

## Introduction

This report highlights overall participation in the Nashua Region Solid Waste Management District's (NRSWMD) Household Hazardous Waste Program. This program is funded by municipal assessments, user fees, and a grant received by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission from the NH Department of Environmental Services. The following tables and figures reflect data from waste collection events held during 2023.

This year the district continued using iPads to collect survey data, refined some of the survey questions, and began asking residents why they chose to attend the event. The Pelham event moved to a new location at the Pelham Highway Department, next to the Pelham Transfer Station. The April, June, and August Nashua events were held at 25 Crown Street. The October and November Nashua events returned to 9 Stadium Drive, which were the first events held there since 2019. This was the final year of a three-year contract with Veolia.

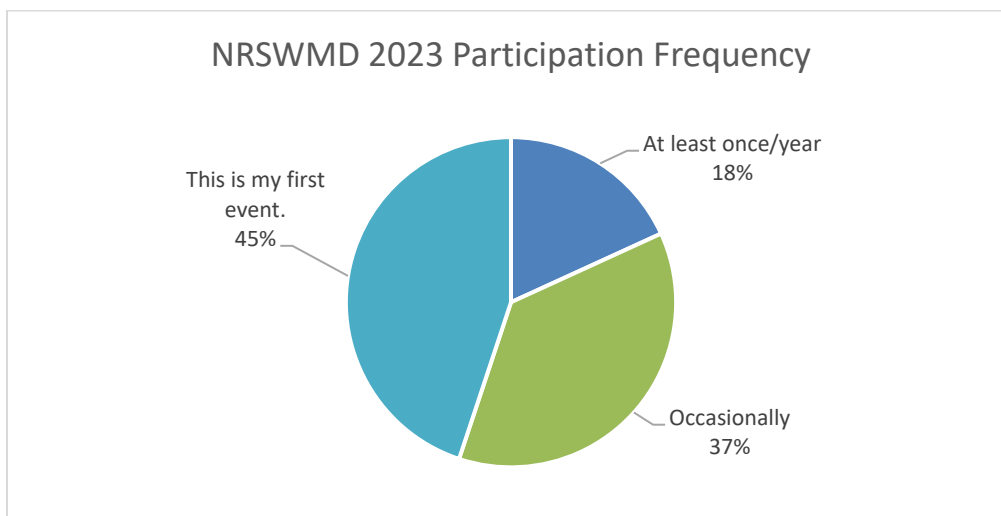
## Collection Overview

Six events were held during 2023: five in Nashua and one satellite event in Pelham. Residents from any of the eleven NRSWMD member municipalities could participate in any event. In even-numbered years, the satellite event is typically held in Milford.

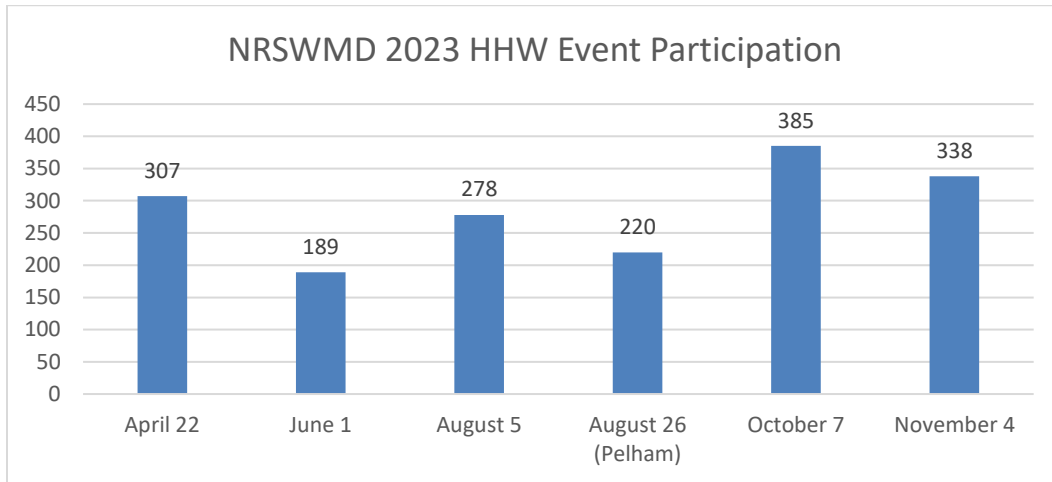
|                                                    |                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday April 22, 8am-12pm, in Nashua             | Saturday August 26, 8am-12pm, in <b>Pelham</b> |
| <b>Thursday</b> June 1, <b>3pm-7pm</b> , in Nashua | Saturday October 7, 8am-12pm, in Nashua        |
| Saturday August 5, 8am-12pm, in Nashua             | Saturday November 4, 8am-12pm, in Nashua       |

## Participation

In 2023, a total of 1,717 households participated in the HHW collections. As pictured in the pie chart below, 37% of the participants indicated attending HHW collections occasionally, 45% reported attending for their first time, and 18% reported attending at least one event every year.

