

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 2025.

This was the second year working with Tradebe Environmental. Collection events in Nashua moved back to 25 Crown Street due to traffic conflicts at Stadium Drive. We updated our schedule to hold four collection events in Nashua and two satellite events: one in Milford and one in Pelham. In past years, we held five events in Nashua and one satellite event. Hosting both satellite collection events every year will provide a more predictable schedule for residents and the same number of events each fiscal year.

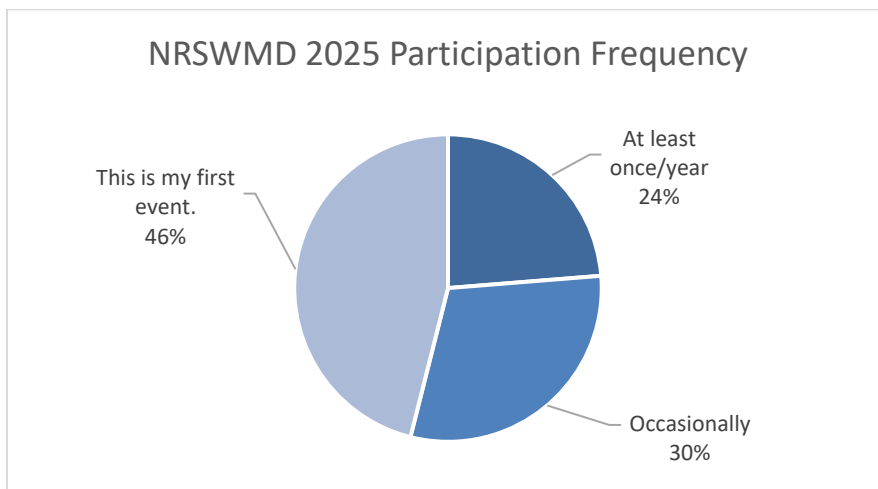
Collection Overview

Six events were held during 2025: four in Nashua, one satellite event in Milford, and one satellite event in Pelham. Residents from any of the eleven NRSWMD member municipalities could participate in any event.

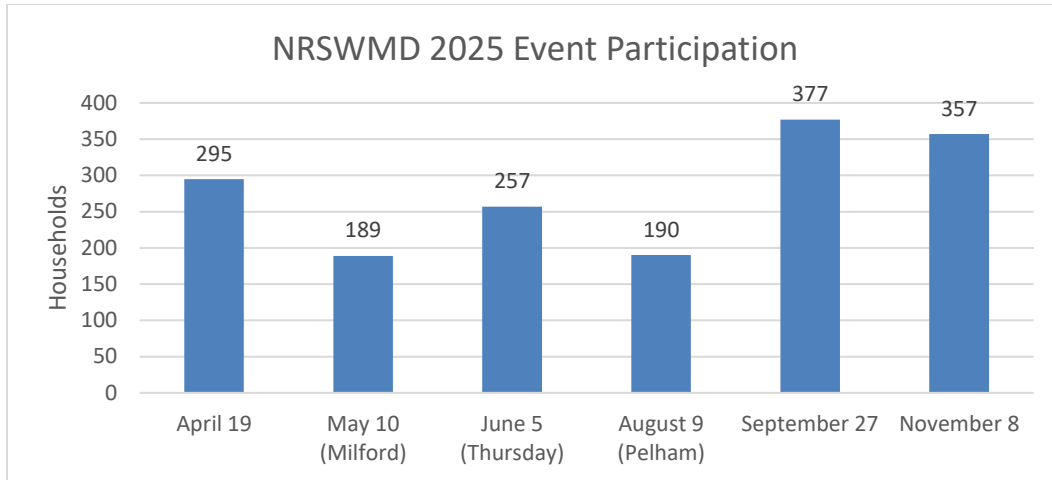
Saturday April 19, 8am-12pm, in Nashua	Saturday August 9, 8am-12pm, in Pelham
Saturday May 10, 8am-12pm, in Milford	Saturday September 27, 8am-12pm, in Nashua
Thursday June 5, 3pm-7pm , in Nashua	Saturday November 8, 8am-12pm, in Nashua

Participation

In 2025, a total of 1,665 households participated in the HHW collections. As pictured in the pie chart below, 30% of the participants indicated attending HHW collections occasionally, 46% reported attending for their first time, and 24% reported attending at least one event every year.



