

Introduction

This report highlights overall participation in the Nashua Region Solid Waste Management District's (NRSWMD) 2021 Household Hazardous Waste Program. This program was funded by municipal assessments, user fees, and a grant received by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission from the NH Department of Environmental Services. The Covid-19 Pandemic continued to impact operations at HHW collections this year. Despite continued impacts of the pandemic no events were cancelled in 2021. Six events were held in total with five held in Nashua and one satellite event in Pelham. Residents from any NRSWMD member municipality could participate in any event.

As a result of the change in protocols for conducting the collection events this year not all the data points collected in previous years will be represented in this report. Surveys were done verbally by NRPC staff and collected the participants town of residence, number of households represented, and the frequency in which they participate in the HHW collection events. The collection of other data points will resume when the District deems it appropriate.

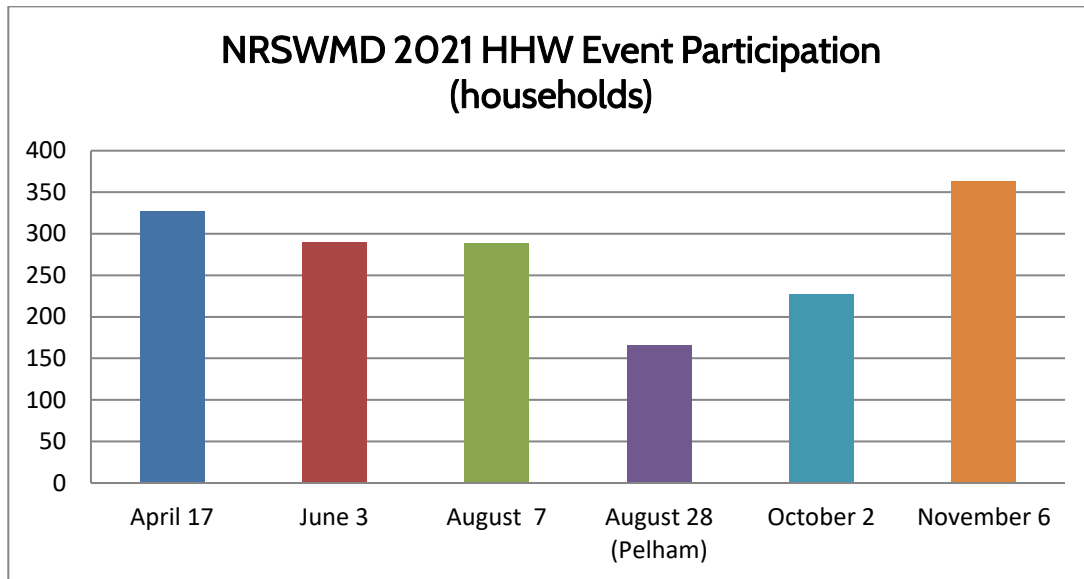
2021 Collection Overview

Six collections were held during the 2021 HHW season. Four of the events were located at the Nashua City Park & Ride at 25 Crown Street and one satellite event was held at the Pelham Senior Center. Residents from any NRSWMD member municipality can participate in any event.

Saturday April 17, 8am-12pm, in Nashua	Saturday August 28, 8am-12pm, in Pelham
Thursday June 3, 3pm-7pm, in Nashua	Saturday October 2, 8am-12pm, in Nashua
Saturday August 7, 8am-12pm, in Nashua	Saturday November 7, 8am-12pm, in Nashua

