



2022

ANNUAL REPORT



**Hazardous Waste
Management Program**
GOVERNMENTS WORKING TOGETHER FOR
A HEALTHIER AND CLEANER KING COUNTY

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The Hazardous Waste Management Program (Program) is a coalition of local governments working together for a healthier and cleaner King County. Our Management Coordination Committee (MCC), representing each coalition partner, provides oversight, strategic guidance, and accountability for our Program.

MCC MEMBERS

Susan Fife-Ferris , Chair	Seattle Public Utilities
Corina Pfeil , Co-Chair	Kenmore Councilmember, Sound Cities Association, representing 38 cities of King County
Josh Baldi	King County Water and Land Resources Division
Lorraine Patterson-Harris	King County Solid Waste Division
Ryan Kellogg	Public Health - Seattle & King County

2022 ANNUAL REPORT – LETTER FROM DIRECTOR & MCC CHAIR

Dear Reader:

The Hazardous Waste Management Program is pleased to share the 2022 Annual Report with you. Each update in this report speaks to the important mission of the Program, as well as our vision of making the Puget Sound region the cleanest in the country — one free of hazardous chemical exposure. We are proud of the work we do every day for the people of King County. This past year has proven that when we all work together, we are able to make a difference.

Our Program's work touches the daily lives of all who live, work, learn, and play in King County. This past year, we provided King County families and businesses accessible and meaningful services. At the same time, we strengthened collaborative partnerships with communities, businesses, cities, tribes, and agencies around the region. Our intentional efforts helped collectively advance policy initiatives, build awareness for change, increase access to services, and better meet the needs of people in King County.

The pandemic has required us to rethink how we share information, provide services, and engage with customers and partners. As part of our effort, the Program adapted operationally to strengthen our reach, equity and impact. Our mindset and our way of working is changing. We are using data to drive action, build partnerships, and collaborate to achieve our goals.

The Program has continued to enhance and refine its work to provide King County residents and businesses with services to manage hazardous exposure and use of safer alternatives. We have emphasized working upstream to promote systemic change in the production, use, and disposal of hazardous materials. We are also contributing to the regional response of our coalition partners' work on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), climate change, and increasing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). This work will help inform strategies to protect human health and the environment throughout King County.

We are proud of our achievements. But, we know there is still work to be done. In this new and changing landscape, we remain steadfast in our commitment to make an impact, helping advance policies, and systems change while centering equity and social justice. As a coalition, we will continue delivering a Program that matches your values and exceeds your expectations.

We could not accomplish this work without the support of our staff, along with our agency and community partners. Thank you for your partnership and shared commitment to protecting people and the environment.

Sincerely,



Maythia Airhart

Maythia Airhart
Interim Program Director,
Hazardous Waste
Management Program



Susan Fife-Ferris


Susan Fife-Ferris
2022 Chair, Management
Coordination Committee,
Seattle Public Utilities

OUR REGIONAL RESPONSE


Together with our partners, we are working toward a shared vision: a Puget Sound region that's the cleanest in the country, free from hazardous chemical exposure.

Everyday chemicals carry a toxic burden. Common products that we use everyday — such as cleaning supplies, varnish, motor oil, oil-based paints, and pesticides contain toxic, corrosive, flammable, or reactive ingredients. These ingredients found everywhere around us are harmful to the environment.


In 2022, we put forward our commitment to deliver on the 10-year plan to reduce hazardous exposures to people and the environment in King County.



Advocate for policy changes: We grew our learning edge to improve how we work with our state and national partners. As a result, the Program is better networked and tied into larger conversations around systems changes.

