

SUCCESS STORY

UK Collaborates with Area Partners to Host Successful Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

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The EPA considers some leftover household products that can catch fire, react, or explode under certain circumstances, or that are corrosive or toxic as household hazardous waste. Products, such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides can contain hazardous ingredients and require special care when you dispose of them.



According to the EPA, the average household generates more than 20 pounds of household hazardous waste per year. The EPA has delegated the oversight of hazardous waste in Kentucky to the Division of Waste Management. The Division provides grants for community household hazardous waste collection events to ensure that certain control and safety measures are taken.

The NKY Solid Waste Management Area's Household Hazardous Waste Coalition (main partners: Boone, Campbell, and Kenton County Solid Waste Departments, Sanitation District NO. 1, City of Florence, NKY Hazardous Material Team, and Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service) applied for and received a \$82,955 grant from the Division in 2016 to conduct a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event on Nov. 5, 2016 at UC Health Stadium in Florence, KY. In addition, Toyota donated \$5,000 and the Campbell County Extension District Board contributed \$5,000 to help increase Campbell County participation.

The event was specifically marketed by the Agent to Campbell County residents and the farming community that identified the need for oil and hydraulic fluid disposal options at Agriculture Council meetings last year.

Disposal and recycling vendors provided reports to the coalition after the event and the following results were obtained. Campbell County participation rose by 31% from 290 people in 2015 to 380 people in 2016. 48% of participants disposed of oil or hydraulic fluid, an increase of 16% from last year. Seventy five percent of people dropped off paint, and 48% disposed of electronics. Members of the Household Hazardous Waste Coalition, including the County Agent, worked the event with over 100 volunteers from NKY schools and businesses. Participants received educational information about household hazardous waste when they registered for the event. Over 2,600 Boone, Campbell, and Kenton County residents participated in the event. These are the types and amounts of household hazardous waste collected: 120,785 pounds of paint (300% increase from last year), 6,094 pounds of bulk fuels, 1,825 gallons of oil (17% increase from last year), 6,394 pounds of pesticides, 3,659 pounds of household cleaners, 347 car batteries (11,255 pounds), 2,869 pounds of dry cell, nickel cadmium, and lithium batteries, 56 pounds of mercury, and 1,835 pounds of corrosives.



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