

Specifics of Local Jurisdictions Sharps Collection Programs

Agency	Summary of Program	Contact
CITIES		
Benecia-Allied Waste Services	Allied Waste Services (AWS) is the franchised hauler for the City of Benecia. The City in partnership with AWS, received a \$7,500 grant for sharps education. Together, they will develop a bill insert, bill message, newspaper ads, purchase and distribute sharps containers (3,456 containers) and conduct outreach at the Farmers Market, Senior Center, assisted living facilities, and to multi-family complexes.	Susan Hurl
Cypress	The City of Cypress will be working with Sharps Inc. Residents in the cities of Stanton, Los Alamitos, La Palma and Cypress and will be able to pick-up a sharps container at local participating pharmacies. Each resident will be entitled to 3 free per year (each container holds 100 syringes). These containers come with a pre-paid box that can be mailed directly to the incineration company.	Antonia Castro
Folsom	Many Folsom pharmacies accept sharps free of charge. They must be in an approved container, which will be supplied to them at no cost by certain pharmacies. The City of Folsom funds the sharps disposal system through the local pharmacies.	Rod Miller
Los Angeles	The Bureau of Sanitation of the City of Los Angeles accepts sharps at its Solvents, Automotives, Flammables and Electronics (SAFE) Collection Facilities and discourages residents (through flyers, brochures, advertisements, etc.) from disposing of sharps in their regular trash to protect the health and welfare of the general public and solid waste workers. In addition the Bureau of Sanitation is negotiating partnerships with retail stores, health care providers, and pharmacies to accept sharps from city residents.	Dan Myers
Sacramento	Currently, the City of Sacramento only accepts sharps from household generators. By law they are unable to accept sharps from any business, including health care providers. Because they can only take sharps from households, there are no charges unless they bring more than 120 lbs. per trip. Because of the potential for blood-borne pathogens, their employees have the customers put their sharps in the approved sharps container themselves. They do try to educate the public to put the sharps in some kind of rigid container if not an actual approved container.	Doug Huston
San Bernardino	The City of San Bernardino collects home-generated sharps from city residents only at the HHW collection facility located at 2824 East "W" Street, San Bernardino. City residents should call the city's environmental department at (909) 384-5549 for additional information. The County of San Bernardino is in the process of setting up a county-wide home-generated sharps collection program. County residents should call 1-800-OILY CAT for additional information. The County Fire Dept. has procured a grant to fund sharps disposal. County Fire will accept household generated sharps at Heaps Peak, Joshua Tree and the San Bernardino HHW collection sites beginning September 1, 2008.	Ionie Wallace
San Dimas	The City of San Dimas very recently started a sharps program. Residents can have up to three subsidized mail back sharps containers per year (1st = free, 2nd and 3rd = \$5.00 each). There are two locations where San Dimas residents can pick up their containers (note: IDs verify residency)	Debby Figoni