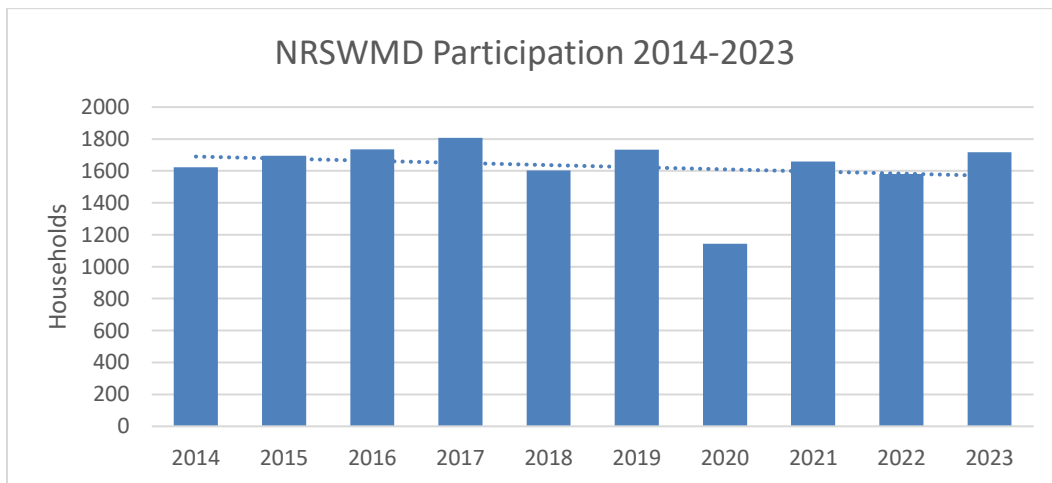


The most popular event in 2023 was the October 7 Nashua event, with 385 households participating, as shown in the bar chart below. That event, at 9 Stadium Drive, may have been so well attended because of extra efforts to advertise the last-minute location change.



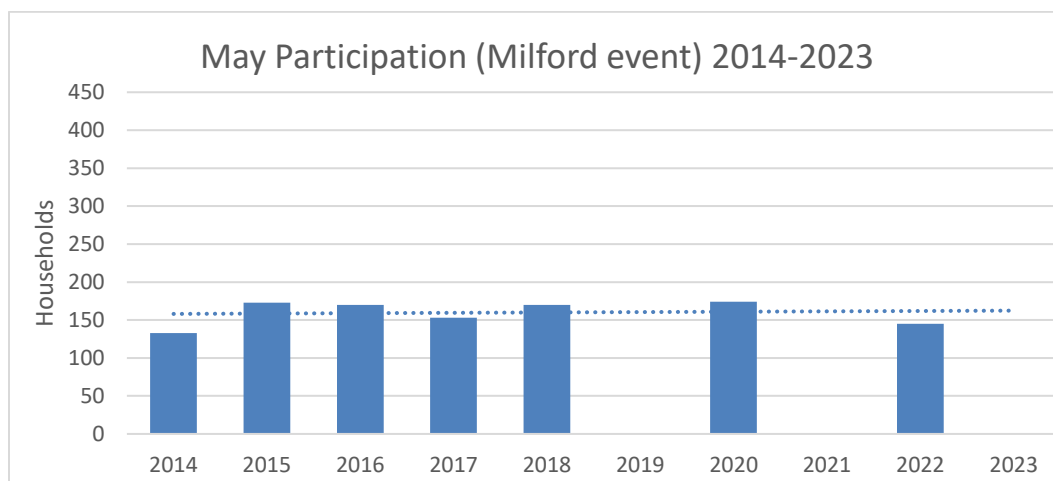
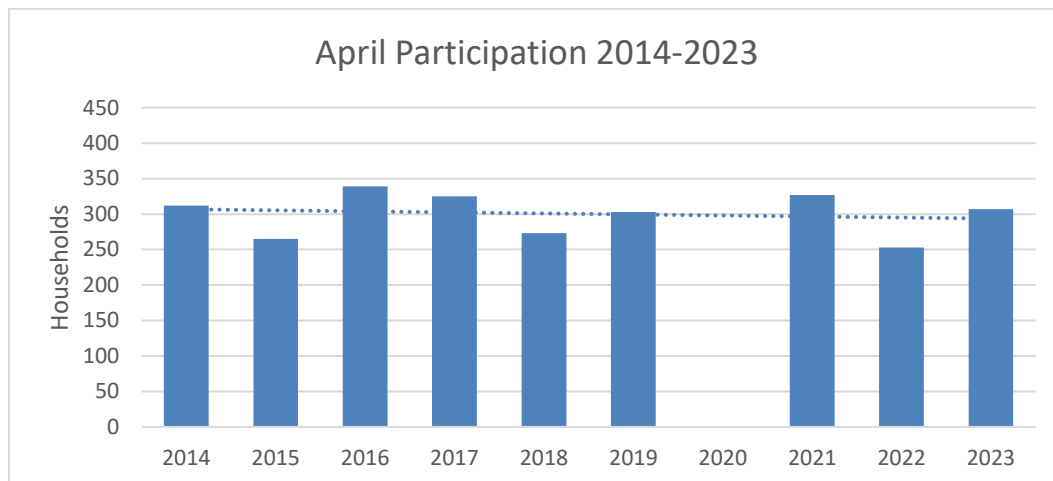
## Historic Participation Trends

