

November 2007

Wisconsin Collects ... Pharmaceutical Waste

Steven Brachman

It is turning out to be a banner year for pharmaceutical waste collections. In 2007, over 30 events have been held in communities around the state (see flagged cities on the map below). A number of events are being planned for 2008.

SHWEC created a collection day listing on its web site – view it at <http://www4.uwm.edu/shwec/pharmaceuticalCollection/viewRecords.cfm>.



SHWEC is also keeping tallies of the amounts and types of pharmaceuticals collected. One of the most detailed inventories was gathered from the spring collections in Waupaca, Winnebago, Outagamie and Calumet counties.

Mary Kohrell, Calumet County community development educator, spearheaded this effort and reports that almost 600 households participated in the program, dropping off nearly 24,000 pills of controlled substances and over 1,200 pounds of non-controlled substances.

Further categorization of these materials indicates that wide ranges of therapeutic classes are collected. For further information on the state of Wisconsin's pharmaceutical waste programs, see the summary presentation of Mary Kohrell and Steve Brachman at [https://pantherfile.uwm.edu/brachman/public/_Wisconsin pharmaceutical programs2.ppt](https://pantherfile.uwm.edu/brachman/public/_Wisconsin%20pharmaceutical%20programs2.ppt)

State Budget Impacts Recycling and Other Environmental Programs

Joe Van Rossum

The recently completed budget process in Wisconsin has resulted in a number of changes to recycling and environmental programs. Here are a few highlights from the budget:

- Basic Grants to local recycling programs (Responsible Units or RUs) will increase from \$24.5 million per year to \$31 million per year. This is the first increase to the program since 2000 and is estimated to cover about 32% of local program costs.

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa/Grants/Recycle/recycle.html

- Clean Sweep Funding to increase by \$290,000 per year. This grant program provides funds for Counties and Local Units of Government to collect Household Hazardous Waste and Agricultural Chemicals. Those applying for grants are required to provide 25% matching funds.
<http://datcp.state.wi.us/arm/agriculture/pest-fert/pesticides/clean-sweep/index.jsp>
- The Waste Reduction and Demonstration grant program received an additional \$1,000,000 per year to provide funds for non-profit organizations to work with businesses to increase recycling. The budget also included language that limits any non-profit from receiving more than \$250,000 per year.
- Renewable energy will also receive a boost from \$22 million appropriated in the two year budget. The money will be available in grants and loans from the Department of Commerce to support companies and research to develop and commercialize renewable fuel and energy technologies.
- The Budget also makes available \$4 million dollars through the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection for the construction of a soybean crushing plant with the capacity to process more than 20,000,000 bushels of soybeans per year.

The Budget also increases some environmental fees. The Recycling Surcharge assessed at Wisconsin landfills will increase from the current \$3 per ton to \$4. The Environmental Repair Fee also assessed at landfills will increase from 50 cents per ton to \$1.60. According to a DNR message to landfill operators the fee change will take effect on November 1, 2007.

The adopted version of the budget bill, 2007 Wisconsin Act 20, can be found online at:

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2007/data/acts/07Act20.pdf>

EPA Offers Free Spill Prevention Control & Countermeasures (SPCC) Workshop

Jack Annis

The Oil Pollution Prevention Rule became effective in 1974 to prevent discharge of oil into navigable waters of the US or adjoining shorelines. Companies affected by the rule were required to develop and implement a spill prevention control and countermeasures plan to prevent discharges of oil. Over the years, the rule has had some changes and is currently pending some additional proposed revisions.

A satellite program to explain the SPCC Rule; to whom it applies, as well as what steps must be taken to develop full SPCC plans and comply with the rule will be held on November 15, from 9 am to 1 pm. Instructors will be Dr Barbara A. Carr, US-EPA Region 5 SPCC Coordinator, along with Ward Burns and Alan Hancock, US-EPA Region 7. In Wisconsin, broadcast locations are in Eau Claire, Rhinelander and Madison.

The workshop is free however advanced registration is encouraged. To register go to

<http://www.ksu.edu/ecc/epa> or download the brochure file at the link below.

<http://www.kstate.tv/epa/documents/region%205%20brochure.pdf>. Location information will be included with registration confirmation.

If you cannot attend the workshop in person, the EPA is making it available through web streaming technology. You must register to obtain the URL for the event. Call Susan Jagerson 785-532-3105 or email sdj@ksu.edu with registration questions.

In a related note, EPA is proposing revisions to certain regulatory requirements for facilities subject to the SPCC rule. Go to http://www.epa.gov/oilspill/spcc_oct07.htm to learn more about the revisions. The revisions will tailor and streamline requirements to particular industry sectors and facility owners or operators subject to the rule. Public comments on the proposed changes are being accepted until December 14, 2007.

Resource Conservation Challenge Web Academy

The EPA Resource Conservation Challenge Web Academy is holding 90-minute conference sessions using on the third Thursday of each month through September 2008 starting at noon.