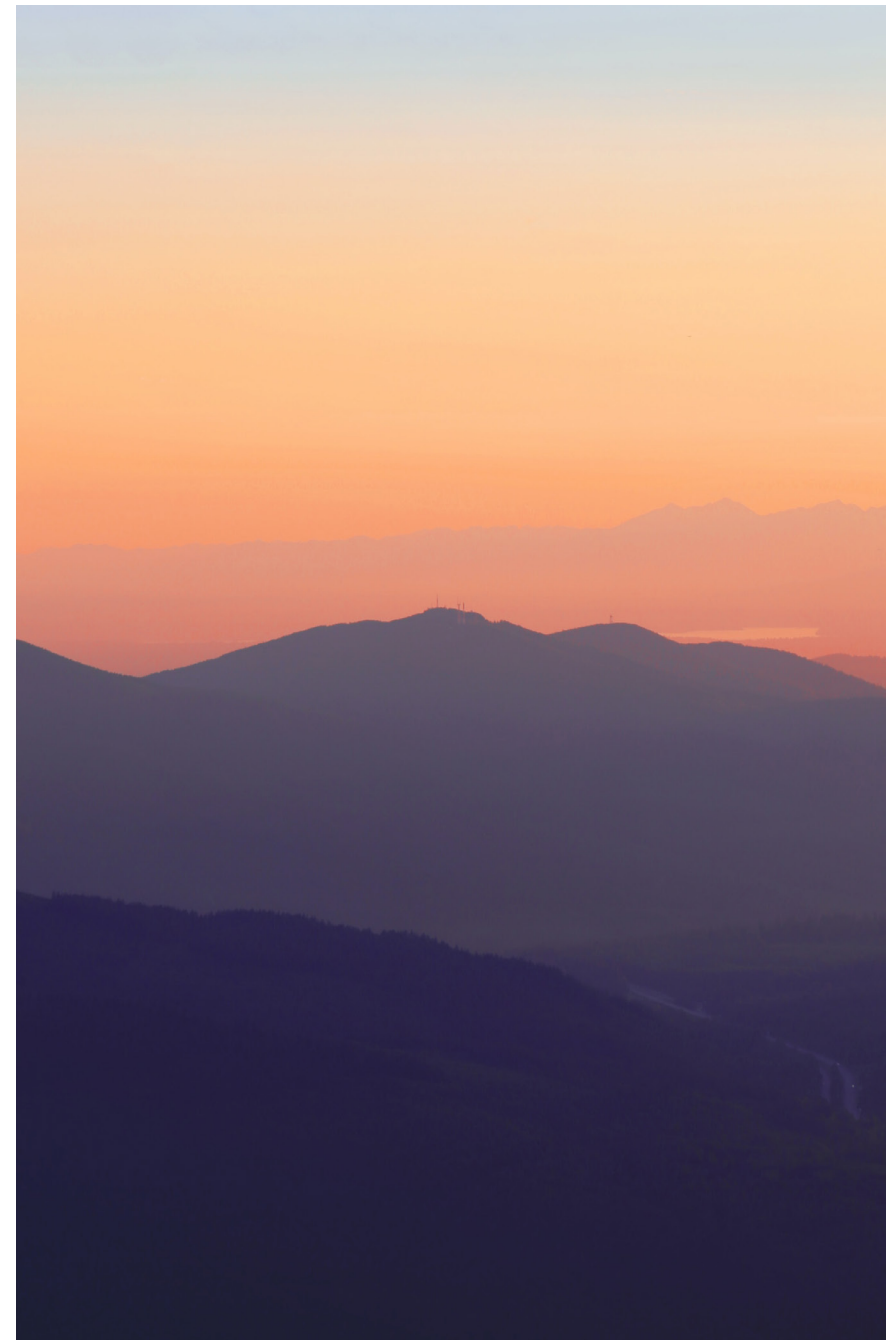


Cultivate partnerships: Local and national interest in PFAS, battery stewardship, lead exposure prevention, and other Program initiatives expanded our partnership network and helped our Program implement our own priorities for King County.



Provide services and support: While we pursued policy and systems change, we provided our residential and business customers with the prevention and collection services they use every day.

We continued to educate people about what they can do as individuals to safeguard themselves and prevent exposure to hazardous materials. We increased our knowledge and advocacy to support systemic changes that promote safer alternatives, remove exposure to hazardous products, and protect the health and safety of our region's people and ecosystems. We also strived to improve health and environmental outcomes by using an anti-racism framework to better understand the underlying causes and barriers faced in communities that experience a greater risk of exposure. As a result, we developed equitable approaches that improved health and environmental outcomes for all King County residents.



As community stewards, the Program works to support upstream legislative solutions and improve policies and regulations that impact the creation, use and end-of-life management, and disposal of hazardous materials. We focus on shifting the burden of preventing exposure away from individuals to the systems and producers that create hazardous products and wastes. As an organization, we:

- Initiate and lead local, state and national conversations around hazardous materials.
- Use the best available technical and social science to inform our conversations.
- Partner with communities, government agencies, elected officials, and local, regional and national organizations to support inclusive planning and transformative policy development.
- Promote and pursue systemic changes to help ensure that chemicals and products are safe for people and the environment.