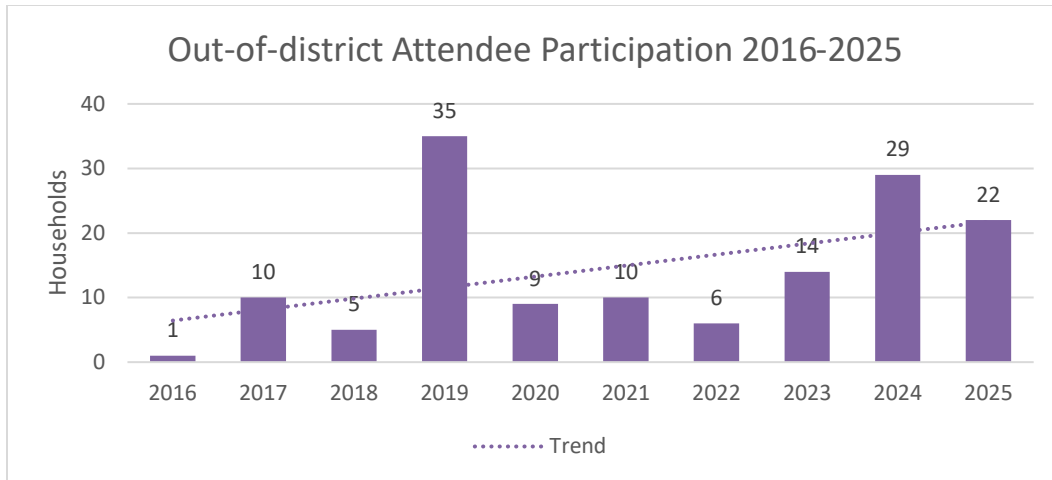
The most popular event in 2025 was the September 27 Nashua event, with 377 households participating, as shown in the bar chart below.



Participation by community largely reflected the size of each community. Nashua residents utilized the events at lower rates than we would expect based on their share of the population, while Amherst, Hollis, and Windham residents utilized the events at a slightly higher rate than we would expect, as seen in the table below. There were 22 households from communities that are not members of the NRSWMD, which accounted for 1.3% of participants.

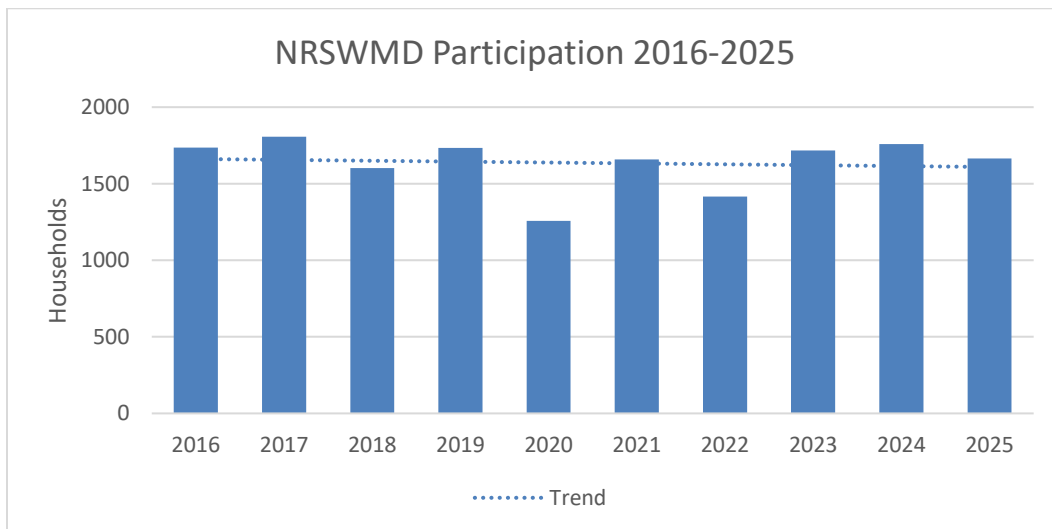
Town	Households Participating	% of NRSWMD Participation	% of Regional Population	Difference
Amherst	136	8.2%	5.1%	3.1%
Brookline	37	2.2%	2.5%	-0.3%
Hollis	113	6.8%	3.7%	3.1%
Hudson	170	10.2%	11.1%	-0.9%
Litchfield	53	3.2%	3.7%	-0.5%
Merrimack	213	12.8%	12.5%	0.3%
Milford	118	7.1%	7.1%	0.0%
Mont Vernon	28	1.7%	1.1%	0.5%
Nashua	523	31.4%	39.8%	-8.4%
Pelham	110	6.6%	6.3%	0.3%
Windham	142	8.5%	7.0%	1.6%
Out of District	22	1.3%	n/a	n/a

