

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program

Presentation to Waste Reduction Advisory Committee 4.30.2024

Pete Miller

What Is HHW?

Household Hazardous Waste: Waste generated from household activity that exhibits the characteristics of or that is listed as hazardous waste under agency rules but is not generated from commercial activities.

- **Corrosive** (can corrode or cause chemical burns)
- **Ignitable** (can easily catch fire)
- **Reactive** (can react with other chemicals or oxygen)
- **Toxic** (poisonous or harmful if swallowed, inhaled, or exposed to skin)

Accepted Items - HHW is usually identified by the product label

Home Improvement Products

- Paint, varnish and stain
- Paint stripper, paint thinner, turpentine
- Petroleum-based adhesives
- Roofing tar
- Mercury thermostats
- Wood preservatives
- Driveway sealer



No frozen or dried out products.

Automotive Products

- Carburetor cleaner
- Degreasers
- Fuel (gasoline, kerosene)
- Motor oil, oil filters and antifreeze
- Petroleum-based waxes and finishes



Household Products

- Aerosols
- Batteries
- Drain and oven cleaner
- Mercury thermometers
- Mercury thermostats
- Nail polish and remover
- Propane tanks



Used Sharps

- Hypodermic needles
- Syringes
- Lancets
- Pen needles
- IV needles
- Used Epi-Pens®



Place sharps in rigid, puncture resistant container. Label container: "Do Not Recycle: Household Sharps." Seal to prevent spills.

Fluorescent Bulbs

- Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs)
- Fluorescent bulbs
- High intensity discharge (HID)



Fluorescent bulbs contain mercury. Intact or broken, it is illegal to put them in the garbage.

Do not tape fluorescent tubes together.

Lawn & Garden Products

- Ant, bug, roach and rodent killer
- Bug spray
- Fertilizer with weed control
- Weed killer



Single Use Batteries:



Rechargeable Batteries:



Why collect HHW?

Decrease risks: Fires, Chemical Exposures, Soil and Groundwater contamination



HHW Disposal



Reused/Recovered:

Oil paint, flammable liquids/solvents, most aerosols, propane tanks



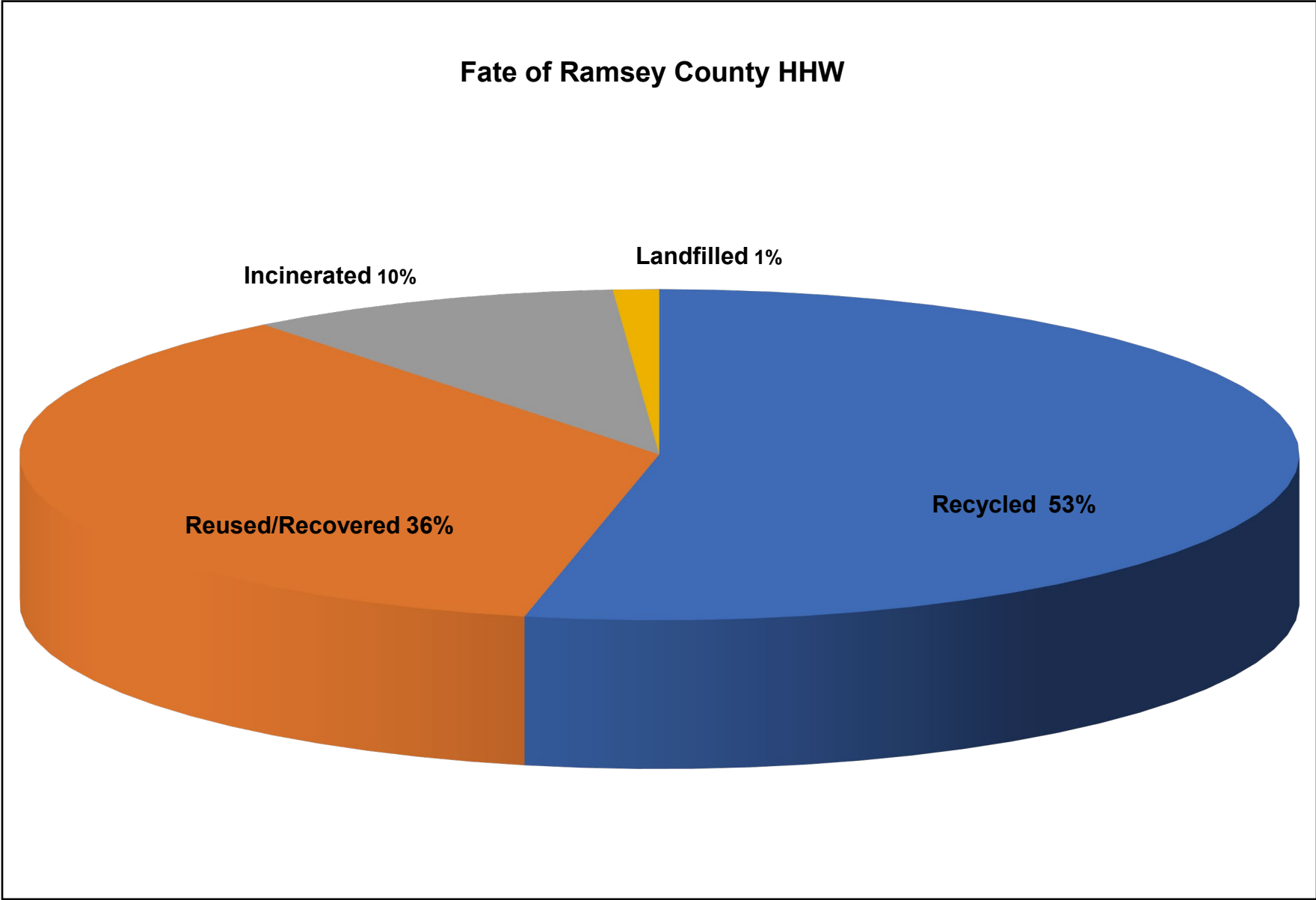
Recycled:

