

# Household Chemical CleanOut



## Annual report for Household Chemical CleanOut program 2013 – 2014

### Background

There are a wide range of chemical and other potentially hazardous products available for domestic household use, including cleaners, paints, solvents and hobby chemicals. The safe disposal of leftover and/or unwanted chemicals is a problem in many households. Unwanted chemicals can accumulate and may lead to their disposal in an unsafe manner or location. To help overcome this problem, NSW State and Local Governments are working together to deliver a household hazardous waste collection service.

The Household Chemical CleanOut program (CleanOut) has been delivered in partnership with Local Government since March 2003. CleanOut encourages householders to dispose of common household hazardous materials in an environmentally responsible manner. The program helps to reduce community exposure to chemicals and waste and supports the recovery and recycling of valuable resources.

### Key results

**In 2013–2014, across the Sydney, Hunter and Illawarra regions of NSW, the CleanOut program has:**

- held 64 collections
- supported 40,471 households
- recycled and/or safely disposed of 1,593,443 kg of materials.

**Across rural and regional NSW, the CleanOut Program (including permanent drop off facilities) has:**

- held 59 collections
- recycled and/or safely disposed of 145,033 kg of materials.

Collection events in 2013–2014 have shown that community support and participation in the program continue to grow. This is a great result for NSW.



## The metropolitan program

The CleanOut program has continued to grow since it started in 2003. The quantity of materials collected has almost tripled from 443,075 kg in 2003–2004 to 1,593,443 kg in 2013–2014. Since 2003, more than 266,000 households have participated in the program.

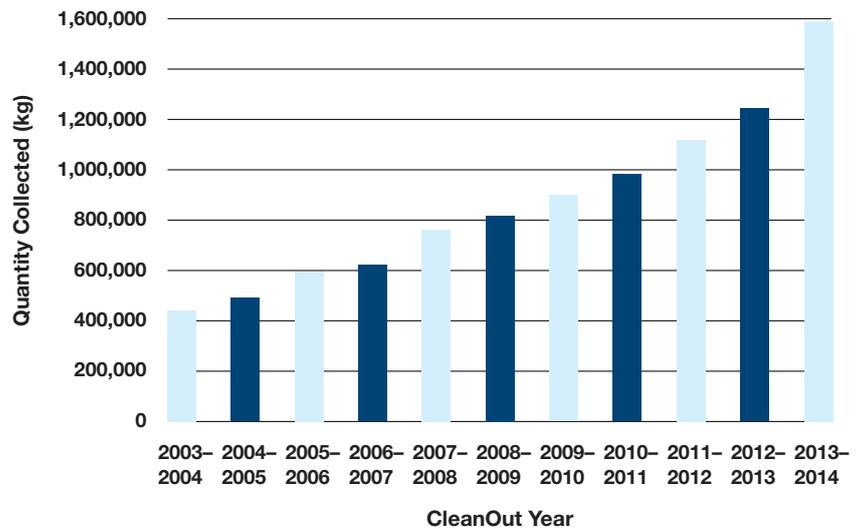


Figure 1: Quantity of materials collected (kg) per year from March 2003 – June 2014

### 2013–2014 update

The 2013–2014 financial year saw increases in key performance indicators including households serviced and tonnes of materials collected. In 2013–2014 the top materials collected included paints, oils and batteries. This result is consistent with previous years.