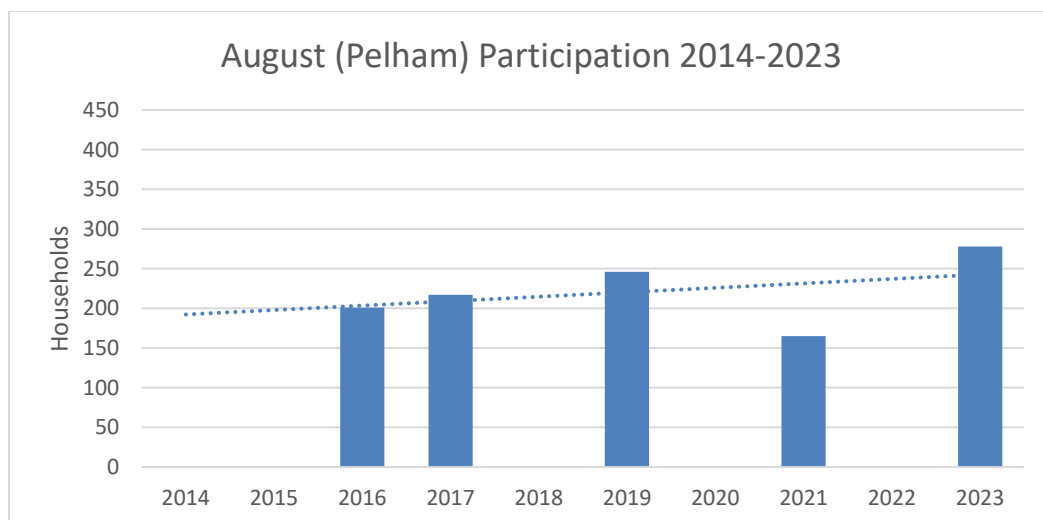
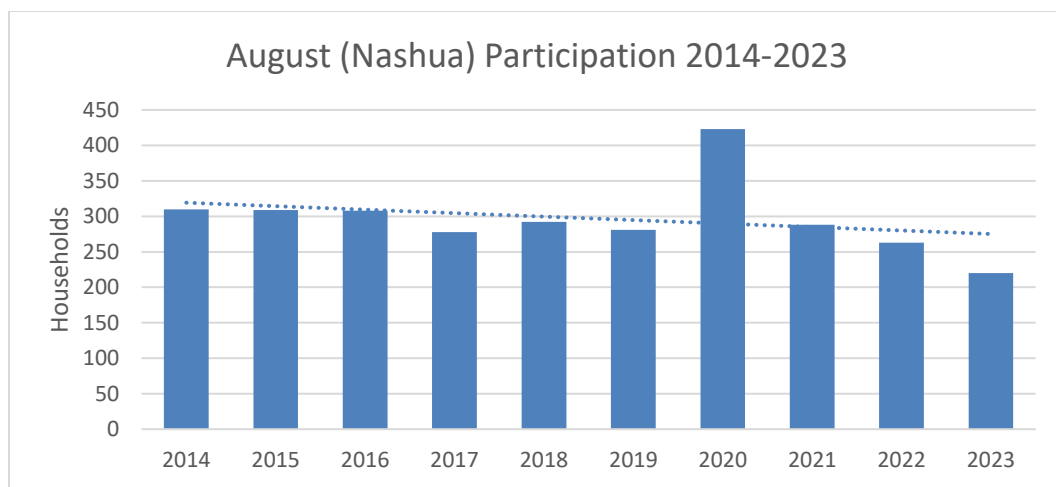
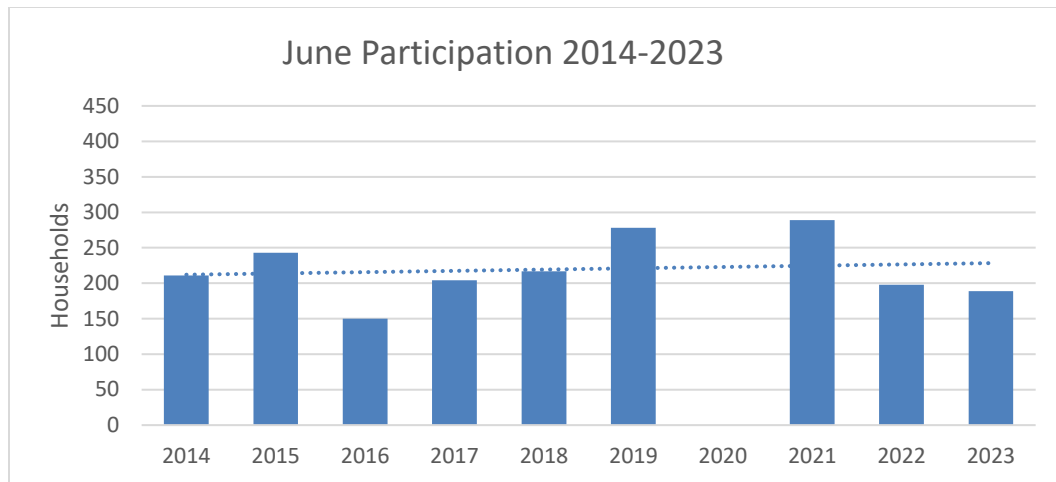
NRSWMD began charging a \$10 user fee per vehicle in 2008, which was raised to \$15 in 2019. While participation rates trended consistently upward between 2014 and 2017, they have fluctuated up and down since 2018. The district held seven events in 2016 and 2017, and only four events in 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The last three years have shown participation rates similar to pre-2020 years, although waste volumes have continued to increase.

