



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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1,500+ households participated in hazardous waste collection at Brookfield Zoo



Commissioner Frank Avila hands out literature.

More than 1,500 households delivered electronics, household cleaning products, antifreeze, weed killers and other types of hazardous waste products during a special collection held last month at the Brookfield Zoo. The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) partnered with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to sponsor the household hazardous waste (HHW) collection event.

“As a leader in protecting our environment, public health and water, the MWRD is happy to play a role in any recycling effort, especially with regards to household hazardous waste that can be properly disposed,” said MWRD Commissioner Frank Avila.

Products that are toxic, flammable, or could cause a dangerous reaction when mixed with other chemicals or eat away at solid objects are household hazardous wastes. These products can pollute the environment and can make people sick if they are disposed of improperly. They should not be poured down the drain or into storm sewers. They also should not be thrown into the trash like regular garbage.

“Household hazardous waste poses a threat to air and water,” said MWRD Commissioner Kimberly Du Buclet. “If not properly disposed, liquid contaminants can slip through our



Commissioner Kimberly Du Buclet delivers a VCR to the HHW collection.

systems and eventually discharge into local waterways and threaten our environment.”

If residents still have household hazardous waste but could not attend this event, the IEPA schedule for future collections in Illinois can be found at <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/household-hazardous-waste/Pages/collections.aspx>. A list of waste that will be accepted at these events can be found at https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/cdph/provdrs/healthy_communities/svcs/household-chemicals---computer-recycling-facility-overview.html.

Residents are also able to visit the City of Chicago’s Household Chemicals and Computer Recycling Facility at 1150 N. North Branch St. on Goose Island. It is open Tuesday from 7 a.m. to noon; Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., and the first Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. More information is available by calling the city at (312) 744-3060.

Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwr.org) is an award winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.