

Pharmaceutical Drop Off Program for Monterey County Executive Summary

PURPOSE

To provide a safe, convenient, and legal collection program for disposal of household pharmaceuticals.

STRATEGY

Establish confidential collection boxes at law enforcement offices for the public to drop off home generated pharmaceutical drugs and medicines.

GOALS

- Provide clear instructions to the public regarding where and how to dispose of medications.
- Reduce potential for misuse of medications, childhood poisonings and illegal use of pharmaceuticals.
- Divert household pharmaceuticals from landfills and wastewater treatment facilities.
- Reduce environmental impact of pharmaceuticals on surface and groundwater supplies in Monterey County.
- Manage containment and appropriate possession for controlled substances.

WHY PARTICIPATE AS A HOST SITE?

- Currently, there is no legal place for the public to dispose of the regulated medical waste.
- The Pharmaceutical Drop Box Program supports law enforcement drug prevention goals.
- Potential to reduce burden for hauling, disposal and incineration costs.
- It's cost effective to prevent potential crime or misuse than to deal with the alternative.
- Provide a safe place for disposal.
- Reduces risk of serious injury or death by intentional or accidental misuse of pharmaceuticals.
- Become part of a county-wide collaboration. Each jurisdiction taking responsibility for their own community's waste.

JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Under this model, local law enforcement would host a confidential collection bin for the public to drop off home generated pharmaceutical waste.

Jurisdictional responsibilities would include:

- Host drop off site
- Obtain DEA approval for this program
- Responsible for inventory, storage, hauling and incineration/disposal
- Interact with public, provide information at host site

Pharmaceutical Drop Box Committee responsibilities would include:

- Providing a resource for agencies in their implementation of this program at their site
- Secure funding for purchase of the bin
- Partial subsidy of hauling and incineration fees for the first 12 months
- Provide standardized signage for drop off boxes.
- Create public educational materials for media and community distribution.
- Instructional guidance materials for residential use.
- Market program with local advertising and media events to kick off the programs.

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Host sites will assume a large role in the drop box program. Implementation is limited to obtaining approval from the DEA, the time it takes to purchase the necessary containers, retrofit for signage, and final installation within law enforcement offices. Initial launch of this program is set for late January 2012.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

Several other agencies, including wastewater treatment operators, water quality regulatory agencies and other local organizations will play a vital role in promoting the program and may be potential funders of the program.



**THE SUSTAINABILITY
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Carmel River Watershed Conservancy

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