2021 Total Participation

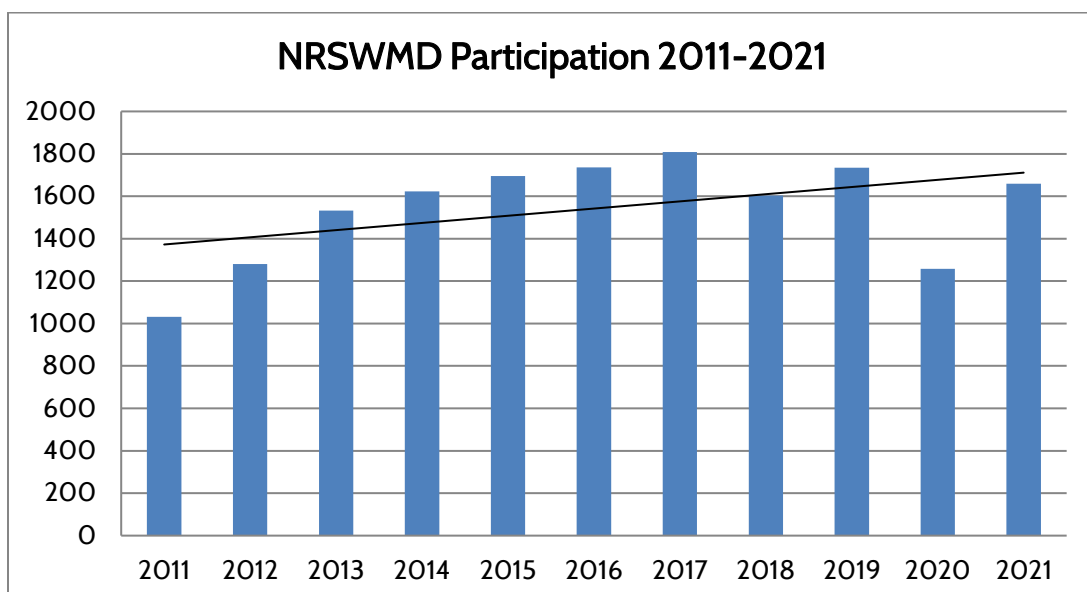
In 2021, a total of 1,659 households participated in the HHW collections District-wide. 49.9% of survey participants were first time attendees, 36.6% of participants reported attending every few years, and 13.6% Reported attending each year.