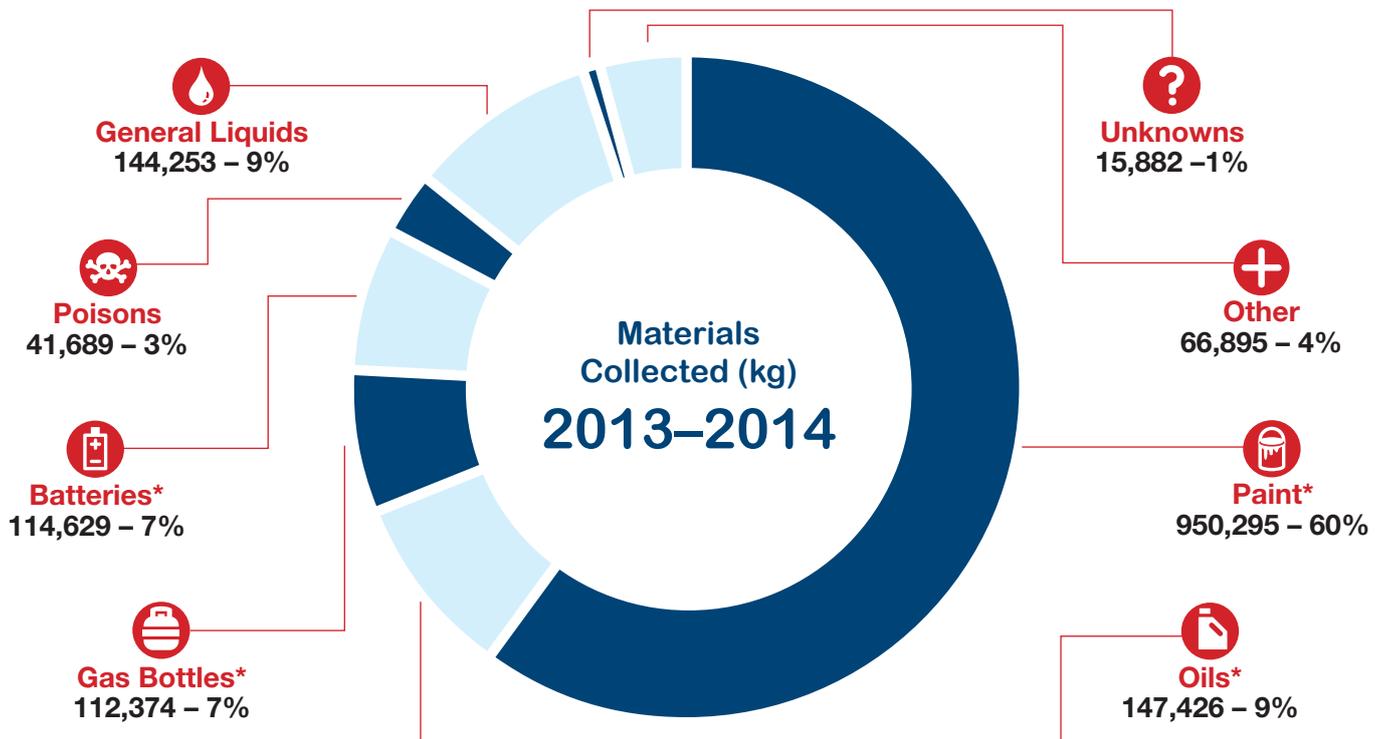


Figure 2: Total materials collected by group Sydney, Hunter and Illawarra regions (July 2013–June 2014)

\*Core materials receiveable at Community Recycling Centres

CleanOut participants continue to hear about the program primarily through local networks including community newspaper advertising, promotional flyer and the internet.

The new Community Recycling Centres target approximately 83% of the materials currently collected at Household Chemical CleanOut events in the metropolitan region.

## The rural and regional program

**In the rural and regional areas of NSW, the CleanOut program is coordinated by the Voluntary Regional Waste Groups (VRWG). This method of coordination is proving an effective way to provide the service and ensure state-wide coverage is achieved.**

The VRWGs organise and manage the events in their respective regions with support provided by the EPA. Some regions hold annual events, while others hold biennial or less frequent events depending on the demand for the service and results from previous collections.

### The VRWGs in 2013–2014:

- held 59 collections
- collected 145,033 kg of hazardous materials for recycling and/or safe disposal.

### During 2013–2014, regional CleanOut events were held in the following regions:

- NetWaste
- Northern Inland Regional Waste (NIRW)
- South East Resource Recovery Group (SERRG).
- MidWaste.

In addition, North East Waste Forum (NEWF) had a collection from their permanent facility.

In the mid-north coast and north-east regions of NSW permanent storage facilities for household chemicals are provided at landfill sites to reduce costs of the service and make it more convenient to residents. Staff training on safe handling and storage of chemical materials is conducted on an ongoing basis, as well as the delivery of community education programs.