CREATING PARTNERSHIPS TO PURSUE SYSTEMIC CHANGE

By working with local, regional and national stakeholders, the Program supports inclusive planning and transformative policy development to help ensure chemicals and products are safe for people and the environment. For example, we chair a local and state government Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Workgroup and collaborate with the state to convene the Washington State Chemical Policy Workgroup to share information and resources, cultivate policy initiatives, and build working relationships.

IDENTIFYING LEAD IN COOKPOTS

One of our key efforts has centered on addressing the ongoing challenge of lead poisoning, which affects a disproportionate number of children in communities of color, including refugee and immigrant children. Our research revealed that many aluminum cookpots used in these communities contained high levels of lead. Our study findings were published in the [Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology](#), and were shared with the Food and Drug Administration and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

BUILDING SUPPORT FOR PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP

With the rise of smartphones, cordless appliances, and electric vehicles, people are using more batteries every day. In turn, more batteries are entering our waste management streams. Batteries contain hazardous materials, and when they enter waste streams without proper disposal, they can harm the environment and create safety issues at waste management facilities. The Program is working with Zero Waste Washington, the Northwest Product Stewardship Council, and state representatives to pursue battery stewardship legislation in Washington. The battery bill is an example of an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) bill that requires producers to take responsibility for the impact of their products on the environment, providing King County residents with safer, more convenient ways to dispose of batteries at end-of-life, as well as driving change for better product design.

EPR is a type of product stewardship that requires the producer to take responsibility for safe disposal of its products. Establishing EPR and product stewardship programs helps keep hazardous chemicals out of landfills and decreases exposure to hazardous waste substances, especially for those disproportionately impacted by exposure to these substances.

LOOKING FORWARD

In 2023, we will build a coalition to study and research the feasibility of enacting policies and legislation in Washington that would expand and apply EPR to all household hazardous waste (HHW) products. This groundwork will help build momentum for EPR for HHW legislation to pass in future years.

PREVENTION AT HOME

We offer education, outreach, and technical assistance to encourage people to reduce their exposure to hazardous materials and adopt safer practices. Because each community faces different barriers to achieving positive health outcomes, we use different approaches for each community. We approach this work with the knowledge that we will only succeed if we design, implement, and evaluate our strategies for, by, and with community members.



Farhat Kohistani stars in the educational video we created with Afghan Health Initiative about safer cookware options.

In 2022, we used a community-centered approach to work towards the removal of toxic substances from homes. Our work included partnering with Public Health – Seattle & King County and local community-based organizations to educate community members about sources of lead in the home and how to adopt safer behaviors to protect families, especially those with young children, from lead poisoning. We applied new strategies to expand our reach by inviting our community partners to co-develop online workshops about safer cleaning and co-create culturally relevant educational tools in their preferred languages. After learning that Afghan refugees in our region may be exposed to lead through the pressure cookers and cooking pots they brought to the U.S., we partnered with Afghan Health Initiative (AHI) to

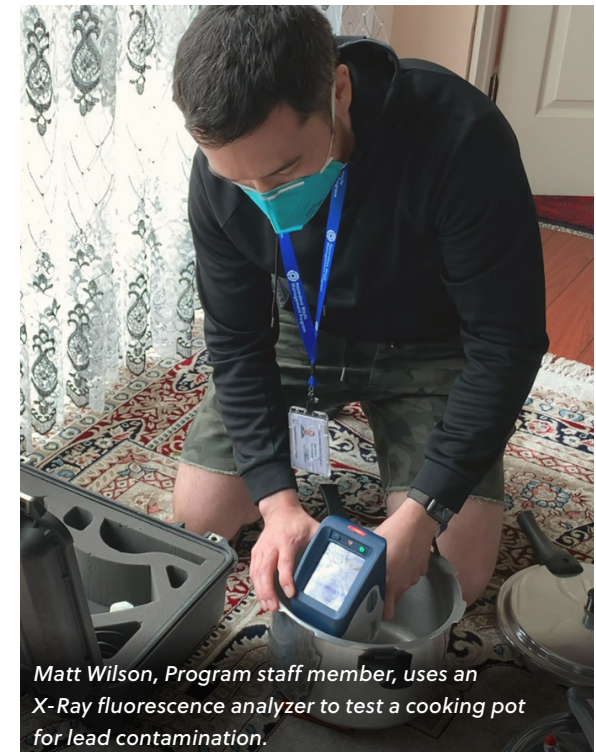
provide interpretation services, outreach, and education to the community. Together, we co-created educational videos about safer cookware options that reduce exposure to lead. AHI was involved every step of the way, from creating storyboards and translating scripts to starring in the video. Along with these videos, AHI and the Program also worked with local families to exchange 160 pieces of lead-contaminated cookware with stainless steel alternatives.



