

History of MRW Programs

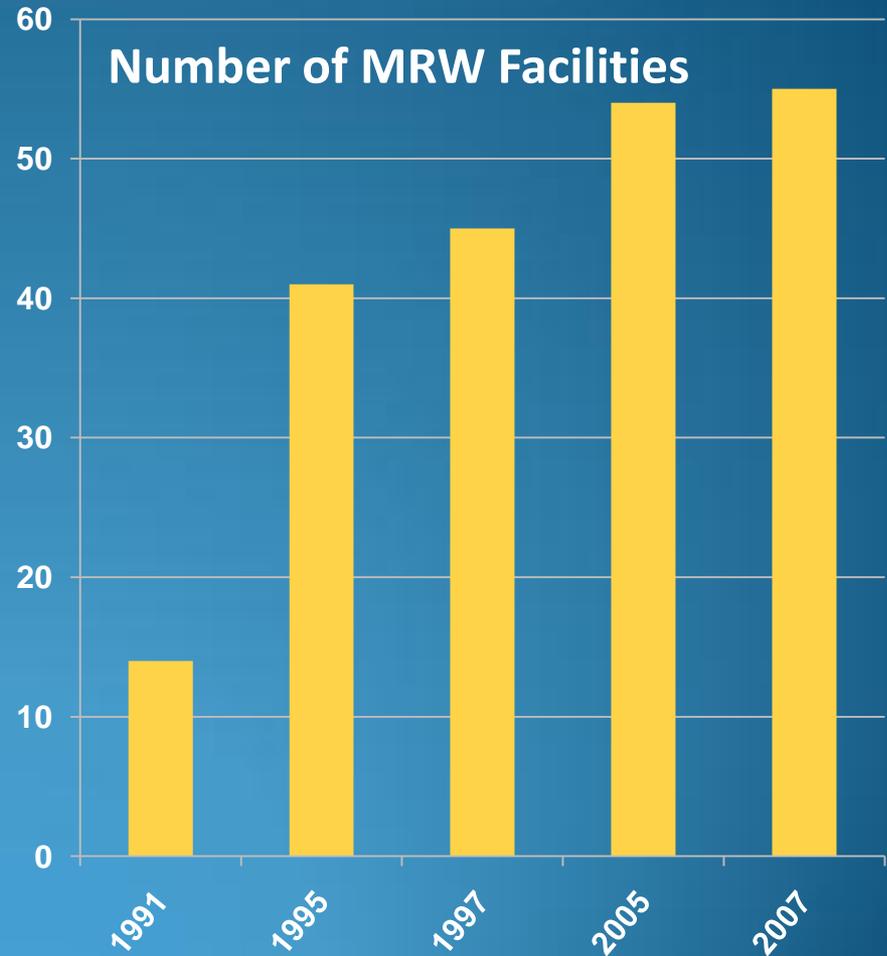
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Why MRW Collection Matters



Origin of Existing Infrastructure

- 1987 survey estimated 30,000 tons of HHW/Year in WA (52,000 CESQG)
- MSW landfills were unlined and disposal posed a threat
- CPG dollars supported hazardous waste planning, then implementation



Several years later....



1996 Evaluation of CPG Program

- **Grant dollars spent efficiently?**
- **Are programs helping improve human and environmental health?**

Issues Examined

- Example of outcome - Enforcement Review
 - Firewall for enforcement funds
- MRW Collection & Disposal
 - Questioned latex paint disposal
 - Wanted changes in eligibility