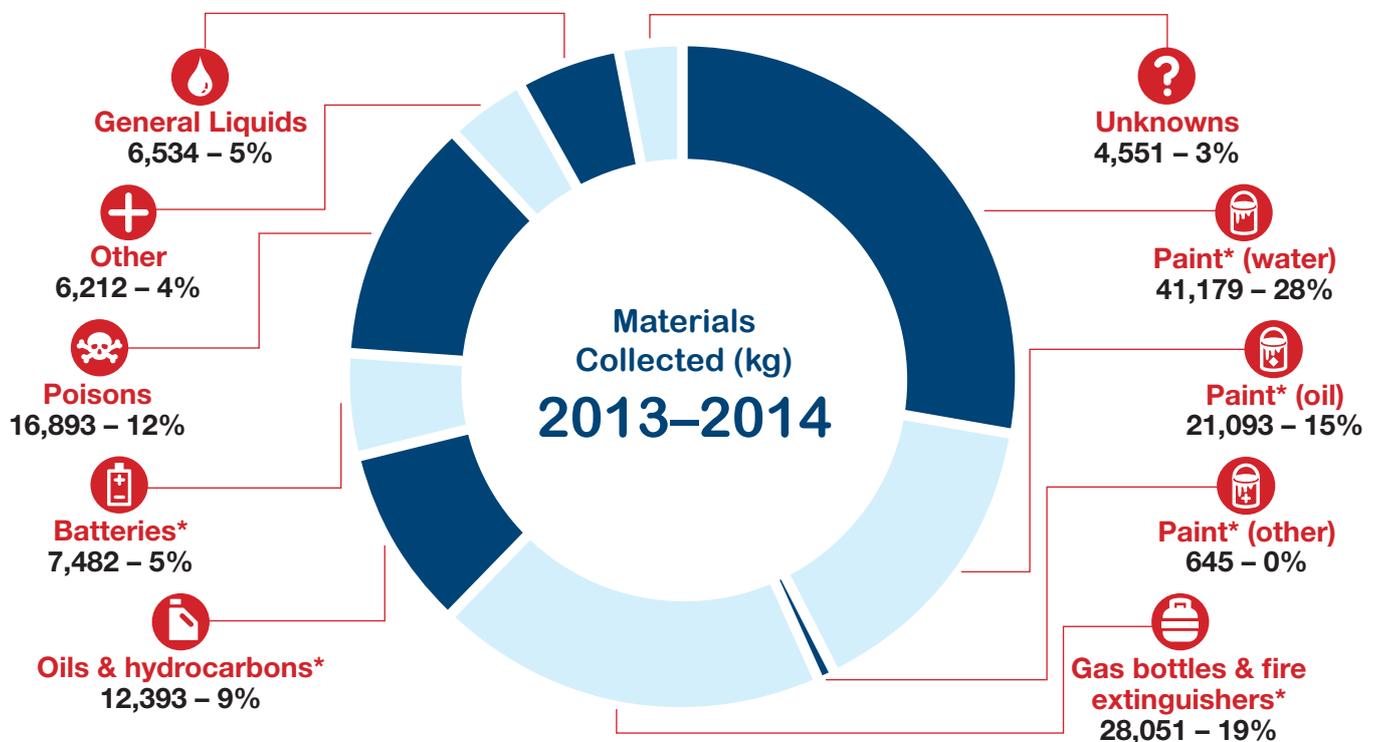


Figure 3: Total materials collected by group in rural and regional NSW (July 2013–June 2014)

\*Core materials receiveable at Community Recycling Centres

**The new Community Recycling Centres target approximately 76% of the materials currently collected at Household Chemical CleanOut events in the rural and regional areas of NSW.**

# Conclusion

The CleanOut program continues to exceed expectations. Each year more households participate and more materials are collected. The NSW Government recognises the need and value of the program and as part of NSW 2021: A plan to make NSW number one has committed to supporting Community Recycling Centres to improve the management of household hazardous waste.

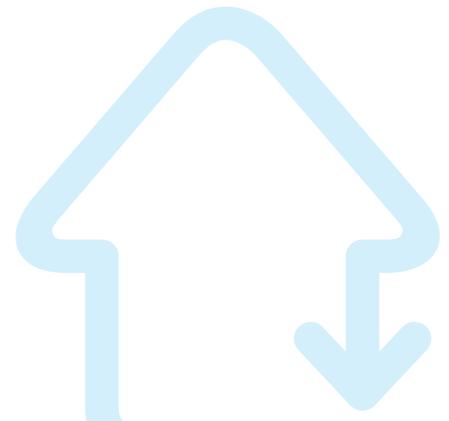
Three early start Community Recycling Centres are now open at Lake Macquarie, Liverpool and Port Stephens. The Improved Systems for Household Problem Wastes – Community Recycling Centres Program has distributed \$4.58 million in grants to thirty six Local Councils in the first round of funding. It is planned that 86 Community Recycling Centres will be open by 2017 providing 80% of NSW residents access to a free and convenient location to dispose of their household problem waste.

**I have just used your chemical waste drop off service at St Ives Showground for the first time. I commend you on the efficiency and organisation of the process with the staff involved being pleasant and helpful. I shall certainly be recommending the service to friends and family. You have removed significant barriers to disposal of chemical waste in a responsible way.**

**Participant, Kuring-gai CleanOut,  
October 2013**

**We just dropped off ten years of old chemicals at your Campsie drop off. I just wanted to say how great the service was, and the guys that emptied our car were really fantastic. They were working in really hot conditions with all their gear, but were helpful, polite and really great to deal with.**

**Participant, Canterbury CleanOut,  
February 2014**



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