



# **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Report**

**2019 Collection and Participation**

**Town of Stratham**

**Introduction**

This report highlights overall participation in the October 19, 2019 Household Hazardous Waste Collection as well as participation by Stratham residents. This collection was funded by municipal assessments, participant donations, and a grant received by the Rockingham Planning Commission from the NH Dept. of Environmental Services.

**2019 Collection Overview**

The October 19, 2019 HHW collection event was held at the Exeter Public Works Garage from 8:00AM-1:00PM. Residents from East Kingston, Epping, Exeter, Newfields, Seabrook, South Hampton, and Stratham could participate in the event.

**2019 Total Participation**

In 2019, a total of 433 households participated in the HHW collection region-wide. This was down slightly from the 2018 total of 448 households. However, participation from Stratham residents increased. In 2019, 153 Stratham households participated in the HHW collection compared to 126 in 2018. 43% of Region-wide participants were first time attendees in 2019, compared to 40% in 2018. Among Stratham residents, 42% of participants were first time attendees in 2019 compared to 40% in 2018.

The table below shows the number of households that participated in the collection event from each municipality and the percentage of first-time participants from each municipality. For comparison, it also highlights the population of each municipality and its percentage of the total population. Stratham residents participate in the HHW collection at a higher rate than expected based on population; Stratham accounts for 17% of the region-wide population but comprised 35% of HHW participants.

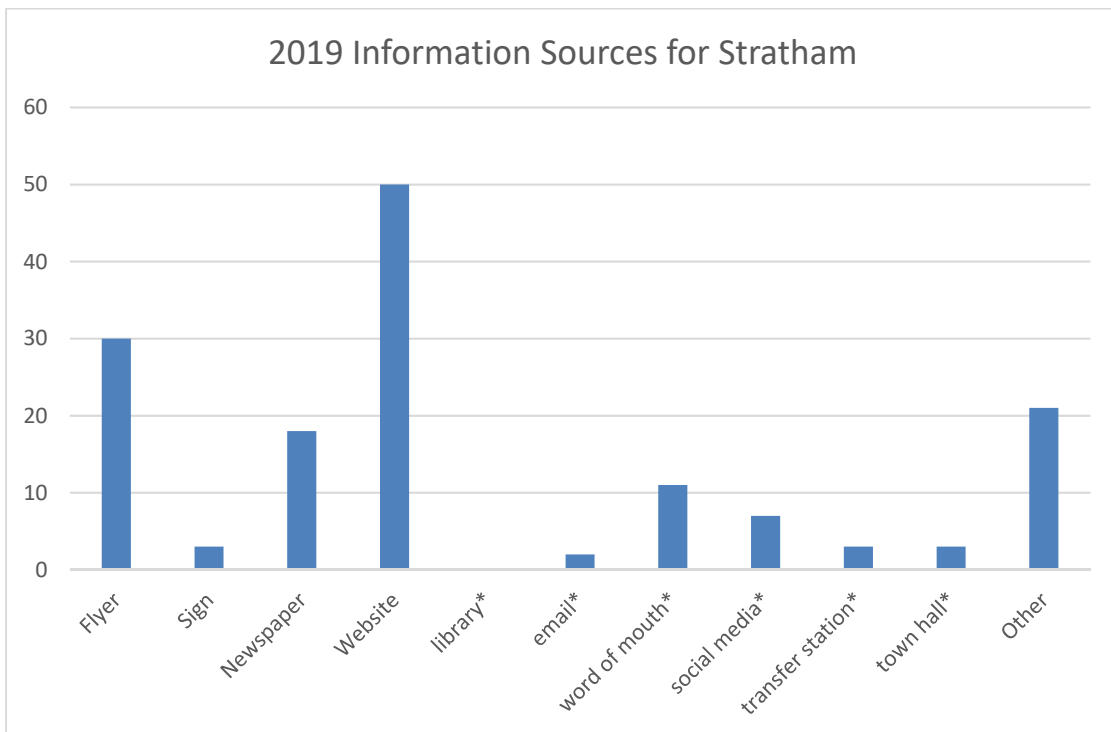
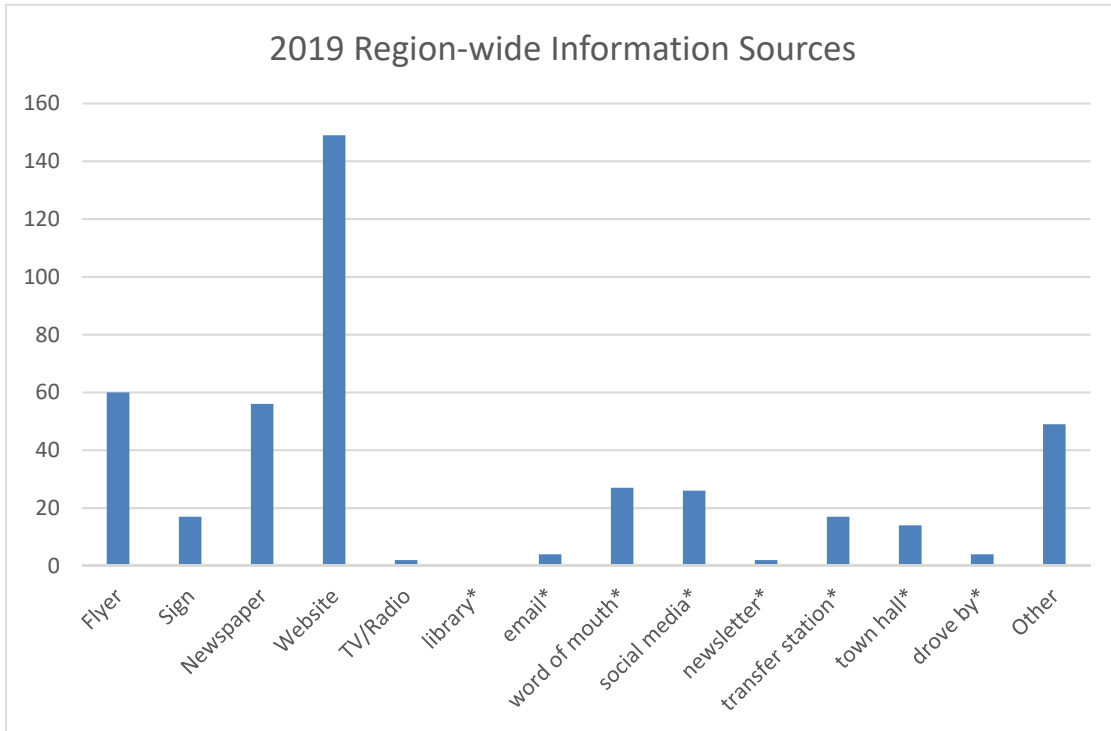
Municipality	Population*	% of Region-wide Population	Households Participating	% of First Time Participants
East Kingston	2,425	6%	14	43%
Epping	7,025	16%	51	43%
Exeter	15,365	35%	181	43%
Newfields	1,721	4%	18	33%
Seabrook	8,908	20%	12	75%
South Hampton	826	2%	4	25%
Stratham	7,492	17%	153	42%
Region-wide	43,762		433	43%