'96 Findings

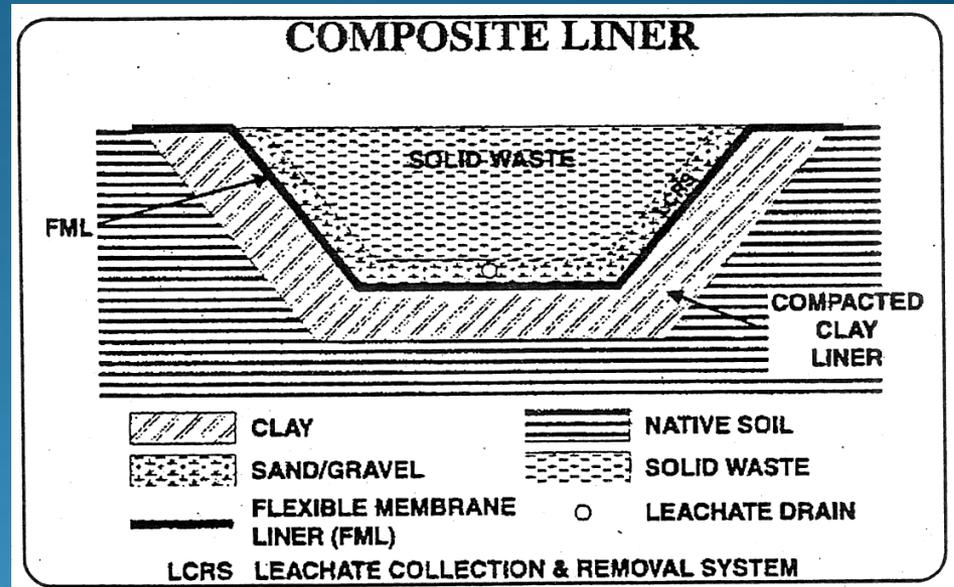
- WA national leader in MRW collection services

But:

- MRW collection expensive (large percentage of CPG)
- '87-92 MRW generation increasing - constant need for more infrastructure?
- Capturing a small percentage of a small waste stream

Findings continued...

- MSW Landfill standards are more protective - RCRA Subtitle D made MSW landfill standards much more stringent (included liners and leachate collection).



- Are collection programs providing a disincentive?
 - Free disposal encourages the use of products with hazards
 - (Currently) Manufacturers argue against take-back programs claiming system already in place
- Human health/environment threat from use of hazardous products has not been eliminated

What's the Situation Today?

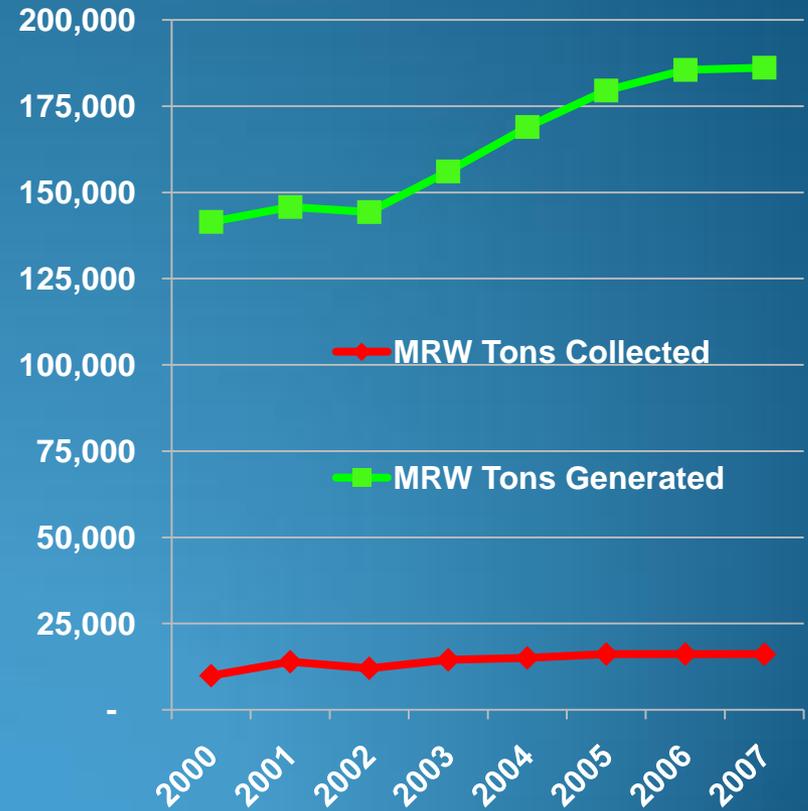
- Not much different than in 1996
- Still most expensive CPG program –
 - 05-07 Cycle: 45% of CPG funds supported MRW, mostly collection programs
 - 07-09 Cycle: 43% of CPG funds support MRW
- Still using lots of resources to collect small portion of the waste stream
- Funds are shrinking
- New thoughts have emerged about handling MRW