Behind the scenes of the video production set.

LOOKING FORWARD

We are excited about opportunities to renew and strengthen our partnerships with community groups serving those most impacted by the harmful effects of lead exposure. A key part of preventing hazardous exposure is understanding how people encounter lead. In 2023, the Program will partner with community groups to conduct a pilot study. This study will aim to understand how children are exposed to lead, especially in refugee and new immigrant communities. Our goal is to provide improved guidance on safer behaviors that reduce lead exposure for people and families living in King County.



Matt Wilson, Program staff member, uses an X-Ray fluorescence analyzer to test a cooking pot for lead contamination.



3,019 residents and families who learned about safer cleaning practices or how to identify hazardous products



5,335 people who learned about natural yard care at a workshop



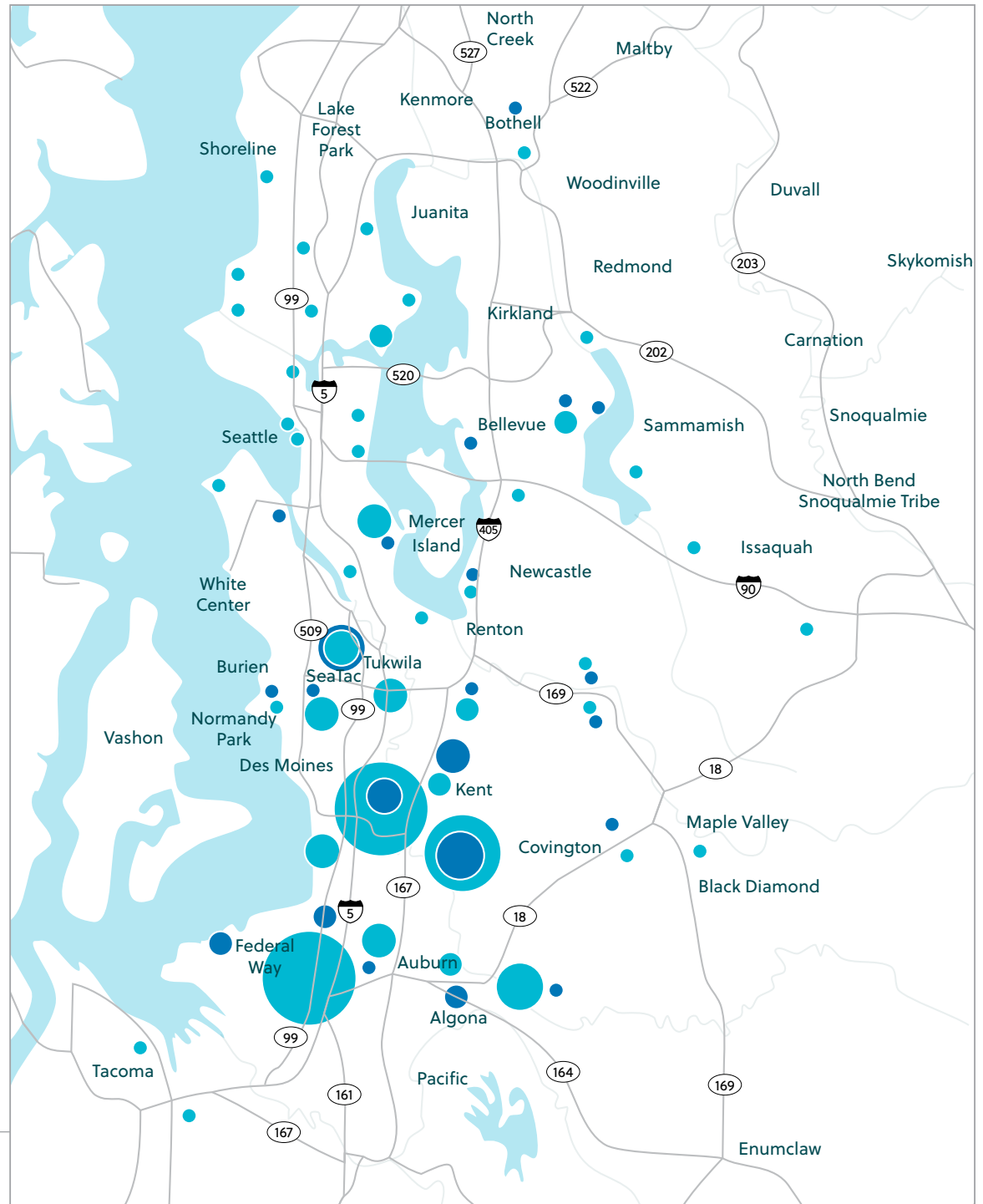
234 visits concerning blood lead levels above Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's reference level