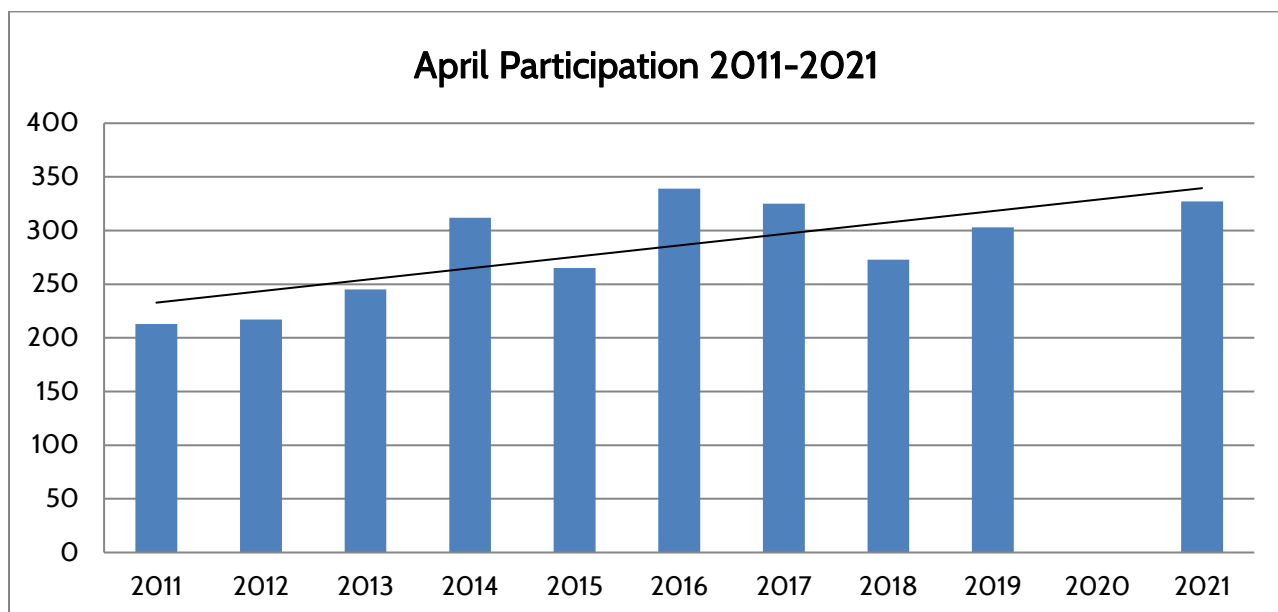
Historic Participation Trends

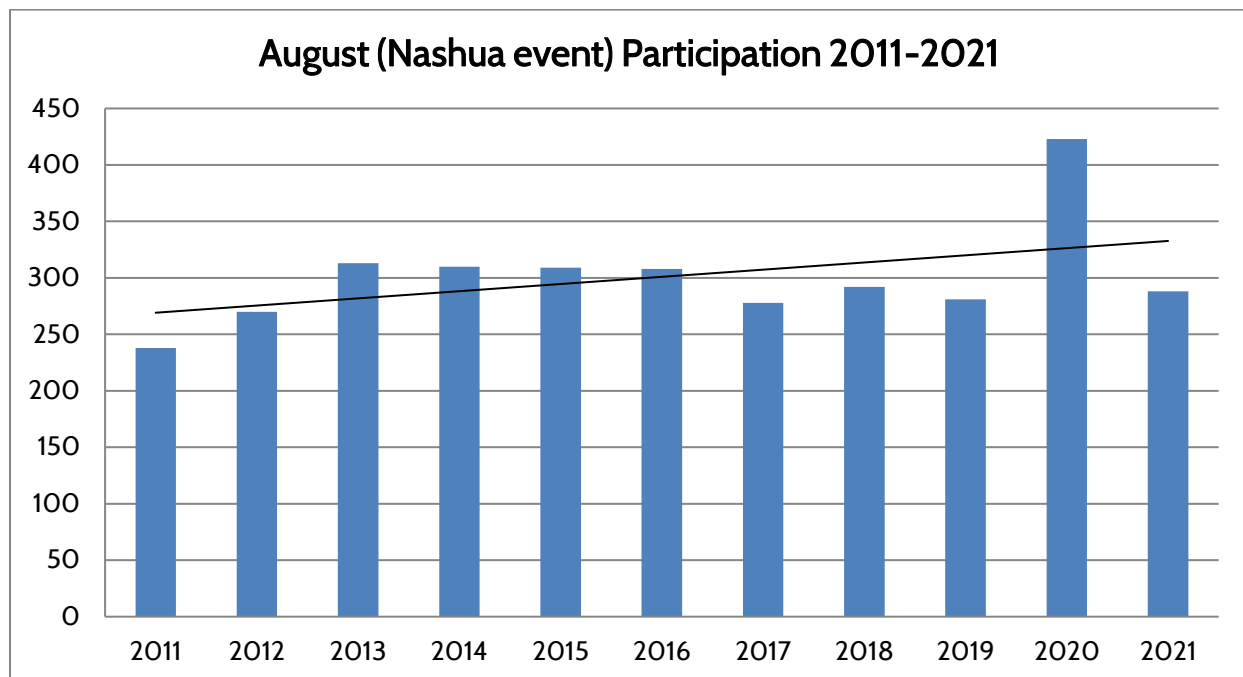
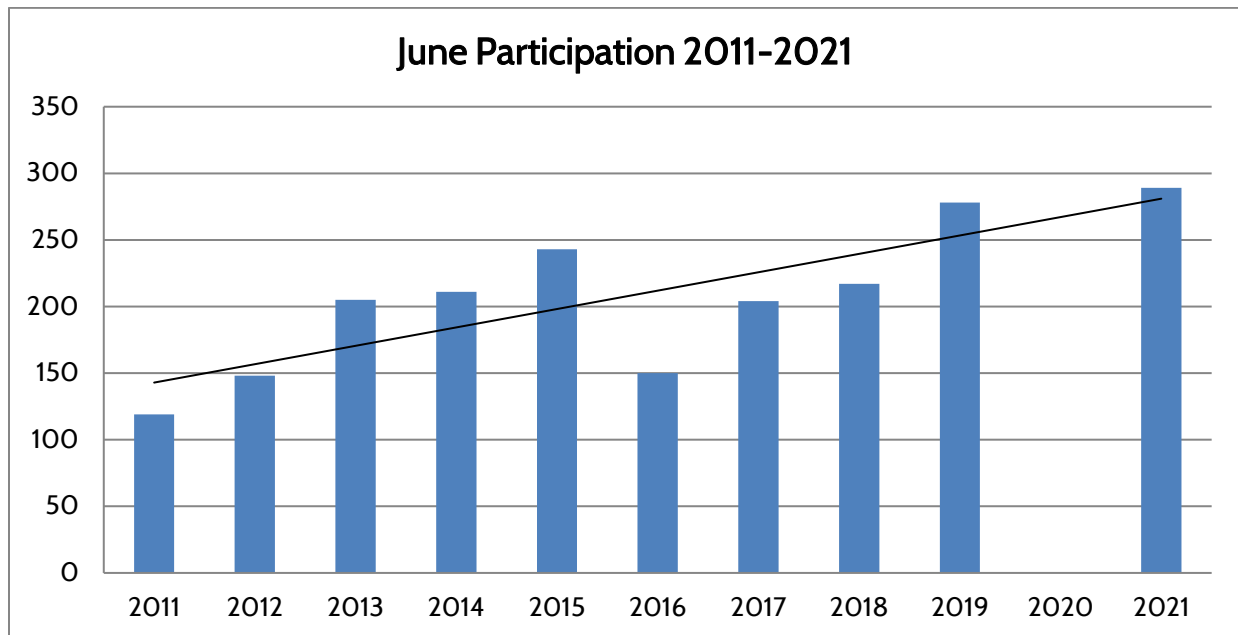
The Nashua Region Solid Waste Management District began charging a \$10 user fee per vehicle in 2008, which was raised for the first time to \$15 in the 2019 collection season. While participation rates have trended upward for the past, they were down slightly District-wide in 2019 and 2020 from the 2017 highs. That said, it is important to note that the District went from holding seven to six events starting in 2018, and the Covid-19 Pandemic has had a major impact on participation in 2020. The 2021 season has shown rebounding participation numbers despite the ongoing pandemic.

