



The Medical Waste Reporter



Announcements for Wisconsin's Medical Waste Generators

Reporting year 2010

Issued January 2011

Congratulations to Wisconsin's Eleven 2010 Practice Greenhealth Award Winners!

This year's Wisconsin award winners are:

Environmental Leadership Circle:

- Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire
- St. Mary's Hospital Med. Center, Green Bay
- Gunderson Lutheran, LaCrosse

Partner for Change with Distinction:

- St. Vincent Hospital, Green Bay



Partners for Change:

- Bellin Hospital, Green Bay

Making Medicine Mercury Free:

- Bellin Hospital, Green Bay
- Columbia St. Mary's Hospital, Milwaukee
- Fort Health Care, Fort Atkinson
- River Falls Area Health Care, River Falls

Partner Recognition:

- River Falls Area Health Care, River Falls
- St. Nicholas Hospital, Sheboygan

Get recognition for the hard work you do! Winning an award can energize your environmental programs. For more information, visit www.practicegreenhealth.org/awards

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Pharmaceutical Waste Updates

Here's what's been happening in the wide world of pharmaceutical waste.

Nationwide Rx Drug Take-Back Day The federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) collected over 121 tons of unwanted prescription drugs nationwide on September 25th.

www.justice.gov/dea/pubs/pressrel/pr100510.html

A second DEA National Drug Take Back day will be Saturday, April 30, 2011. Encourage your local law enforcement agencies to participate.

The Safe and Secure Drug Disposal Act

This new federal law amends the Controlled Substances Act to allow for additional take-back programs beyond only law enforcement. DEA must promulgate new regulations that:



- allow for take-back of controlled substances;
- may authorize long-term care facilities to dispose of their current or former patients' controlled substances; and,
- consider public health and safety as well as cost and ease for community program implementation.

Here are links to the bill and more information:

http://c.ygcdn.com/sites/www.productstewardship.us/resource/resmgr/imported/S3397_Fact_Sheet.pdf?hhSearchTerms=%223397%22

<http://www.productstewardship.us/>

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WH2E News

Wisconsin Healthcare for a Healthy Environment (WH2E) encourages Wisconsin healthcare organizations to promote sustainable business practices that promote employee health and wellness, safety, and that protect and preserve the environment.

WH2E brings together healthcare organizations, businesses and government agencies to collaborate and exchange information.

Formed in late 2007, WH2E incorporated in 2010, and already boasts nearly fifty members. Dues are low (\$25 per year) and members can get discounts on meeting fees.

WH2E welcomes as members anyone who works in or supports healthcare in Wisconsin, including caregivers, environmental services, facility managers, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, students, vendors, consultants, technical assistance providers and regulators.

WH2E will sponsor a meeting on “**Electronics and Other Medical Supplies - Alternatives for Disposal**” at Cascade Asset Management in Madison, on January 31, 2011.

The group will also hold its first elections, brainstorm about its future and hear about Focus On Energy programs for healthcare.

Its 2010 educational sessions addressed healthy food, re-usable sharps containers, medical device reprocessing, reuse, recycling, green cleaning and green textiles.

DNR STAFF CONTACTS:

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<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/HealthWaste/>

To learn more about WH2E, visit www.uwm.edu/shwec/wh2e/index.cfm. To join or find out about upcoming meetings, call Julie Schafer at 715-387-7136.

UW Extension Intern Program Saves Money & Prevents Waste

The UW-Extension Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center (SHWEC) hires UW students as interns to prevent and reduce waste in healthcare facilities.

SHWEC hires, trains and matches students with host facilities. Interns typically find ways to prevent pollution that can save a facility far more than it costs to participate in the program.

“Most of us have so many balls to juggle that each project is just another item to do. Interns can focus on a specific process, then evaluate it, plan and implement what is needed.” -- Bruce Cunha, Marshfield Clinic

Marshfield Clinic has hosted pollution prevention interns since the program began. Bruce Cunha, the clinic’s Manager of Employee Health and Safety, enthusiastically endorses it.

“The interns bring a new set of eyes and fresh ideas into our program,” Cunha says. “[We] give them the environment to actually see what is going on in the private sector, the problems and the programs we have put in place.

“Having a person you can dedicate to a specific project for a summer it also a luxury that we don’t have all that often,” he continues.

In 2008, a UW-Eau Claire chemistry major created and implemented a color coding system for hazardous wastes used in the clinic. In 2009, a UW-La Crosse pre-med student implemented the system in the regional Marshfield Clinics. She also researched waste reduction options for blue wrap, polystyrene, plastic, and beverage cups. In 2010, a UW-Whitewater student developed an inventory management system which helps use up chemicals before they expire and minimizes the amount of chemicals stored.

