

Nuevo Laredo Household Hazardous Waste Collection

U.S.-Mexico Border 2012 Program



Key Guiding Principle:

Strengthen capacity of local community residents and other stakeholders to manage environmental and environmentally-related public health issues.

Four-State Regional Workgroup (Texas - Tamaulipas - Nuevo Leon - Coahuila)



First Nationally Recognized Program Of Its Kind In Mexico

In July 2005 the City of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas funded the initiation of a hazardous waste collection program aimed principally at residential and small business waste, offering monthly collection events at multiple sites in the city to minimize water contamination due to improper storage and disposal of hazardous waste. The program was initiated after 800 liters of hazardous waste reached the wastewater treatment plant killing the biologic treatment system. The cost of the damage was approximately \$200,000 (USD). In addition, hazardous materials collected are no longer going to the landfill or being disposed illegally.



Due to its impressive results (see chart below), in 2007 the Mexican Federal Government recognized this effort with a national environmental award. Nuevo Laredo now has five collection sites that are open to the public during the last weekend of each month.

Below are some highlights of the accomplishments from 2005 through the end of 2007. The municipio has established contracts with companies for transportation of the collected waste to facilities for proper disposal or reuse. Numerous communities in the Four-State Workgroup have expressed interest in replicating this program. ■

Waste Stream	Totals	Units
Absorbent materials contaminated with Hydrocarbons	29,737.95	Kgs,
Filters	26,435.15	Kgs,
Used Oil	79,014.7	Lts,
Car Batteries	3,009	Kgs,
Sludge contaminated with Hydrocarbons	87,098	Kgs,
Used Oil with water	2,489	Lts,
Empty Containers with Pesticides	261.2	Kgs,
Paints waste	7,284.95	Lts,
Empty Containers with Acid	486.05	Kgs,
Film Developer Chemicals	5,098.5	Lts,
Other Batteries	460.83	Kgs,