



Small Quantity Generators (SQG)

City of Tacoma | Environmental Services

Government Performance and Finance Committee

November 4, 2025

ITEM #



1

OVERVIEW



▲ Problem: Small Quantity Generators (SQGs) do not have a financially viable and environmentally responsible option to dispose of hazardous material. Currently, the City of Tacoma only accepts specific types of residential hazardous waste, not commercial. ^{PS0}

✂ Proposal: Update the Municipal Code to collect and charge for commercial hazardous material and items not currently accepted from residents. ^{PS1}

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Slide 2

PS0 Added this
Pettit, Shane, 2025-10-10T18:04:51.662

PS1 Added this
Pettit, Shane, 2025-10-10T18:05:09.240

WHAT IS AN SQG?



Small Quantity Generators (SQGs) are businesses which produce small amounts of hazardous material.

If left unattended or improperly disposed of, the materials pose risks to health and safety.



Open containers of dangerous waste.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Solvents | Fertilizers |
| Paints and thinners | Pesticides |
| Adhesives | Light bulbs |
| Oil | Batteries |
| Antifreeze | Shop towels with solvents |
| Disinfectants | And many more |

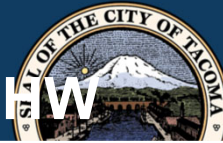
PS0

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PS1

RESIDENTIAL ITEMS AT HHW



There are materials that are not currently accepted from residents at the Tacoma Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility due to regulatory handling requirements and increased costs.

If left unattended or improperly disposed of, the materials pose risks to health and safety.

- **Marine flares**
- **Ammunition**
- **Nitrous oxide cylinders**
- **Vape pens**



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Slide 3

PS0 Can we recreate this list to remove the asterisks? Otherwise it begs the question of what do they mean.

Pettit, Shane, 2025-10-10T18:06:43.897

Slide 4

PS0 Can we create a similar list that says things like: ammunition, marine flares, vape pens, nitrous oxide cylinders (whip it cans)

Pettit, Shane, 2025-10-10T18:20:19.362

PS1 Can you put a picture these residentials, especially the whip it cans and marine flares, maybe ammunition too.

Pettit, Shane, 2025-10-10T18:22:08.102

BACKGROUND



- Private vendors no longer offer affordable quarterly events to collect hazardous materials from SQGs.
- Tacoma's HHW Facility does not accept hazardous waste from small businesses due to operational ^{PS0} and regulatory constraints.
- The Health Department has requested the expansion ^{PS1} of commercial services to SQGs to address this gap.
- There are materials not currently accepted at the HHW Facility ^{PS2} for which residents do not have viable options for disposal.

5

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PROPOSED REVISIONS



- **Add City Code Chapter 12.09.190.N- Dangerous/Hazardous Waste Pilot Projects**

N. The Director may implement pilot projects from time to time to evaluate more efficient and safe acceptance or collection methods for dangerous/hazardous waste from SQGs and residents at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility or other designated facilities, to best address pollution prevention and public health threats. Consistent with TMC 12.09.020.B, the Director will establish pilot project requirements including, but not limited to: determining what dangerous/hazardous waste will be accepted or prohibited in the pilot project, where the materials will be accepted, the charges to recover the costs consistent with TMC 12.09.140.7, and payment procedures

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Slide 5

PS0 Added this

Pettit, Shane, 2025-10-10T18:07:12.697

PS1 Added this

Pettit, Shane, 2025-10-10T18:07:34.277

PS2 Removed Pierce County. The want it to, but that is a later phase
and they are not our regulatory entity.

Pettit, Shane, 2025-10-10T18:12:28.219

PS3 Added this

Pettit, Shane, 2025-10-10T18:23:35.277



PROPOSED REVISIONS



- **Add City Code Chapter 12.09.140.7 - Cost recovery for dangerous/hazardous waste pilot projects**

7. The Director is authorized to establish charges to recover the costs for the acceptance of dangerous/hazardous waste materials from SQGs and residents under dangerous/hazardous waste pilot projects under TMC 12.09.190.N. The Director shall establish the charges in accordance with the following:

- The charges shall reflect the reasonable cost of service, recognizing continual changes in the costs of disposal of dangerous/hazardous materials, evolving regulatory requirements, and changes to the types of materials and locations accepted.
- The charges shall include cost items related to the service including, but not limited to, labor and benefits, equipment, maintenance and operations of equipment and containers, processing fees, direct and indirect overhead charges, and other related costs.
- The Director may adjust the charges up to four times per year.
- Solid Waste Management shall make the charges publicly available for 30 days prior to their effective dates.

7

7



NEXT STEPS



- Council Committee Review – November 4, 2025
- City Council Consideration – December 2025
- Ordinance Effective Date – January 2026

8

8



RECOMMENDATIONS



- Staff recommends the GPFC Committee forward the following to City Council for consideration and approval

9

9



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10