11,014 residents who received help from the Haz Waste Help Line, the Garden Hotline, and outreach services

- Community partners and visits
- In-home assessment for lead exposure

Bigger circles indicate a higher density of visits



PREVENTION AT WORK



Trevor Fernandes, Program staff member, provides guidance to a local business owner about how to safely manage hazardous materials.

We help eligible King County businesses safely dispose and manage the hazardous materials that they use. Our business programs provide resources to help businesses save money and protect employees and the environment.

We know that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) often work in industries that involve exposure to hazardous chemicals. In 2022, we connected with several organizations that serve immigrant and refugee communities, including East African Community Services (EACS), an organization that supports hundreds of East African refugee and immigrant families in King County every year. Our connection created a new network to reach BIPOC business owners, resulting in over 30 site visits to local auto shops.

We also addressed the challenges posed by traditional degreasers that can contain hazardous chemicals by offering:

- Technical support to 34 businesses.
- Free trial degreaser products and financial vouchers to 32 businesses.

LOOKING FORWARD

In 2023, a multidisciplinary team across the Program will explore ways to engage and provide access to services for communities most impacted by hazardous waste in the multi-family housing and janitorial industries.



The Program helps small businesses switch to safer alternatives and get their green business practices recognized.



327 vouchers approved



\$376,584 return on investment for voucher program

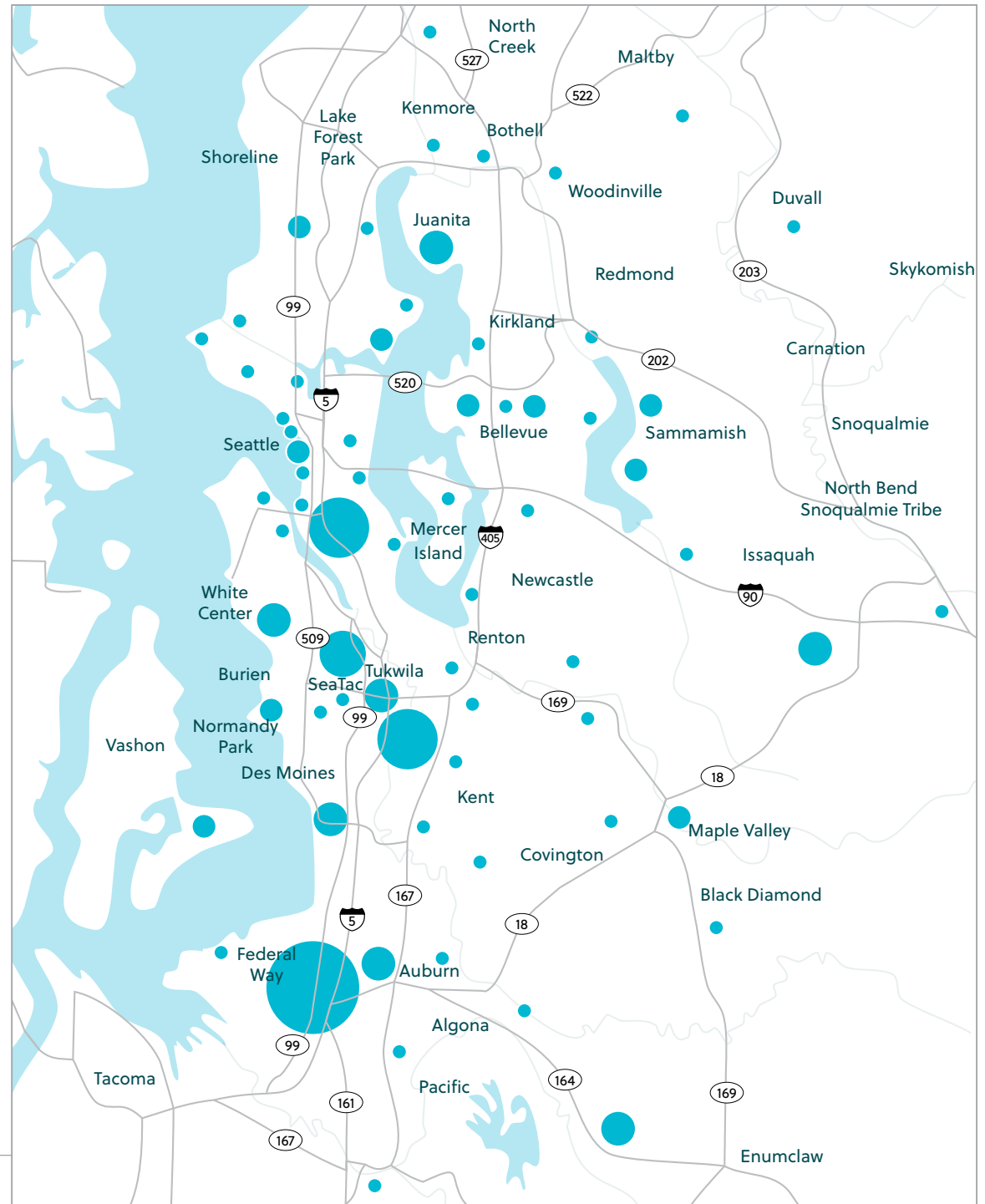