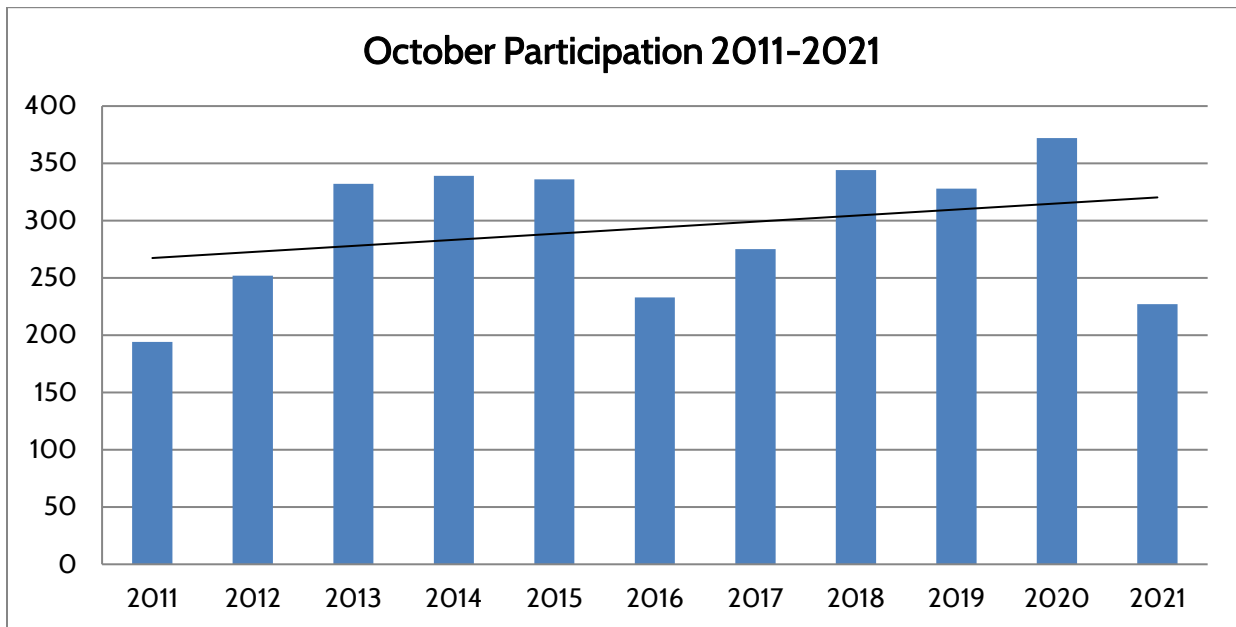
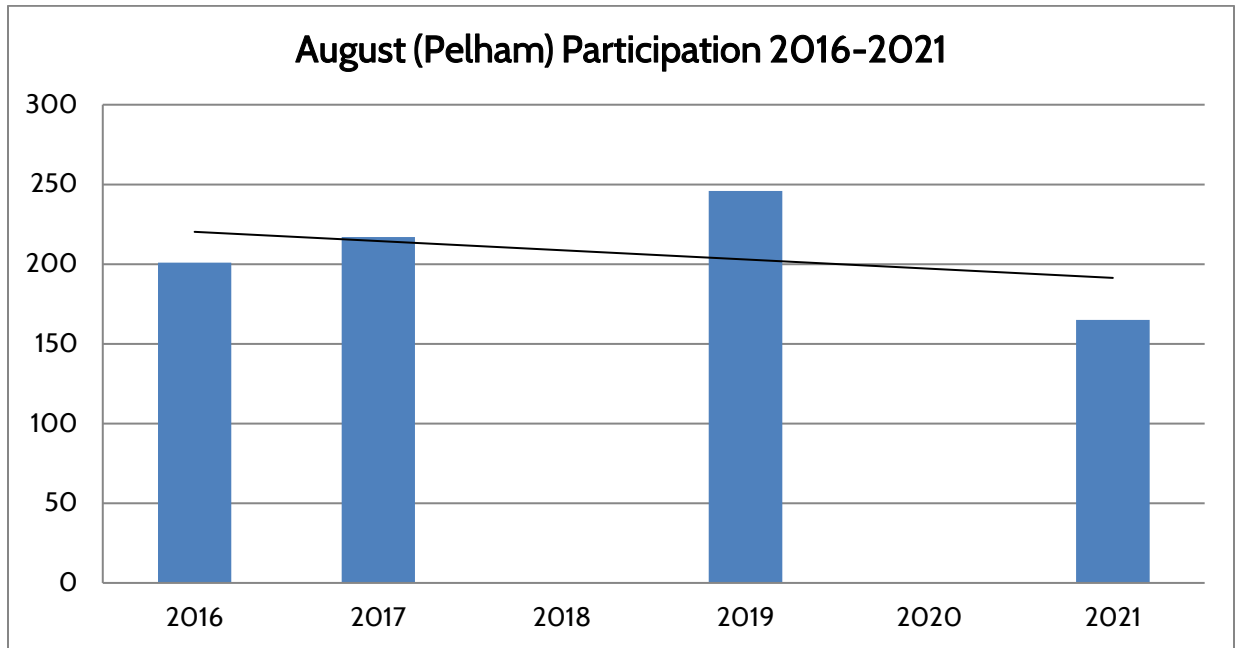
A Decade in a Glance