MRW Collected Increased – Still a Small Percentage of Total

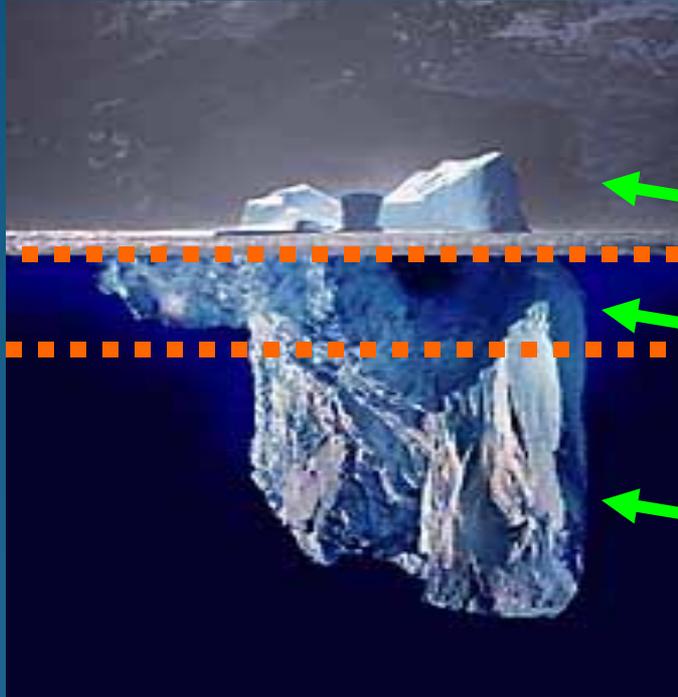
MRW Tons Collected



MRW Tons Collected vs. Generated



Tackling the Toxics Iceberg



Ecology's focus is on the tip of the iceberg

4,500 Regulated Generators

65,000 Conditionally Exempt
Small Quantity Generators

2.5 million Households

Avoiding the use of toxic chemicals is the smartest, cheapest and healthiest approach.

Three Phases of Product Life



**Design &
Manufacture**



Use



End of Life

Current Status

- We have good infrastructure – but the system is expensive to maintain and there are fewer funds to do more
- People still using products with hazardous materials – often no other option
- Everyday products can lead to disease and conditions such as lower IQ, ADHD, asthma, obesity, psychopathology, learning disability, loss of maleness, strokes later in life.....



“Moms and dads should not have to be chemists to go shopping.”

The Health Costs are Big

From a 2004 Washington study:



- The annual cost of childhood diseases and disabilities attributable to environmental contaminants in Washington State is **\$1.8 billion**
- The annual cost of adult and childhood diseases and disabilities attributable to environmental contaminants is **\$2.7 billion**

<http://washington.chenw.org/pdfs/EnvironmentalCosts.pdf>

There are Opportunities Now

- People are more aware of toxic chemicals
 - Growth in organic food
 - Market for “green” products
 - Interest in green building
- A lot of new initiatives in government
 - Children’s Safe Products Act
 - E-Waste Washington
 - Paint program in Washington



The Customer as Audience

- Would information about a product's toxic level keep you from buying and using it?

60% Yes; 15% No; 24% Depends

- About risks to your family's health?

77% Yes; 13% No; 11% Depends





The Customer as Audience

High level of statewide support for Gov't Action* (73 – 85%)

- Restrict sale and use of products with known health risks.
- Require toxicity testing of all ingredients.
- Ban toxic chemicals with known health risks from products.
- Provide education on toxic products and safer alternatives.
- Require manufacturers to label products with complete lists all ingredients.

* Dept of Ecology Reducing Toxic Threats Household Survey, April 2007

Reasons to Address Toxic Threats

- Toxic chemicals are everywhere.
- Citizens are eager to learn more.
- Our health is at risk and the costs are huge.
- Using fewer toxic chemicals saves businesses, taxpayers and the government money.
- Reducing toxics chemicals is at the heart of environmental restoration.
- Reducing toxic chemicals is good for the economy.
- Reducing toxic chemicals avoids future clean-ups.

What Can We Do About It!

- We need to incorporate prevention
- We need to target programs to address limited resources
- Explore funding options for prevention activities

