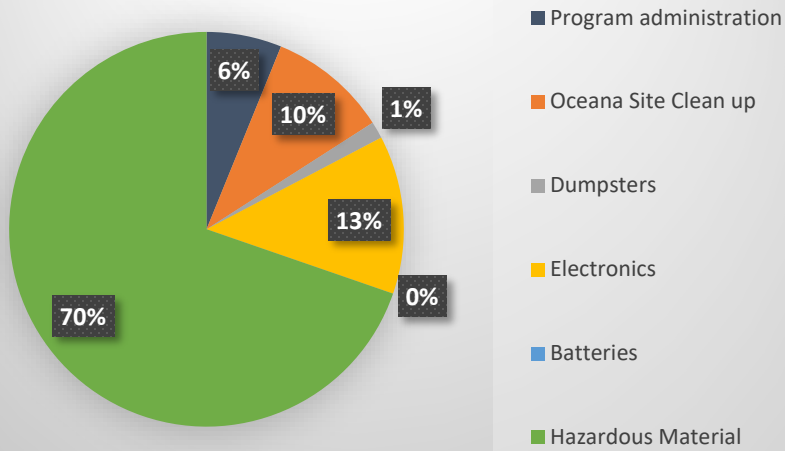
Many thanks to our 28 volunteers who put in over 95 total hours that day to make it happen! Thanks also to the Mason County Road Commission for allowing the use of their site for collection day, Mason County Sheriff's Office for bringing trustees to help with unloading electronics, a Deputy to take away controlled substances, and the Scottville Police Department for assisting with traffic

It is not only the traffic on collection day that seems to start as a mad dash, but also the fundraising efforts, which start as early as January for the August collection. The collection is funded every year using a combination of sources, including budget allocations from Mason County, all townships and municipalities in the county, as well as generous donations from private donors and partnering organizations and a grant from the Clean Sweep Program through MI Dept. of Ag and Rural Development. This year, local supporters included Hamlin Lake Preservation Society, District Health Department # 10, AFFEW, private donors and on-site donations from participants on collection day. Thank you to all for helping to keep hazardous materials out of our environment!

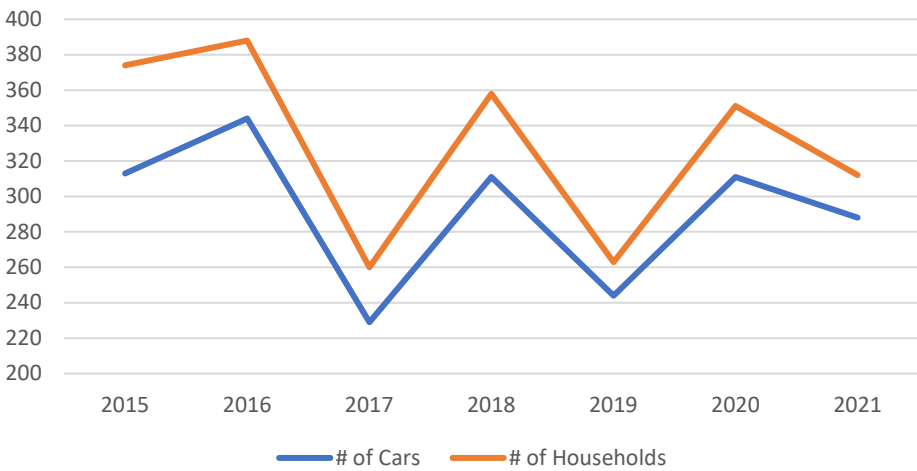
This effort is managed as a 3-county collaborative with Conservation Districts and interested citizens in Oceana and Manistee County as well. Some statistics on our expenditures for our 3-county group are shown in the additional graphs. If you are interested in learning more about the program, getting involved in the committee or collection day, please call your local Conservation District or visit www.mason-lakeconservation.org and look under Programs for Household hazardous Waste.

Collection Items	Mason County (lbs)
Household Hazardous Waste	7,621
Non-controlled pharma & Sharps	267
Pesticides and other chemicals	1,974
Oil / Auto fluids	3,755
Auto Batteries	757
Household Batteries	1,255
Electronics/Appliances	8,356
Oil Based Paints	6,178
Total Pounds	30,163

2021 Tri-County Expenses Breakdown



Mason County Total of Cars and Households



Three County Total HHW Costs (\$)