The Recycling and Solid Waste Management Educational Series is hosted by EPA Regions 1, 4, 7 and 10 for staff in state and local government and not-for-profit organizations who work in waste management and recycling programs.

Participants use a phone line and an internet connection to view the slides. The schedule for topics is listed below. Register on-line at: <http://www.epa.gov/region1/RCCedu/>

December 20, 2007	Single vs. Dual Stream Reducing Contamination Contracting for success Case Studies
January 17, 2008	Venue Recycling
February 21, 2008	Construction & Demolition Recycling
March 20, 2008	Managing Compact Fluorescent Lamps
April 17, 2008	Packaging and Recycling
May 15, 2008	Policies and Program that Work
June 19, 2008	Recycling in Schools/Curriculum
July 17, 2008	Financial implications of recycling
August 21, 2008	Green Purchasing
September 18, 2008	Using Incentives to promote recycling

Grants assist seven Wisconsin communities with electronics recycling

From Wisconsin DNR press release:

MADISON -- Seven Wisconsin organizations and municipalities have been able to boost their electronics recycling programs thanks to grants from a retailer of consumer electronics.

Best Buy Co. awards grants to help organizations host recycling events to assist in the proper management of unwanted electronics. Wisconsin received seven grants one of only two states receiving the highest number awarded in the country. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Recycling Program alerted communities of the availability of the grants.

Grants range from \$500 to \$1,500 and may be used by nonprofit organizations, cities, counties, or public-private partnerships for all aspects of their programs.

St. Croix County used its \$500 grant to defray advertising and staffing costs for a Sept. 9 event that collected 41 tons of E-waste. The county holds two to four collection events a year and this year collected a total of 85 tons -- roughly enough to fill four semi trucks. A new Hudson based company, E-Cycle, has partnered with St. Croix County.

Cascade Asset Management, the electronics recycler for the City of Madison, received \$3,000 for the city's computer roundup held in the spring. The first 150 people who brought in computer monitors were given a \$10 Best Buy gift card to offset the disposal cost. The remainder of the grant went to advertising and promoting the event.

Jane Edwards, grant writer for the Environmental Services Division in the city of Superior, received a \$1,000 grant. Goodwill will use \$500 to recycle unusable electronics that are donated to stores. The other \$500 will be used as gift cards for America Recycles Day, a collection event held annually on Nov. 11. For each product brought in, residents will receive a \$5 Best Buy gift card.

Edwards is thankful for the Best Buy grant. "People don't understand how terrible E-waste is. There are several alternatives that everyone can do, and spending a few dollars to recycle it is well worth the effort."

Electronics pose a potential risk to the environment and human health. This is primarily because of the lead, mercury, cadmium, other heavy metals and toxic chemicals contained in the components of almost all electronics. These substances could pollute groundwater, surface water or the air when electronics are buried in a landfill, dumped illegally, or burned.

"The good news is electronics recycling is a growing business," says Suzanne Bangert, director of the Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Waste and Materials Management. "Electronics contain valuable metals and plastics that can be processed and remanufactured into useable products. Recycling electronic equipment not only protects the environment, it provides jobs."

It is important, however, for consumers to do their homework to make sure electronics are handled by legitimate recyclers who take care to properly handle, store, process and recycle or dispose of electronics. Residents should check with their municipal recycling programs for information. More information on [electronics recycling](#) is available on the DNR Web site.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Cynthia G. Moore - (608) 267-7550

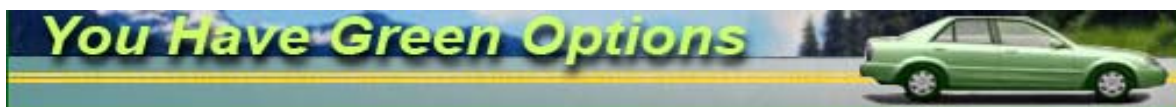
Environmental News Briefs of Interest

EPA-DOE Fuel Economy Lists for 2008 Models Reflect New Testing Methods

The EPA and DOE released the 2008 Fuel Economy Guide on October 12 to help consumers make well-informed choices when purchasing new vehicles. Data show that hybrid vehicles continue to lead the government's fuel economy ratings and more hybrid models are available than ever - including SUVs as well as cars - giving consumers greater choices when shopping for fuel efficient vehicles.

Fuel economy estimates, which appear on the window stickers of all new cars and light trucks prior to sale are based on new test methods EPA finalized in December 2006. The new methods are designed to better account for actual driving conditions that can lower fuel economy, such as higher speed driving, use of air conditioning and cold weather operation. Because of the new methods, fuel economy estimates for all vehicles will generally be lower than those of last year.