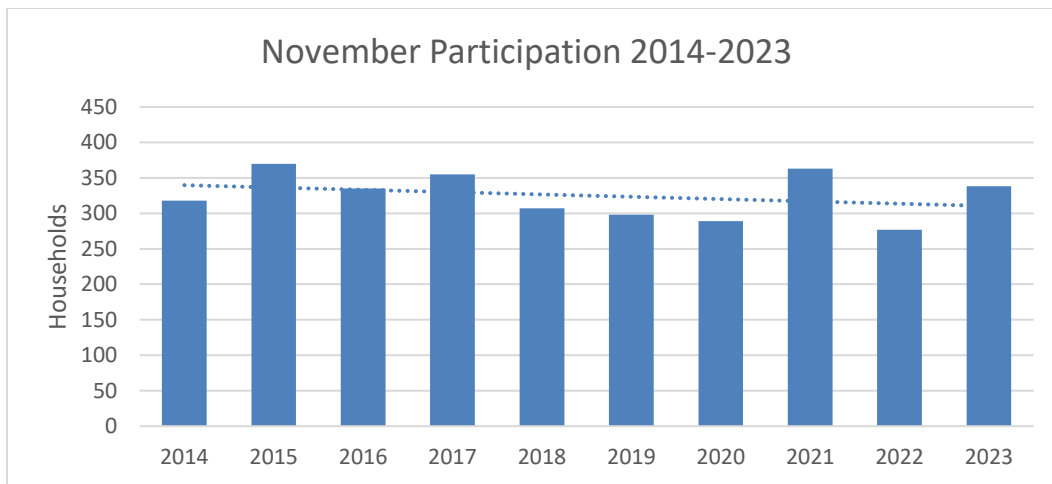
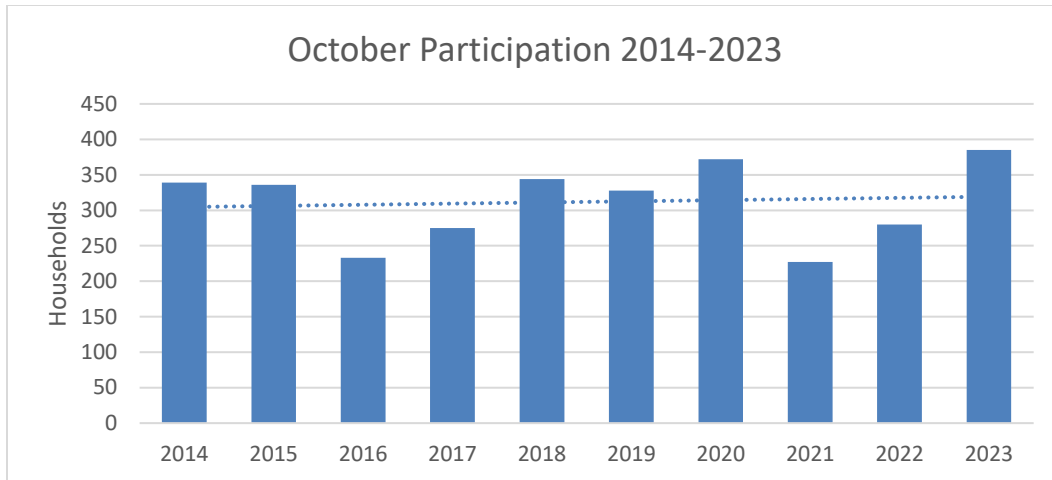