Pharmaceutical Waste Updates

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The National Summit on Preventing Pharmaceutical Waste

In October, over fifty people gathered in Philadelphia to explore ways to prevent pharmaceutical waste. To learn more, go to: www.productstewardship.us/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=724

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Pharmaceutical Waste Project

EPA has funded a two-year medication mail-back program for Wisconsin counties that drain to the Great Lakes. Informal working groups in Midwest states will develop longer-term strategies to reduce and manage unwanted pharmaceuticals, based on a product stewardship model. To learn more, go to the SHWEC Blog at fyi.uwex.edu/shwec/

Walgreen's Pharmaceutical Mail-back

Walgreens started a mail-back pharmaceutical waste program. For \$2.99, consumers may purchase a postage-paid envelope for mailing unused drugs (except controlled substances) to an incinerator in Texas. Here is Walgreen's press release about it: news.walgreens.com/article_display.cfm?article_id=5343

Wisconsin Pharmaceutical Collections List

There are about three dozen permanent collection programs in Wisconsin communities, in addition to many one-day collection events. Wisconsin pharmaceutical collections are listed on a UW Extension website, www4.uwm.edu/shwec/ Click on "Medication Collections" OR click on "Resources" at the top, then choose "Events".

DATCP Clean Sweep Grants

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection offers grants for collecting household pharmaceuticals. Proposals are usually due in November. The general description of the DATCP Clean Sweep program is at www.datcp.state.wi.us/arm/agriculture/pest-fert/pesticides/clean-sweep/index.jsp

Guidance for Households

DNR's household pharmaceutical waste web page is both for households and for those who would collect pharmaceutical waste
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/HealthWaste/Pharm.html>

Are nursing homes, community based residential facilities, residential care apartment complexes, assisted living, adult family homes and hospice care providers "households" or "non-households"? If unsure, see <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/wa/WA1214.pdf>

Pharmaceutical Waste Futures...

What's in the future for managing pharmaceutical waste? Many people are looking into "product stewardship," a market-driven approach because it could also help reduce pharmaceutical waste.

Product stewardship is a new paradigm for managing waste which includes manufacturers, in contrast to relying solely on end users and local governments. It is based on the recognition that, although recycled materials are in demand worldwide, recycling rates have stagnated at about 33%, even in states with comprehensive recycling programs such as Wisconsin.

Wisconsin DNR recently determined that about \$52 million worth of recycled materials are landfilled each year in Wisconsin.

To reclaim these wasted materials, changes are needed in what is put into products and how products are designed.

To avoid complicating things for producers, states are now looking at developing "framework legislation" that makes it easy for states to add products to their product stewardship programs.

How product stewardship applies to pharmaceuticals remains to be seen, but you can expect to hear more about it in the years ahead.

"It makes sense to involve producers in managing wastes because they have the greatest control over product content and design."

*--Cynthia Moore, DNR
Recycling program coordinator*

NEW RESOURCES

To learn about the latest resources throughout the year, join DNR's medical waste e-mail announcement list (see contact box on page 2).

DNR's website (dnr.wi.gov) is being redesigned. The healthcare and medical waste web pages will be under the Business tab on the new site.

Sustainability

AHA's **Executive Primer on Hospital Environmental Sustainability** is at: www.hospitalsustainability.org

Free sustainability guides: Getting Started; Water Conservation; Sustainable Landscaping; Energy Star Portfolio Manager; Food Service Guide; No Cost/Low Cost Guide; Lighting Guide.

<http://foundation.ifma.org/>

Energy Star Healthcare Financial Calculators help healthcare organizations quantify cumulative savings and translate savings into metrics that resonate with key decision makers. Go to: www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=healthcare.bus_healthcare_energysavings_calc

Pharmaceutical waste

The **NIOSH List of Antineoplastic and Other Hazardous Drugs in Healthcare Settings 2010** includes a standard precautions approach to handling hazardous drugs safely. www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2010-167/

A special issue of **Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry** focuses on how pharmaceuticals degrade and travel and how they should be assessed and managed. www.setacjournals.org

Electronics Waste

The **EPEAT® electronic products environmental rating system** can help you find green electronics www.epeat.net

e-Stewards identifies recyclers that will not incinerate electronics, not send materials to developing countries and not use prison labor. e-stewards.org/find-a-recycler/

Ozone Offers Huge Cost Savings

Is your facility scrutinizing its operations for cost reductions? Consider using ozone for laundering.

Ozone is already being used in the hospitality industry. In one year, one large Wisconsin hotel saved over 18,000 therms of energy, over \$13,500 in natural gas costs, nearly half a million gallons of water, several gallons of chemicals and around 4,000 kilowatts of electricity. Its laundry operations became more efficient and the new equipment paid for itself in 10 months.

Proponents cite these advantages of ozone:

- it does not require hot water which dramatically reduces utility costs;
- it reduces chemical and detergent use by 15% or more;
- it reduces overall water consumption up to 35%;
- it effectively cleans stains and soils;
- it kills bacteria more quickly than hot water or chemicals such as chlorine bleach;
- it reduces wash and dry time;
- it provides superior disinfection;
- it extends textile life and quality; and
- it can be made on-site.

Ozone, commonly known as O₃, is created when oxygen and electricity are combined. Ozone is simply three atoms of oxygen linked together instead of the usual two atoms. This simple but powerful molecule is naturally used by the earth to clean the atmosphere.

Ozone is chemical-free, non-combustible and converts back into pure oxygen shortly after use.

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