Participation by out-of-district households has approximately doubled in recent years, as seen in the chart below. While 2019 shows 35 out-of-district households, an unusually high number, it may be artificially high because it includes 21 surveys where the town was left blank.



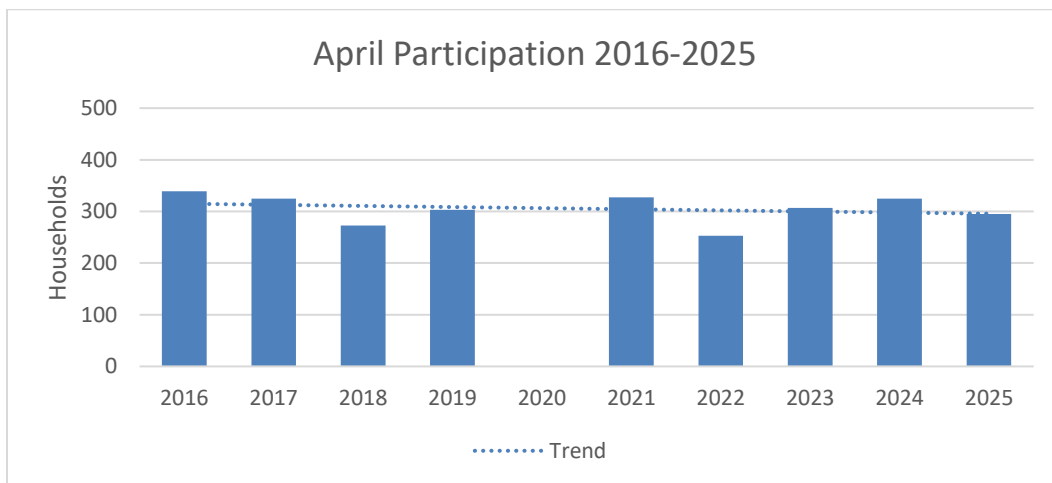
Historic Participation Trends

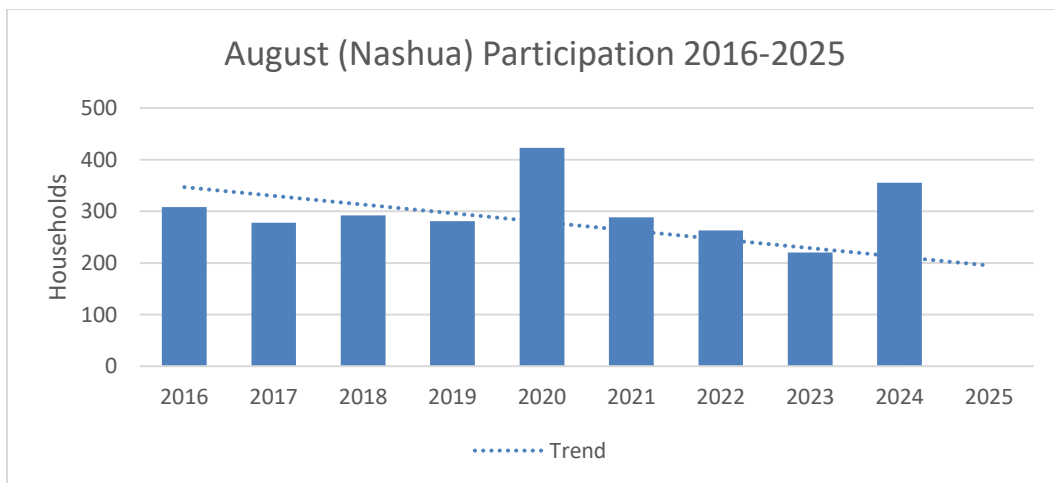
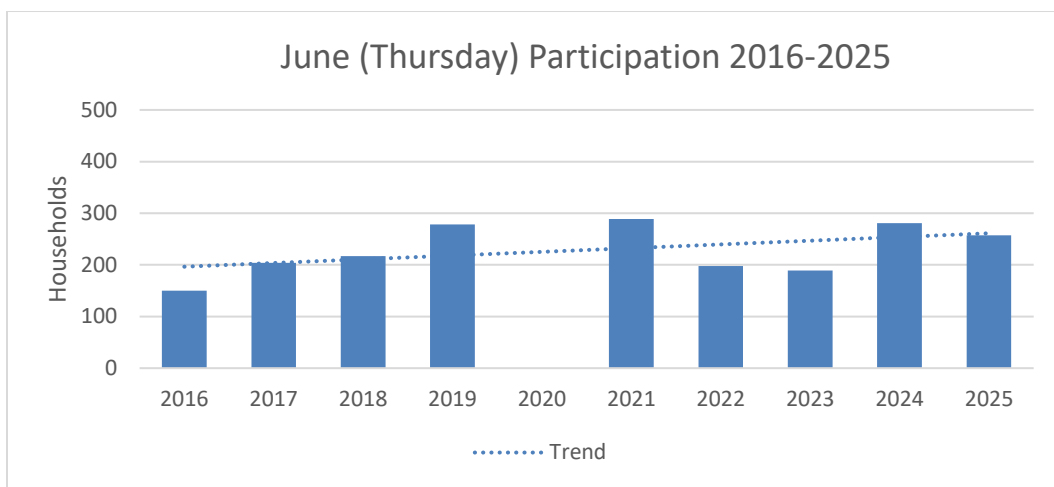