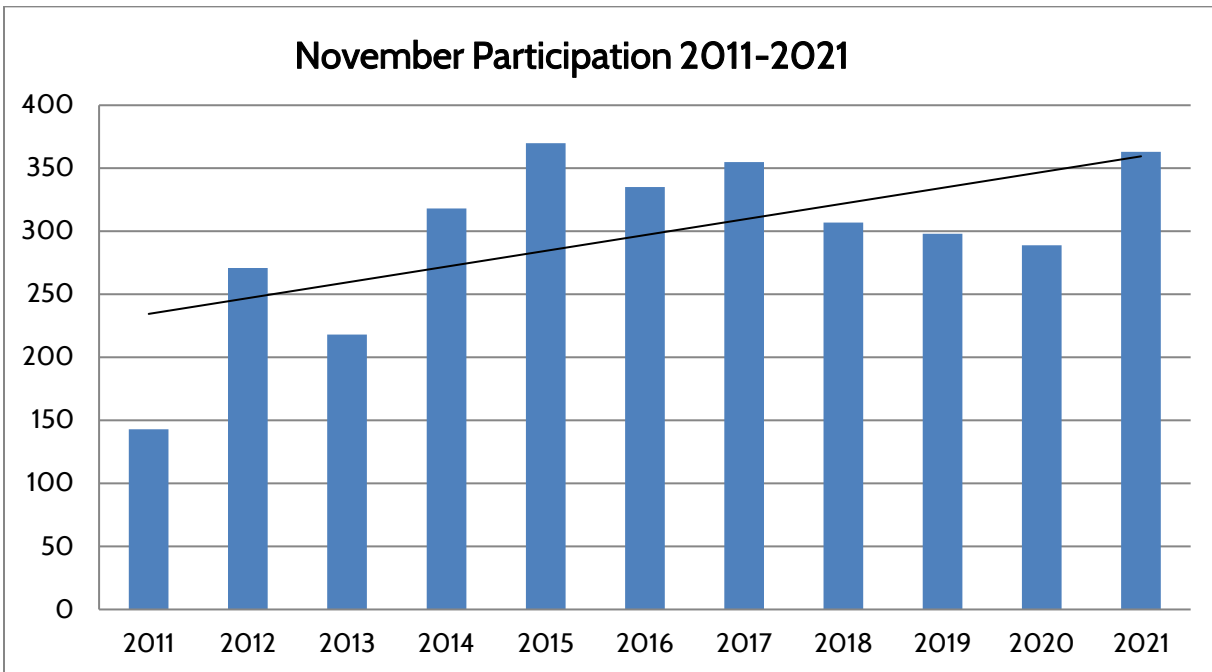


Year	April (Nashua)	May (Milford)	June (Nashua)	Aug. (Nashua)	Aug. (Pelham)	Oct. (Nashua)	Nov. (Nashua)	Total Households
2021	327	N/A	289	288	165	227	363	1659
2020	N/A	174 (August)	N/A	423	N/A	372	289	1,258
2019	303	N/A	278	281	246	328	298	1,734
2018	273	170	217	292	N/A	344	307	1,603
2017	326	153	204	278	217	275	355	1,808
2016	339	170	150	308	201	233	335	1,736
2015	265	173	243	309	N/A	336	370	1,696
2014	312	133	211	310	N/A	339	318	1,623
2013	245	219	205	313	N/A	332	218	1,532
2012	217	122	148	270	N/A	252	271	1,280
2011	213	125	119	238	N/A	194	143	1,032









Materials Collected

The Solid Waste District manifested a total of 134,244 pounds of waste during the 2021 collection season. Of this, 123,347 pounds were hazardous, and 10,897 pounds were universal wastes. This is an increase of 4,279 pounds from the 2020 total (129,965 total pounds of waste in 2020; 118,529 pounds hazardous and 11,436 pounds universal). Surprisingly the volume of waste for the year has kept pace with volumes in 2020, despite stay-at-home orders easing over the course of 2021.

Home sales in the region have continued to be very strong throughout 2021. The real estate market does tend to influence the volume of waste seen at HHW Events.

2021 Volume by Event (Pounds)			
Date	Haz	Non-Haz	Total
4/17	30,619	2,965	33,584
6/3	13,640	1,350	14,990
8/7	14,333	1,747	16,080
8/28*	14,906	742	15,648
10/2	22,260	2,908	25,168
11/6	27,589	1,185	28,774
2021 Totals	123,347	10,897	134,244

Conclusions

The 2021 has been another challenging year for the HHW Program. The ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic has continued to impact operations, while the volume of waste being handled through the collection program has continued to increase. The pandemic's impact on the supply chain has put pressure on our environmental contractor, already dealing with the uptick in waste. The proper disposal of household hazardous waste is enormously important as it lessens our impacts on the environment and the risks of accidental poisonings in the home. The success of the collections this season is a testament to the resilience and continued importance of the HHW Program. The dedication of our members and continued flexibility of our environmental contractor has been vital, thank you.

Recognitions

Sarah (Sally) O. Hyland retired from the City of Nashua and stepped down as the Chair of the District in August of 2021. Hyland served the city for 32 years as Recycling Coordinator, and during that time acted as a driving force behind the HHW Collection Program. A true champion for recycling and the environment, Hyland's dedication to her work will be greatly missed. The Nashua Region Solid Waste Management District extends its sincerest thanks to its long-time chair and wish her all the best in her much deserved retirement.