| Year        | April<br>(Nashua) | May<br>(Milford) | June<br>(Nashua) | Aug.<br>(Nashua) | Aug.<br>(Pelham) | Oct.<br>(Nashua) | Nov.<br>(Nashua) | Total<br>Households |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>2023</b> | 307               | N/A              | 189              | 278              | 220              | 385              | 338              | <b>1,717</b>        |
| <b>2022</b> | 253               | 145              | 198              | 263              | N/A              | 280              | 277              | <b>1,416</b>        |
| <b>2021</b> | 327               | N/A              | 289              | 288              | 165              | 227              | 363              | <b>1,659</b>        |
| <b>2020</b> | N/A               | (Aug) 174        | N/A              | 423              | N/A              | 372              | 289              | <b>1,258</b>        |
| <b>2019</b> | 303               | N/A              | 278              | 281              | 246              | 328              | 298              | <b>1,734</b>        |
| <b>2018</b> | 273               | 170              | 217              | 292              | N/A              | 344              | 307              | <b>1,603</b>        |
| <b>2017</b> | 326               | 153              | 204              | 278              | 217              | 275              | 355              | <b>1,808</b>        |
| <b>2016</b> | 339               | 170              | 150              | 308              | 201              | 233              | 335              | <b>1,736</b>        |
| <b>2015</b> | 265               | 173              | 243              | 309              | N/A              | 336              | 370              | <b>1,696</b>        |
| <b>2014</b> | 312               | 133              | 211              | 310              | N/A              | 339              | 318              | <b>1,623</b>        |

Attendance at each event tends to fluctuate from year to year, as seen in the table above and charts below. In 2020, two events were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Milford satellite event was postponed from May until August.