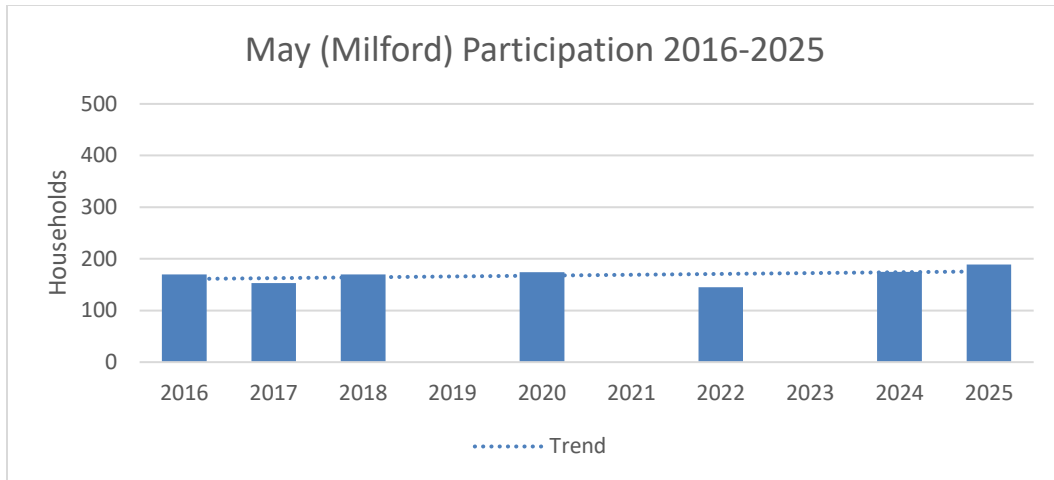
NRSWMD began charging a \$10 user fee per vehicle in 2008, \$15 per vehicle in 2019, and \$20 per vehicle in 2025. Participation rates fluctuate from year to year, often related to the number of collection events. The district held seven events in 2016 and 2017, only four events in 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, and six events each year from 2021 to 2025.