The 2008 fuel economy leaders within each class as well as the lowest fuel economy models are listed below and are available at: <http://www.epa.gov/fueleconomy/overall-high.htm> To view the 2008 Fuel economy guide and for tips on increasing vehicle efficiency: <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/> and the Green Vehicle Guide Web site, <http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles> , provides browsers with a guide to locate the cleanest and most fuel efficient vehicle that meets their needs.



New Energy Star Tool Offers Warm Homes and Cool Savings

With winter just around the corner, consumers now have access to a tool that can help them reduce their energy bills up to 25 percent by making some simple improvements around their home. The new tool from EPA, the Energy Star Home Advisor, provides consumers with customized recommendations for improving energy efficiency and comfort at home. Using energy more efficiently is also another way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The average family spends \$1,900 per year on energy bills. For example, EPA estimates that homeowners can save up to 10 percent on their annual energy bill simply by sealing air leaks and adding insulation. If every American home improved energy efficiency by 10 percent, the result would be 800 pounds of carbon removed from the air each year.



Using the Energy Star Home Advisor, homeowners can enter their zip code and some basic information about the types of fuel used to heat and cool their home, and get recommended home improvement projects to increase energy efficiency and comfort. Homeowners can also see the average energy savings for these improvements and associated greenhouse gas reductions. Visit the Energy Star Home Advisor at: <http://www.energystar.gov/homeadvisor>

Auto Mercury-Recovery Programs Up and Running in All 50 States

In August 2006, EPA and eight organizations, representing states, nongovernmental organizations, steelmakers, vehicle manufacturers, automobile recyclers, and scrap metal recyclers launched a program to recover mercury containing light switches from end-of-life vehicles manufactured prior to 2002 before they are dismantled, crushed, shredded and melted to make new steel.

Working with existing state switch-recovery efforts, the National Vehicle Mercury Switch Removal Program has the potential to recover 80 to 90 percent of available mercury switches, leading to commensurate reductions in air emissions. In its first year, more than 635,000 switches have already been removed from end-of-life vehicles. Collectively, those switches represent 1,400 pounds of mercury more than the average coal-fired power plant emits in a year.

Approximately 5,900 automobile recyclers have already agreed to remove and recover the switches before sending vehicles to scrap recyclers, who in turn send the clean cars to steel mills. The mills can then use the cars to make recycled steel without worrying about releasing toxic mercury emissions. These and other results are described in the *National Vehicle Mercury Switch Recovery Program Annual Report: 2006-2007* available at: <http://www.epa.gov/mercury/switch.htm>



Sears Joins EPA to Help Remove Ozone Destroying Chemicals

Sears Home Services is taking the lead among retailers to join the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's voluntary Responsible Appliance Disposal (RAD) Program. The program promotes environmentally responsible disposal of household appliances, and will significantly reduce emissions of ozone depleting substances and greenhouse gases.

Each year, Americans dispose of roughly 10 million refrigerators and freezers that contain ozone-destroying and heat-trapping chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) or hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). The new partnership will result in the proper disposal of more than 1 million residential refrigerators and freezers per year.

Through the program, the refrigerants and appliance insulating foam that contain CFCs and HFCs are captured and destroyed or recycled. The program will also include the recovery and proper disposal of other appliance waste streams, such as Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), mercury switches, and used oil. For more information about the RAD program:

<http://www.epa.gov/ozone/partnerships/rad/index.html> and to become a partner: <http://www.epa.gov/ozone/partnerships/rad/radpartners.html>

Performance Track Program Nears 500-Member Mark



EPA National Performance Track members come from a wide range of sectors, such as automotive, paper, personal care products, pharmaceuticals, and government agencies. With the new members added in the latest period, Performance Track has also broken ground in three new states: Alaska, Hawaii and North Dakota. In addition, the U.S. Postal Service ramped up its membership with the addition of 18 new member facilities, and several more U.S. Air Force bases joined the ranks of the program.

Performance Track recognizes facilities that set three-year goals for continuous improvements in environmental performance beyond their legal requirements, have internal systems in place to manage their environmental impacts, engage in community outreach and consistently report results.

Since the 2000 launch of the program, Performance Track members have set more than 2,000 goals to benefit the environment in both regulated and unregulated areas. Through those goals, members have reported reductions in water use of 5.6 billion gallons, greenhouse gas reductions of 159,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, and have conserved more than 25,000 acres of land as well as other benefits. Information on the new Performance Track members is at:

<http://epa.gov/performance-track/round14PTFacilities.htm> and information on the National Environmental Performance Track program is at <http://www.epa.gov/performance-track>

Events, Training, Workshop and Tour Opportunities

Emergency and Safety Training Lakeshore Technical College, Cleveland WI <http://www.gotoltc.com/seminars/>
November 8 2007 [Industrial Emergency Response Operations Refresher](#)
November 9 2007 [Industrial Emergency Response Technician Refresher](#)

November 14, 2007 **Environmental Regulatory Update** , Brookfield WI, sponsored by FET <http://www.fetinc.org/>