

Focus on Coordinated Prevention Grants

Waste 2 Resources

August 2015

Coordinated Prevention Grants: Helping local governments manage solid and hazardous waste

In 1988, the voters of Washington passed Initiative 97, the Model Toxics Control Act, or MTCA. The act authorized a comprehensive program to clean up land and facilities contaminated by toxic and hazardous waste; and also programs to prevent future cleanup sites through the proper management of solid and hazardous waste. MTCA funds these programs through a tax on hazardous substances sold in Washington – primarily petroleum products and pesticides.

MTCA authorized grant programs to support local governments in dealing with hazardous waste sites, and to help them prevent waste and better manage solid and hazardous waste. These waste management, reduction and prevention grants are known as Coordinated Prevention Grants, or CPG. They fund city and county programs to manage hazardous waste from households and small quantity generators like automotive shops. CPG funding also supports county health departments in permitting and inspecting solid waste landfills.

When combined with local matching funds, CPG funding will create **325 jobs** statewide in 2015-17 (down from 505 jobs in 2013-15).

CPG at work in Washington

Managing solid waste

In all but the largest counties in Washington, CPG provides 31 percent of the funding for local recycling and hazardous waste programs. County health departments depend on CPG funding for their solid waste enforcement staff.



These local health departments oversee almost all of Washington's 771 solid waste facilities, including landfills, leachate lagoons, transfer stations, moderate risk waste collection sites, composters and recycling facilities.

CPG CUTS ELIMINATE 180 JOBS, REDUCE SERVICES

In 2015, the Washington Legislature appropriated \$15 million for CPG for the 2015-2017 biennium, a 49% reduction in funding for local governments to implement solid and hazardous waste programs.

As a result of the reduction, cities, counties and health departments report that they will eliminate 180 grant-funded positions. Most of these local governments also plan to reduce or eliminate some of the solid waste and recycling services they provide.

Recent low oil prices have led to lower-than-projected hazardous substance tax collections, resulting in a shortfall in the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) accounts that traditionally fund CPG programs.

Ecology is requesting that 2015-17 CPG funding be restored to the 2011-13 level of \$29.6 million when MTCA funding recovers.

Contact information

Laurie Davies
Program Manager
Waste 2 Resources Program
360-407-6103
laurie.davies@ecy.wa.gov



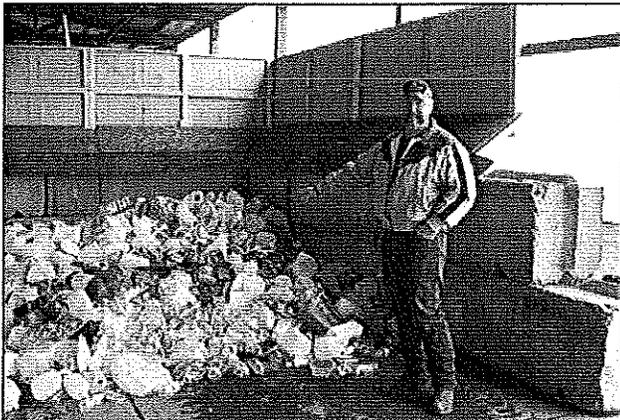
In the 2013-15 biennium, local health officials conducted approximately **2,564** facility inspections statewide. Local health officials also responded to **13,000** illegal dumping and illegal waste storage complaints, and provided technical assistance on waste handling and disposal to more than **18,600** businesses.

Safely disposing of household toxics

CPG-funded collection programs help Washington residents safely dispose of more than **8,200 tons** of hazardous materials each biennium through local household hazardous waste programs. These programs provide a safety net that catches common items containing toxic chemicals such as mercury, lead and solvents that would otherwise end up in landfills or the environment.

Advancing recycling

Recycling plays an important role in protecting the environment by keeping toxic chemicals out of landfills or the environment and by reducing the greenhouse gases needed to manufacture products from virgin material.



Manufacturing with recycled materials uses 50- to 90-percent less energy and water than using virgin materials.

CPG plays a pivotal role in financing local programs that promote recycling and reuse. CPG helped local communities collect **361,168 tons** of recyclable materials in 2011-13, and that CPG-supported recycling reduced greenhouse gas emissions by **275,619** metric tons of carbon equivalent.

How CPG helps

Local governments rely on CPG funding to augment local programs and improve infrastructure.

As an example, here's how Lincoln County has used CPG:

- Roll-off containers and recycling cage - \$23,000
- Cardboard baler and conveyor - \$118,000
- Recyclables collection truck - \$161,000
- Education and outreach support for recycling, composting and moderate-risk waste - \$129,000

Closing the loop on organics

Many CPG projects focus on taking organic waste materials – such as wood, yard and food waste – and turning them into useful products. This reduces waste, prevents outdoor burning, and creates compost – a useful product for farmers and homeowners.

In the 2011-13 biennium, CPG funds helped curbside recycling of organic wastes become a common practice in many communities, and turned **114,223 tons** of yard and food waste into compost and other useful soil amendments.