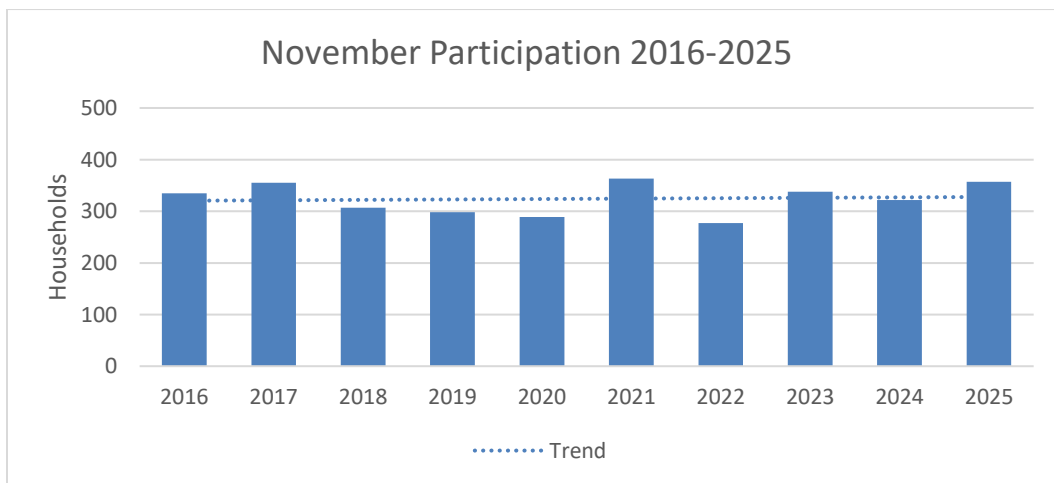
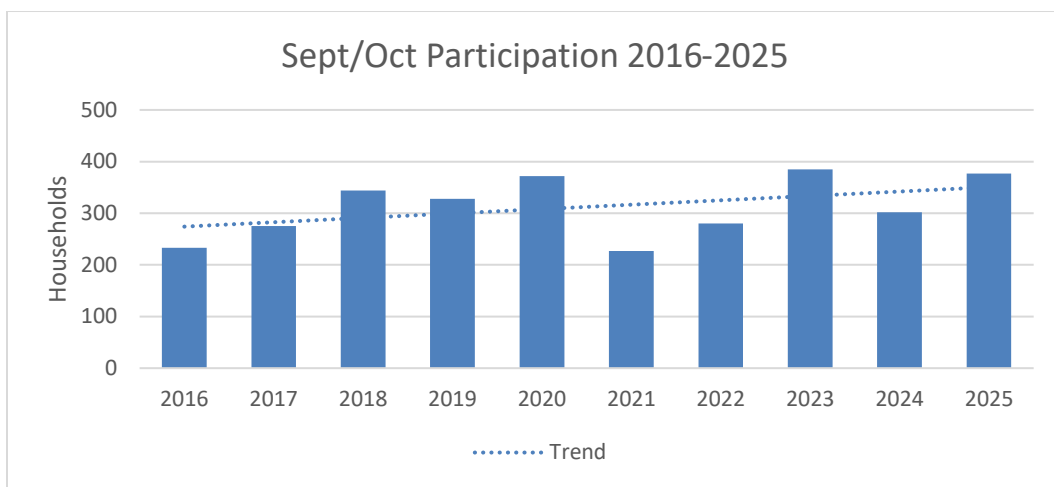
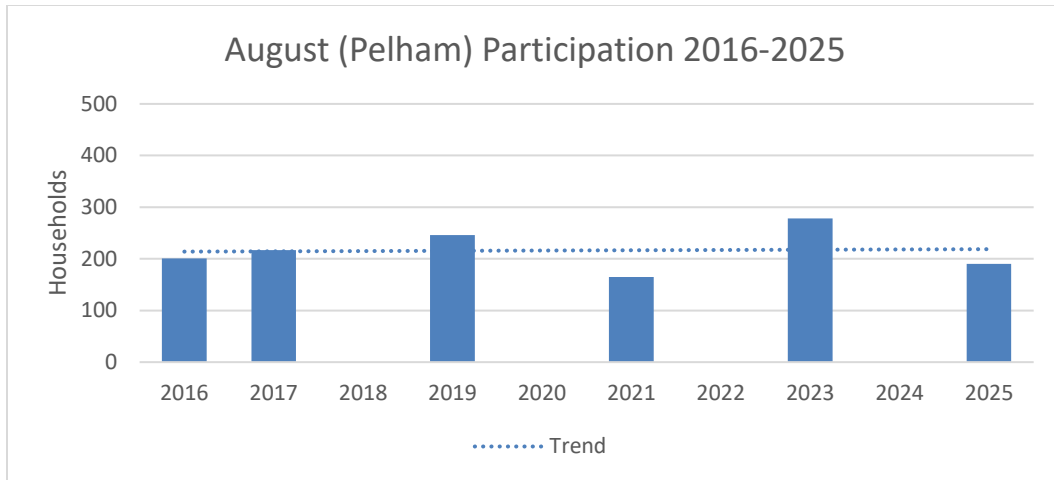