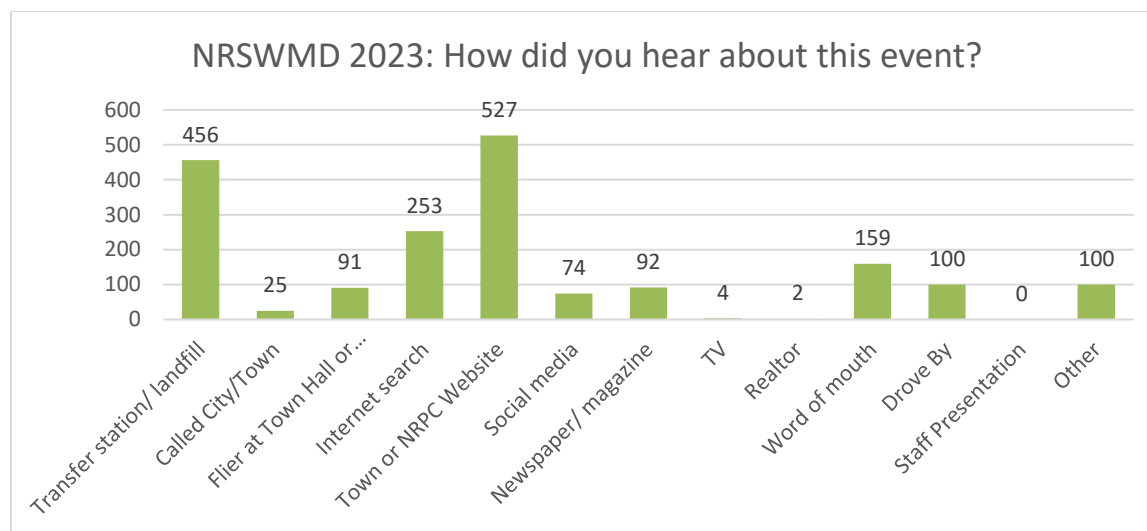






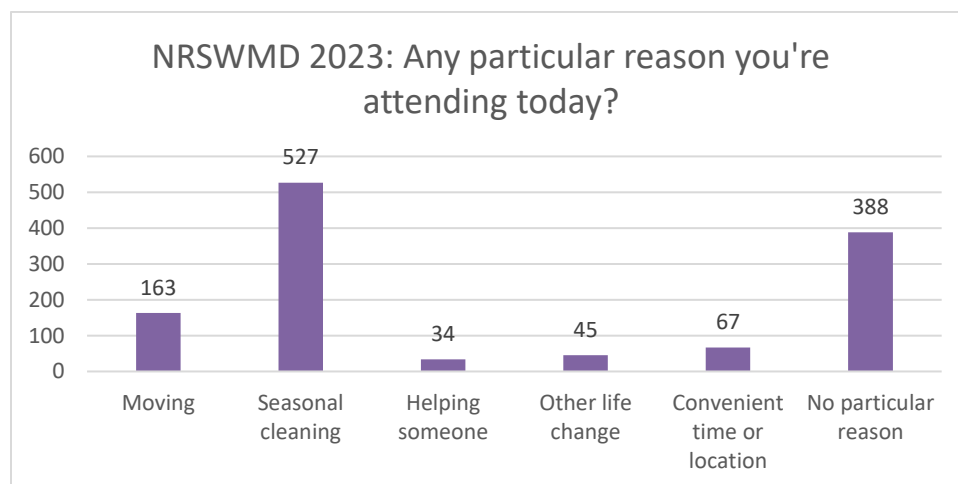
## Marketing & Outreach

By tracking how participants learn about HHW events, the district can better target its marketing and outreach. In 2023, most participants learned about the collection events from either their municipality's website or the NRPC website (527 vehicles) or their local transfer station (456). Many learned about the event by using an internet search (253), or by word of mouth (159).



## Why did you choose to attend today?

In 2023, the district began asking participants why they chose to attend that day's event. More than 500 attendees said it was because of spring or fall cleaning, while many attended because they were moving.