406 on-site consultations

8,329 pounds of hazardous waste safely stored



245,121 pounds of hazardous waste disposed



● Businesses visited
Bigger circles indicate a higher density of visits

SAFE DISPOSAL

In 2022, we provided safe and convenient hazardous waste collection services to residential and small business customers — also known as Small Quantity Generators — to protect public health and reduce the amount of hazardous materials that end up in our waste systems and the environment.

We also partnered with cities, towns, and tribes to increase awareness about safe use and disposal of hazardous products. We provided financial grants to 36 cities and the Snoqualmie Tribe to help more people safely manage their hazardous materials.

We provided these services through:

- Collection services at four locations in North Seattle, South Seattle, Factoria, and Auburn.
- Mobile collection by the travelling Wastemobile and at city- and tribe-sponsored collection events.
- In-home collection services for seniors and residents with disabilities.

LOOKING FORWARD

In the coming years, the collection and facilities team will continue to study customer behaviors and feedback to better understand their evolving needs. From 2023 to 2024 we will conduct a study of our hazardous waste collection services and facilities, with a focus on understanding users of these services and the barriers that stand in the way of hazardous waste disposal. This study will help us identify ways to improve collection services for different communities in an equitable way while preparing the Program to meet changing demands and ensure we are effectively serving our region's residents and small businesses.



An on-site staff member sorts hazardous waste at the collection location in Auburn.