*\*NH Office of Strategic Initiatives 2018 Population Estimates*

**Information Sources**

Region-wide, websites provided the largest source of information to participants; 149 households reported learning about the collection through a website. Websites were also the most widely used source of information in 2018. Several entities have websites that list the HHW collection event, including Rockingham Planning Commission, NH Dept. of Environmental Services, and each participating municipality. Therefore, it may be beneficial in future years to distinguish these options on the survey. Among Stratham residents, websites were also the most commonly cited source of information in both 2018 and 2019.

Region-wide, 60 households reported learning about the collection from a flier, making it the second most used information source in 2019 and 2018. Fliers were also the second most common source of information among Stratham residents. 56 households region-wide reported learning about the collection through the newspaper. 49 households reported learning about the collection from a source not included in the survey. Information sources marked with an asterisk below denote sources that were not listed as options on the survey, but rather were reported by individuals who selected “other” and then specified a source. It may be beneficial to update the survey in 2020 to include these sources.



**Materials Collected**

The October 19, 2019 HHW collection manifested a total of 10,860 pounds of waste. Of this, 8,160 pounds were ignitable; 0 pound was reactive; 2,400 pounds were toxic, and 300 pounds were corrosive. This is down significantly from the volume of waste collected in 2018.

	2018	2019
<b>Total waste collected (lbs)</b>	23,039	10,860
<b>Ignitable (lbs)</b>	17,877	8,160
<b>Reactive (lbs)</b>	1	0
<b>Toxic (lbs)</b>	2,281	2,400
<b>Corrosive (lbs)</b>	976	300
<b>Waste per household (lbs)</b>	51.4	25.1

The fact that the volume of waste per household decreased in 2019 may be an indication that the HHW program is having a positive impact on purchasing decisions. Every HHW collection program should have 3 primary goals:

1. Help residents identify the HHW they currently have in their homes.
2. Provide a safe way for residents to properly dispose of the HHW they currently have.
3. Educate residents about environmentally friendly products so they can reduce the amount of HHW they purchase going forward.

As such, a reduction in the volume of waste collected per household may indicate that residents are making more environmentally friendly purchasing decisions and are therefore generating less HHW to dispose of.

The composition of waste collected through the October 19, 2019 HHW event, as reported on participant surveys, is shown below. Oil-based Paint/Solvents/Thinners were the most common item received; 247 households Region-wide (57%) brought these items to the 2019 collection event. This is down slightly from 2018 when 64% of participants brought these materials, but it remains the largest category of items collected. Because Paint/Solvents/Thinners is a broad category and because paint

historically comprises such a large percentage of the waste collected at HHW events, it is recommended that future surveys separate Paint from Solvents/Thinners.

Pesticides were the second most common item collected in 2019, with 136 households (31%) reporting to bring them. This was an increase from 2018 when pesticides were the third most common item at 113 households (25%).

Antifreeze/Automotive Liquid and Used Motor Oil tied as the third most common types of items collected in 2019. 107 households (24%) reported bringing each of these categories of materials to the HHW collection.

Among Stratham residents, Paint/Solvents/Thinners were the most commonly collected items again in 2019, with 96 households bringing these materials. This was up from 79 households in 2018. Pesticides were the second most commonly collected item in 2019 among Stratham residents (53 households), followed by motor oil (41 households) and antifreeze/auto liquids (38 households each).

HHW types marked with an asterisk below denote categories that were not listed as options on the survey, but rather were reported by individuals who selected “other” and then specified what material they brought. It may be beneficial to update the survey for 2020 to include these categories.