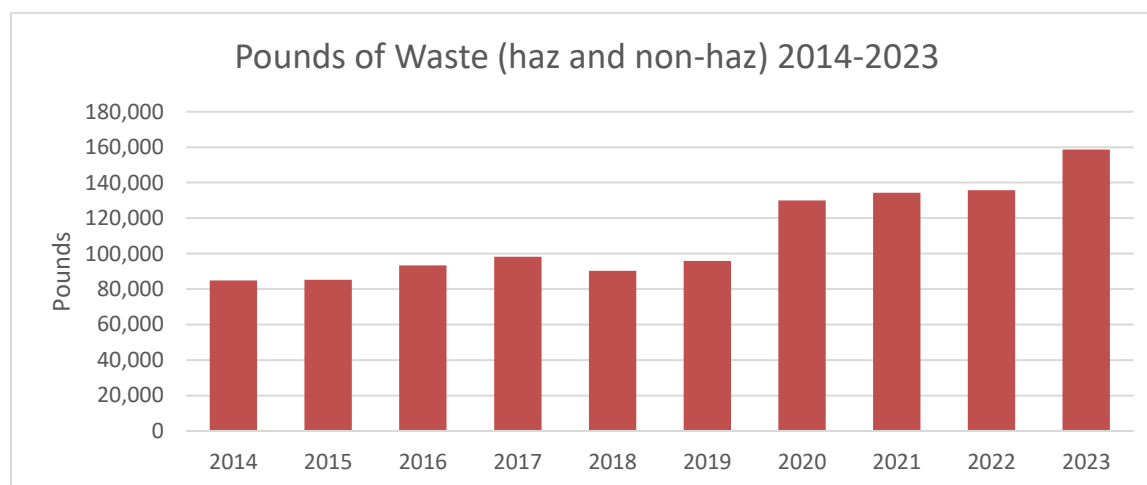


## Materials Collected

The district manifested a total of 158,598 pounds of waste during the 2023 collection season. Of this, 141,278 pounds were hazardous, and 17,320 pounds were universal wastes. This is an increase of 22,862 pounds from the 2022 total (135,736 total pounds of waste in 2022: 121,857 pounds hazardous and 13,879 pounds universal).

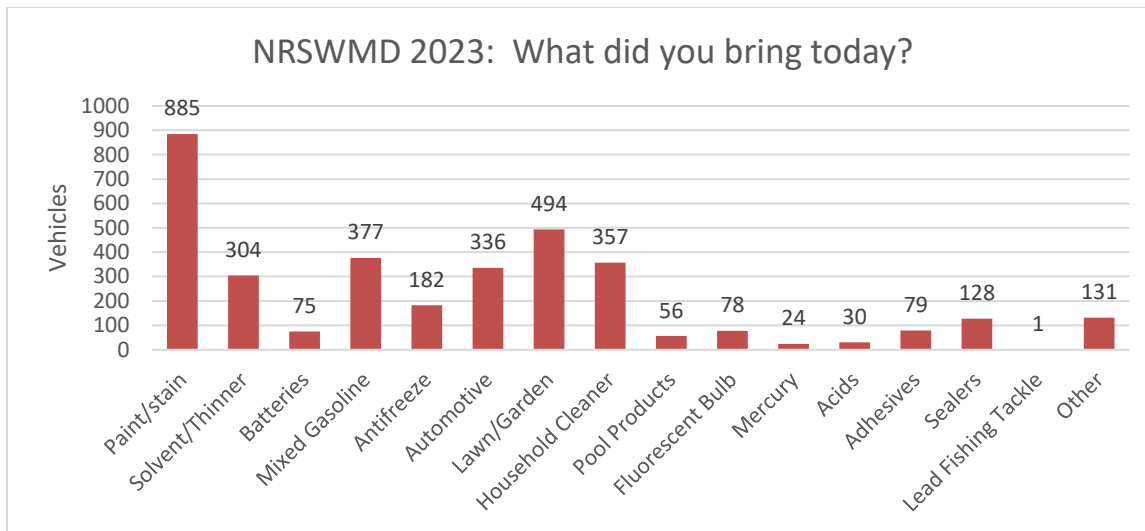
| 2023 Volume by Event (Pounds) |                |               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Date                          | Haz            | Non-Haz       | Total          |
| 4/22                          | 23,944         | 4,489         | 28,433         |
| 6/1                           | 13,475         | 2,415         | 15,890         |
| 8/5                           | 34,926         | 2,505         | 37,431         |
| 8/26                          | 23,583         | 1,390         | 24,973         |
| 10/7                          | 26,811         | 4,445         | 31,256         |
| 11/4                          | 18,539         | 2,076         | 20,615         |
| <b>2023 Totals</b>            | <b>141,278</b> | <b>17,320</b> | <b>158,598</b> |

The volume of waste has been increasing since 2020, as seen in the chart below:



Participant surveys provide more detailed information on the types of waste being collected from each community. The types of waste collected in 2023, as reported on participant surveys, are shown in the figure below.

Participants reported paint/stain (885 vehicles), lawn/garden (494 vehicles), and mixed gasoline (377 vehicles) as the three most common types of waste.



## Conclusions

Total event attendance and volume of waste both increased since last year. Changing locations in Pelham and Nashua attracted more participants. Labor shortages, rising costs, and waste stream delays have put pressure on our communities and environmental contractor. The proper disposal of household hazardous waste is enormously important as it decreases our impact on the environment and the risks of accidental poisonings in the home. The dedication of our members and professional expertise of our environmental contractor have been vital to the success of this program: Thank you.