

# **CLARK COUNTY SOLID WASTE**

**UNWANTED  
TAKE BACK**

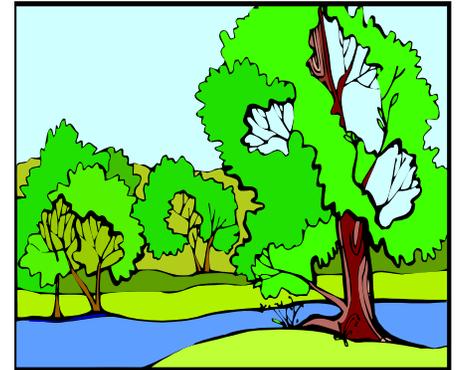
**MEDICATIONS  
PROGRAM**



# CLARK COUNTY UNWANTED MEDICATIONS TAKE BACK PROGRAM

April 2003

In order to protect surface water, City of Vancouver Wastewater Pretreatment asked Clark County Solid Waste to develop a program to help keep unwanted medications out of wastewater.



# CLARK COUNTY UNWANTED MEDICATIONS TAKE BACK PROGRAM

April 2003

Staff suggested options to:

- Collect – at household hazardous waste (HHW) facilities/events and pharmacies
- Transport – HHW vendor and FedEx
- Dispose – incineration through HHW vendor

# CLARK COUNTY UNWANTED MEDICATIONS TAKE BACK PROGRAM

April 2003

- Staff contacted FedEx and local pharmacist.
- Issues identified – federally controlled vs. non-controlled substances.

# CLARK COUNTY UNWANTED MEDICATIONS TAKE BACK PROGRAM

May 2003

Staff contacted:

- DEA – local and letter to Washington D.C.
- Clark County Sheriff's Office
- Washington State Board of Pharmacy

Staff sent a letter to all local pharmacies about June meeting to discuss collection program.

# CLARK COUNTY UNWANTED MEDICATIONS TAKE BACK PROGRAM

June 2003

Met with City of Vancouver Pretreatment, Philip Services Corporation, Clark County Health Department, Clark County Solid Waste and district managers for Safeway and Fred Meyer pharmacies (represent 37% of all county pharmacies, both were supportive of Program).

# CLARK COUNTY UNWANTED MEDICATIONS TAKE BACK PROGRAM

June 2003

Contacted district manager for Hi-School Pharmacies (34% of all county pharmacies) also supportive of Program.

# CLARK COUNTY UNWANTED MEDICATIONS TAKE BACK PROGRAM

July 2003

- Received letter from DEA authorizing Pilot Program with County Sheriff's Department to collect controlled substances.
- Sent follow-up letter to all pharmacies outlining Unwanted Medications Take Back Program, included a participation survey.

# CLARK COUNTY UNWANTED MEDICATIONS TAKE BACK PROGRAM

Take Back Program:  
Non-controlled substances

Collection -

- HHW facility/events
- Chain pharmacies
- Local pharmacies

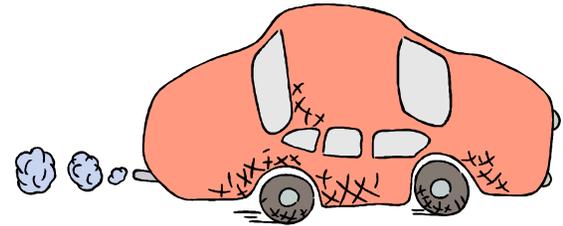


# CLARK COUNTY UNWANTED MEDICATIONS TAKE BACK PROGRAM

Take Back Program:  
Non-controlled substances

Transport/Disposal -

- Residents to HHW facility/events
  - HHW vendor transports for disposal
- Residents to pharmacies
  - FedEx to HHW vendor for disposal



# CLARK COUNTY UNWANTED MEDICATIONS TAKE BACK PROGRAM

## Take Back Program: Controlled substances

Collection - Sheriff's office

- placed in plastic bag
- heat sealed
- put in locked container



# CLARK COUNTY UNWANTED MEDICATIONS TAKE BACK PROGRAM

Take Back Program: Controlled substances

Transportation -

- Sheriff's property officers pick up sealed bags.
- Bags are open and items logged in by chemical name, dose, and quantity.
- Sheriff's Department transports quarterly for disposal at SDS Lumber Company incinerator in Bingen, WA.
- Disposal costs are at no charge at this time.

# CLARK COUNTY UNWANTED MEDICATIONS TAKE BACK PROGRAM

## August-September 2003

- Compiled participation survey results.
- Ordered security container.
- Developed brochure for program (which also addressed sharps and mercury thermometers).



# CLARK COUNTY UNWANTED MEDICATIONS TAKE BACK PROGRAM

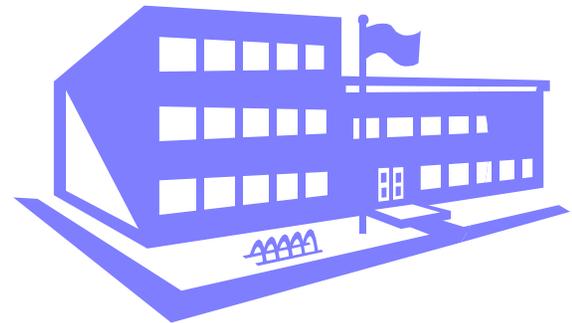
October-November 2003

- Press release issued.
- First controlled substances received.
- Brochures distributed to agencies, pharmacies, hospitals, etc.

# CLARK COUNTY UNWANTED MEDICATIONS TAKE BACK PROGRAM

August-September 2004

- Contacted schools about program accepting unclaimed medications.
- Notified adult care centers about program.



# CLARK COUNTY UNWANTED MEDICATIONS TAKE BACK PROGRAM

March - 2005

## Updated Medical Waste Brochures:

- Unwanted Medications
- Sharps
- Mercury Thermometers
- Participating Pharmacy Disposal List



# CLARK COUNTY UNWANTED MEDICATIONS TAKE BACK PROGRAM

Participants in controlled  
substances collections.

October 2003 - January 2006

- **2003 – 2 participants**
- **2004 – 4 participants**
- **2005 – 153 participants**



# CLARK COUNTY UNWANTED MEDICATIONS TAKE BACK PROGRAM

Controlled substances collected  
October 2003 - January 2006

- **2003 – 56 items**
- **2004 – 85 items**
- **2005 – 15,367 items**

# CLARK COUNTY UNWANTED MEDICATIONS TAKE BACK PROGRAM

## AWARDS

- April 2003 – Mover and Shaker Award – Northwest Hazardous Waste Conference
- December 2004 – Innovation Program Award – North American Hazardous Materials Management Association