3,231,240

pounds of hazardous waste kept out of our waste systems and the environment



86,292 visits

by residents



861 visits by small

businesses



\$718,427 provided

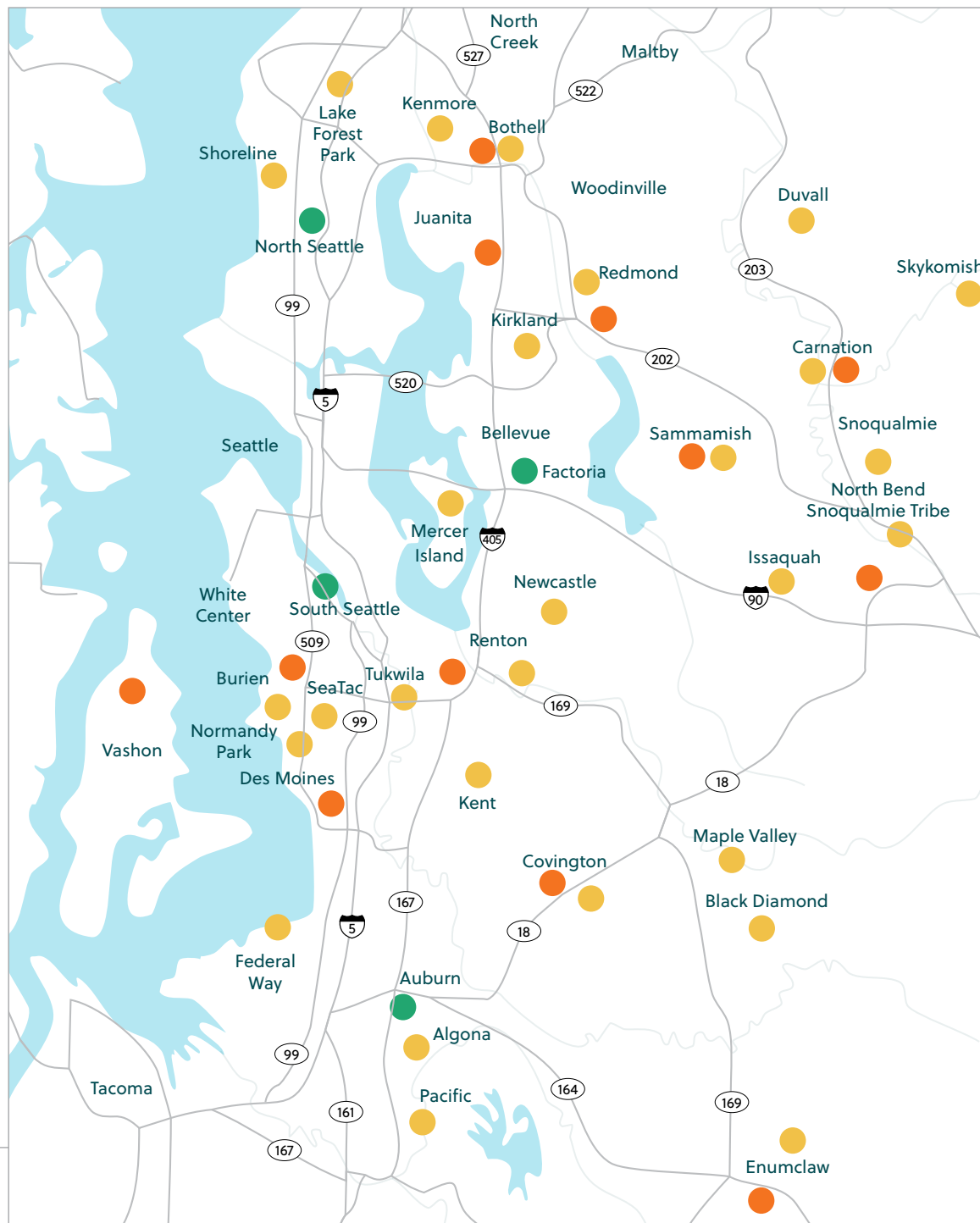
to city and tribal partners



24,123 attendees

reached through **37** city-sponsored events

- Hazardous Waste Disposal Locations
- City/Tribal Sponsored Collection Events
- Traveling Wastemobile



FINANCIALS

VALUE FOR MONEY

The Program is funded by local hazardous waste fees on solid waste and sewer services in King County. These fees are set by the King County Board of Health.

Our operating fund was \$20,238,380 in 2022. Fees are collected by public and private utility providers (*i.e. solid waste haulers, wastewater treatment plant operators, transfer station operators, and cities*) who then pay into the Program.

¹ Agreement with Washington State Dept. of Ecology was executed in November 2021. Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance program (LSWFA) grant period covers July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023 for \$797,392.

² King County's year-end accounting adjustment.

FUND BALANCE		
2022 Beginning		\$16,332,332
2022 BUDGET		2022 ACTUAL
REVENUES		
Wastewater Rate Revenue	4,178,357	4,085,640
Transfer Station Rate Revenue	2,860,944	2,754,438
Solid Waste Account Revenue	11,172,328	12,638,544
Interest Income	42,184	203,003
Washington State Grants ¹		566,755
TOTAL REVENUES	18,253,813	20,238,380
EXPENDITURES		
Seattle Public Utilities	4,173,520	3,934,754
King County DNRP, Solid Waste	5,451,129	4,560,714
King County DNRP, Water & Land	7,138,877	5,504,752
Public Health – Seattle & King County	4,465,232	3,724,687
City and Tribal Contracts	552,893	685,425
City and Tribal Event Inspections	25,234	28,583
Disaster Debris Contingency	25,000	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	21,831,885	18,438,915
FUND BALANCE		
Net Revenues Over (Under Expenses)		1,799,465
Year-End Accounting Adjustment ²		(392,690)
2022 Ending		\$17,739,107



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