Year	April (Nashua)	May (Milford)	June (Nashua)	Aug. (Nashua)	Aug. (Pelham)	Sept/Oct. (Nashua)	Nov. (Nashua)	Total Households
2025	295	189	257	N/A	190	377	357	1,665
2024	325	175	281	355	N/A	302	322	1,760
2023	307	N/A	189	278	220	385	338	1,717
2022	253	145	198	263	N/A	280	277	1,416
2021	327	N/A	289	288	165	227	363	1,659
2020	N/A	(Aug) 174	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

Participation was about 100 households lower this year than in 2024, likely because the satellite events tend to attract fewer households than the Nashua events. Replacing one Nashua event with a satellite event means two smaller events in a year. However, if both satellite events are predictably offered every year, they may begin to attract more households. Participation by event is shown in the charts below.



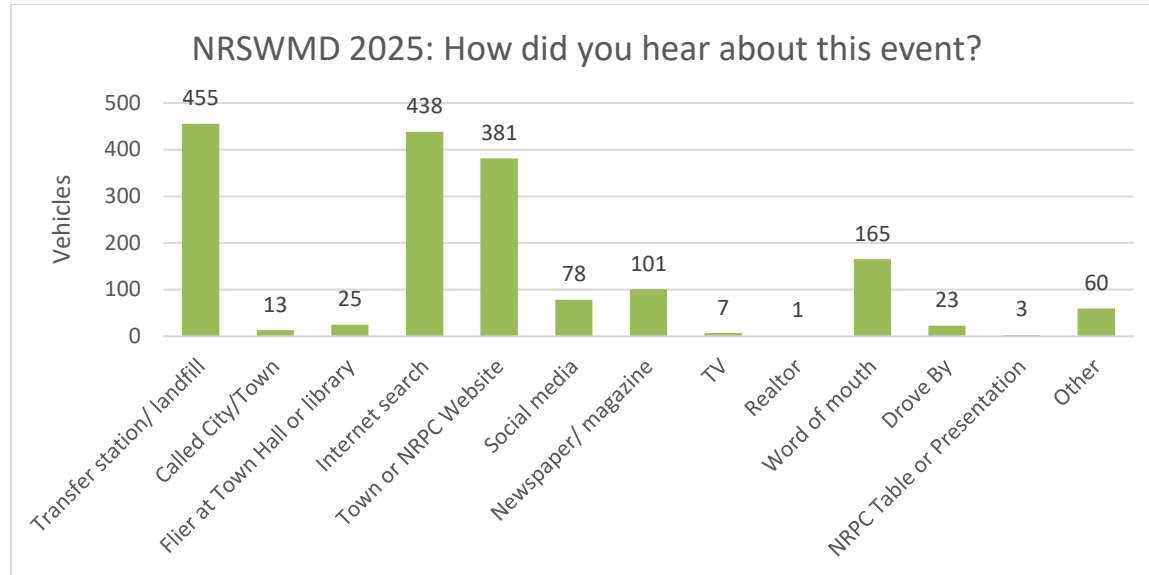




Marketing & Outreach

By tracking how participants learn about HHW events, we can better target marketing and outreach. In 2025, most participants learned about the collection events from either their local transfer station (455

vehicles) or an internet search (438). Many learned about the event through their town's website or the NRPC website (381), or by word of mouth (165).

