

## Director's Report 8-3-2022

Well it's almost August and it seems like the story is the same.... We're busy. From Drop-off sites, to HHW, to composting, to outreach we are firing on all cylinders and keeping even more material out of the landfill. At our drop-off sites we have had an easier summer staffing than in past years. This is good news especially in the face of the current job market which would certainly make it difficult to find help if we were in immediate need. However, we have been searching for a compost route driver all summer and have needed to cover for staff taking time off and some medical needs, so we are feeling the pinch of the tight labor market in some ways.

We are heading into the final HHW events of the summer with just three events remaining in Montgomery, North Hero, and St. Albans Town. HHW traffic and volumes are remain steady at events and the Hazwaste Center here in Georgia. Between our remote events and regular collection in Georgia, we serve over 1400 households in the District to safely manage their paint, chemicals, used oil, etc. This represents around 10 % of the District population and this number is 2-3 times higher when you consider our collection of other hazardous wastes such as batteries, fluorescent lamps, and electronics.

Overall we have been noticing that our customer counts are lower across all collection sites and waste types. This is not surprising since waste generation is very closely tied to the economy. When economic times are good people spend money and generate waste. When the economy takes a turn for the worse, the waste people generate slows down. Waste is a byproduct of consumption. We continue to educate our residents about the impacts of waste and provide tips for reduction so that when the economy takes a turn for the better, we can keep waste generation lower than before.

Since our last meeting we have reported on the first year of implementation of the NWSWD's latest Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP). While we annually analyze the data for the materials we collect, divert, and dispose (pounds of electronics, paint, cardboard, etc.), but it was refreshing to take an in-depth look at our outreach efforts and programs and see that we easily accomplished what we said we would in our plan. The process also showed us how to better track these efforts and set us up with a better plan for improving the results for next year.

I look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday and welcome hearing from you at any time.

Onward - John