Latex Paint, used motor oil & filters, driveway sealer, fluorescent lamps



Incinerated:

Pesticides, poisons, dioxins, oil paint with PCB's, some aerosols

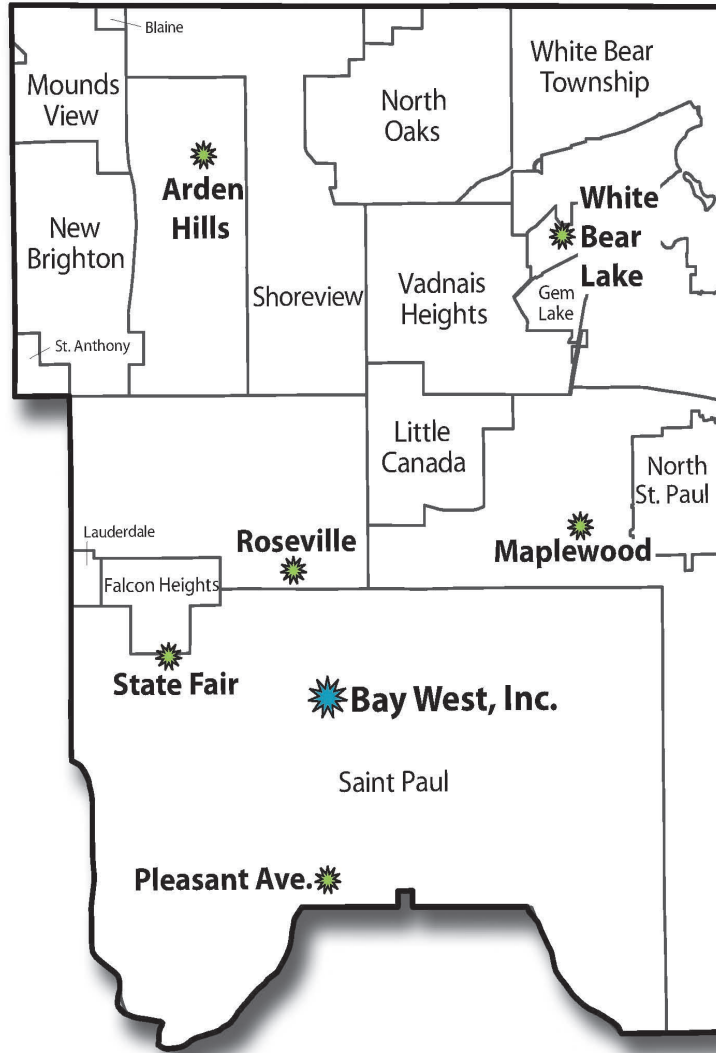


Household Hazardous Waste Collection Sites in Ramsey County

HHW Site Locations:

- Bay West Site +
- 6 Satellite Sites
- + 4 City Cleanup Events (not shown)

New in 2025!
Ramsey County Environmental Service Center.



Ramsey County Environmental Service Center!



How do residents participate?