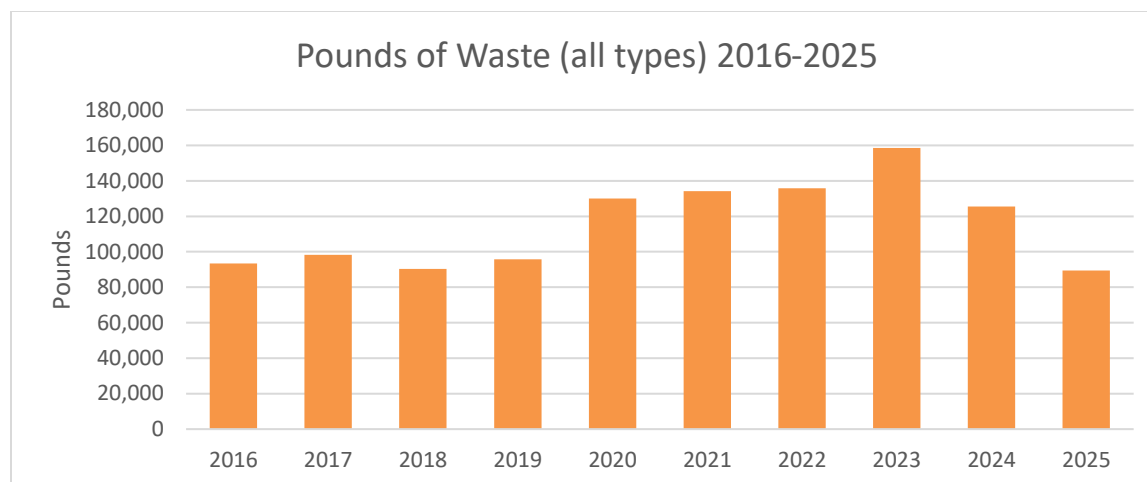


Materials Collected

The district manifested a total of 89,402 pounds of waste during the 2025 collection season. Of this, 75,443 pounds were hazardous, and 13,959 pounds were non-hazardous. Total waste decreased 36,072 pounds from last year.

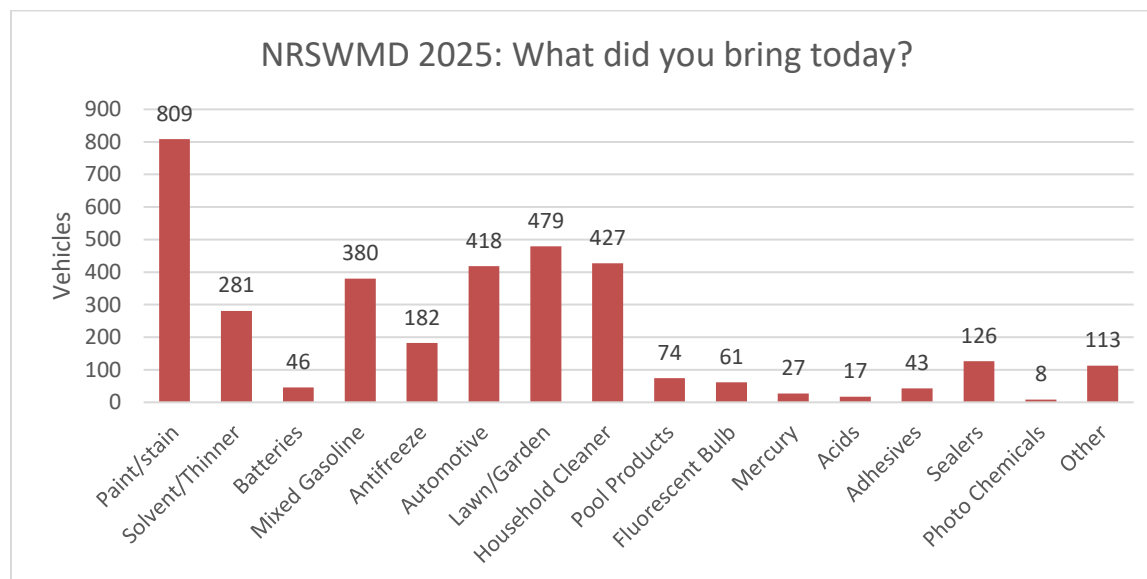
2025 Volume by Event (Pounds)			
Date	Haz	Non-Haz	Total
4/19	12,070	2,200	14,270
5/10	8,503	2,450	10,953
6/5	11,378	2,005	13,383
8/9	13,645	2,500	16,145
9/27	15,724	2,400	18,147
11/8	14,123	2,404	16,527
Totals	75,443	13,959	89,402

The volumes of waste from the last ten years can be 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 2025, as reported on participant surveys, are shown in the figure below.

Participants reported paint/stain (809 vehicles), lawn/garden (479 vehicles), and household cleaner (427 vehicles) as the three most common types of waste. These were also the top three types of waste last year.



Conclusions

Total event attendance and the amount of waste decreased from last year, likely due to switching to two satellite collection events and four Nashua collection events. Rising disposal costs continue to 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 poisoning 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.