- 1. Gather items for disposal that are HHW (Paint, batteries, used oil, fluorescent light bulbs, sharps, etc.)**
- 2. Check HHW site hours and location.**
- 3. Deliver HHW to a collection site where trained HHW staff will collect it for proper management.**
- 4. Stop by the product reuse room while you are there!**



Electronic Waste – NOT currently accepted at Ramsey County HHW



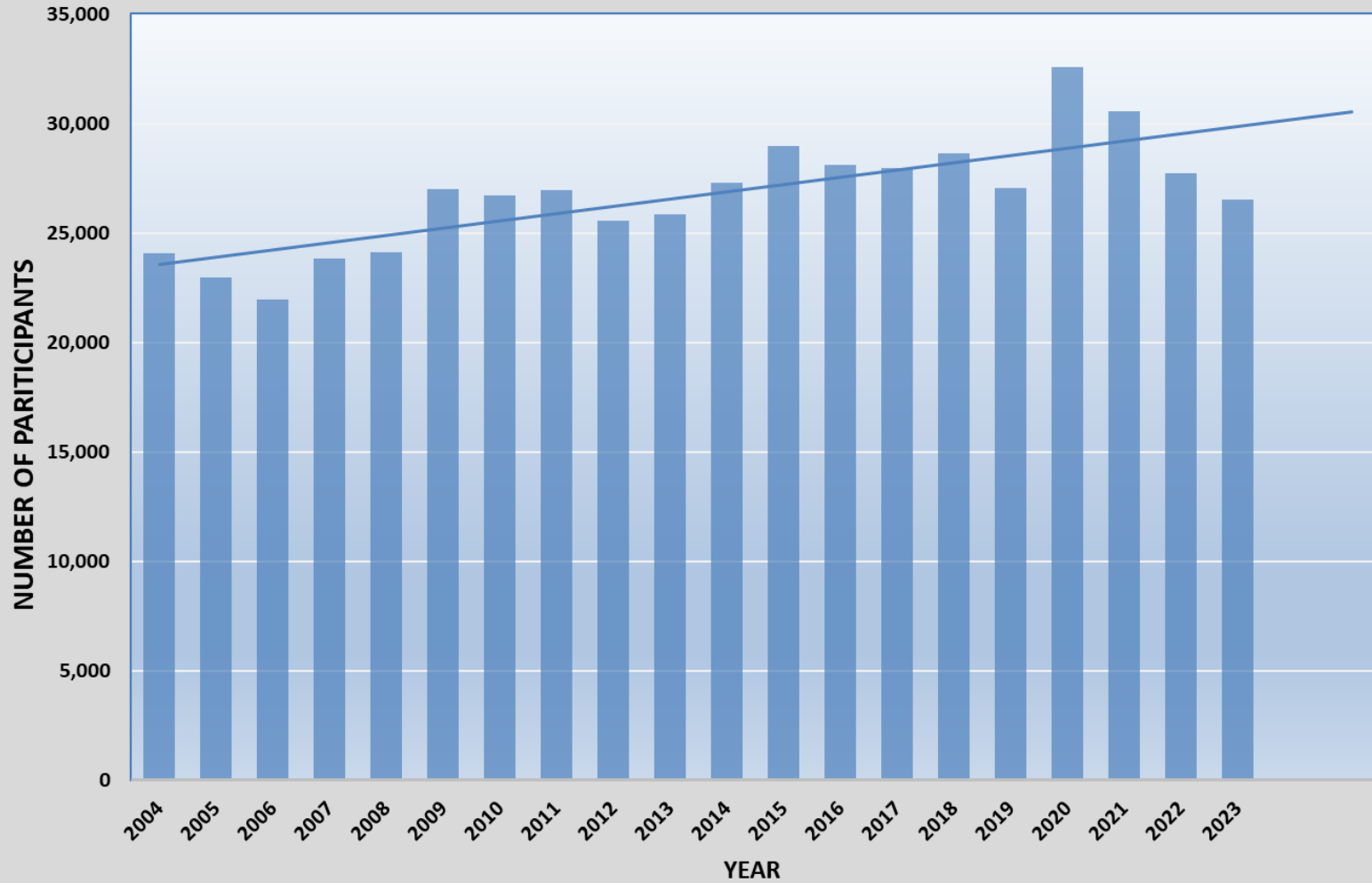
Currently accepted at Repowered in St. Paul and will be accepted at the new Environmental Service Center (ESC).

2022 Product Reuse Room Data

- 166,579 lbs. reused
- 8,442 participants taking products
- \$89,746 saved in recycling/disposal costs



Participation 20-year Trend



HHW participation has ranged from 12% to 15% of households in Ramsey County over the past 5 years.

It is anticipated that the centrally located Environmental Service Center will boost participation rates as it attracts more residents with expanded services including:

- Food scraps
- Recycling drop-off
- Fix-it Clinics
- Electronic waste recycling.
- Expanded Product Reuse Room

QUESTIONS?

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THANK YOU!