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San Francisco	SF Recycling & Disposal administers the program, which is funded through garbage rates paid by the residents of the City of San Francisco. The company buys the sharps containers, delivers them to participating Walgreens, and arranges for a medical waste company to pick up the full containers. More than 1,500 containers are distributed to the residents of San Francisco each month. After collection from Walgreens, the needles and other sharps are microwaved to sterilize them and then ground up and discarded at specially permitted landfills. When garbage collectors observe needles in the trash, the customer is contacted and told about the Safe Needle Disposal Program. For fiscal year 2007, the Safe Needle program costs were \$231,395. Labor & related costs were \$102,197, disposal costs were \$96,754, and supplies were \$32,444. As a percentage of total revenues, this works out to 0.25%. On a customer basis, for the ~151,800 residential/apartment customers it's ~\$1.52 per year or 13 cents per month.	Brad Drdea
San Gabriel Valley	As a benefit of the Franchise Agreement, Waste Management of San Gabriel Valley will offer a free SHARPS return program for residents who need to dispose of needles, lancets, and other "sharps". To participate, residents simply pick up a container from one of their participating pharmacies. Once the container is full, the resident mails back the container in the pre-paid postage box that comes with the kit. To pick up a container, a resident must bring their waste management invoice as proof of residency. This program is available to Citrus Franchise Residential Customers only.	
Vacaville	Vacaville utilizes an HHW Facility for drop off and utilizes a hospital and clinics at Fairfield, Vallejo, Rio Vista, and Vacaville) for drop off. They utilize the program as a community benefit program. Residents are provided with containers free of charge. The City of Vacaville covers the cost of outreach on print media, radio ads, brochures, and Sutter Health provides an educational component through diabetes education.	Kari Holmes
West Hollywood	In West Hollywood, they send out postcards to residents each year. They take the postcard to one of the four participating pharmacies who give them a postage-paid mailer provided by greg_khvalabov@bd.com. (www.bd.com) They get 3 additional refills within the year- they'll certainly give more if needed. The city pays for the program. The city orders the prepaid mailers from Becton, Dickinson and Co (BD Sharps Disposal by Mail), about \$15 each, 12 per case, or \$180 per case. The city pays for kits from AB939 Education/Outreach funds from franchise trash hauler and distributes to participating pharmacies. An added benefit is that the city is promoting locally owned businesses/pharmacies rather than national chains.	
COUNTIES		
Alameda County	This program is a hybrid model. They promote the mailback programs because of their confidentiality and ease of use, especially for home-bound residents. Their HHW sites also accept sharps. For a while, residents bringing in their sharps to the HHW facility would get a free mailback container courtesy of the county.	Jorge Gomar
Calaveras County	Calaveras County has a regional grant that is just starting up. The region (Alpine, Calaveras, El Dorado and Tuolumne counties) is working on a sharps collection plan to recruit pharmacies, veterinarian offices, doctors, clinics and hospitals as collection points for sharps.	Leslie Daniel
El Dorado County	Health care professionals are generally covered under the Medical Waste Management Act & hauling permits. Self-injectors are advised to buy disposal containers where they purchase needles. Proper disposal advise is given out as well as collection locations.	Jeff Ruser

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<p>Fresno County</p>	<p>Accepts sharps through a door-to-door HHW collection program targeting the homebound and infirm. This program is not advertised to the public. Potential clients are screened for eligibility as they contact the county for information on available HHW programs. Only a very small portion of the \$20,000 budgeted for this program goes for collection/management of sharps as this program primarily targets the broader category of HHW. They distribute a limited number of sharps containers (360) at a cost of approximately \$1,300 per year, not including the cost of postage. They print and distribute educational brochures to home health educators and similar professionals in quantities suitable for distribution to their clients and single copies to interested individuals upon request. The total brochures printed/distributed last year was 1,000 at a cost of approximately \$900, not including postage. They respond to a large volume of telephone and e-mail requests for information on regulations, best practices for sharps management, and local options for managing sharps. At this time, the HHW drop-off event program and mail-in programs are the only options available/promoted.</p>	<p>Leslie Kline</p>
<p>Humboldt County</p>	<p>The Humboldt Waste Management Authority (HWMA) sponsors seven collection sites for residentially generated sharps or needles. Those sites, are as follows; Arcata Community Recycling Center (Arcata), Hawthorne Street Transfer Station, Redwood Pharmacies in Myrtle town and Henderson Center (Eureka), Eel River Disposal & Resource Recovery (Fortuna), Humboldt Sanitation & Recycling (McKinleyville), and Redway Transfer Station (Redway). Customers must package sharps in a secure, tightly closed container, such as an empty bleach bottle, detergent bottle, or a purchased sharps container. The lid must be on and taped shut with the word "SHARPS" written across the side of the container to ensure proper handling.</p>	<p>Carlos Chavez</p>
<p>Kern County</p>	<p>They started their residential sharps program last year (2007). They buy containers, keep them on hand, and give them out to their residents throughout the year. Once the containers are full, the residents bring them to one of the permanent HHW collection facilities or any one of the 1 day collection events for disposal, and then they give them a new container. To date they have collected: 2006/07 - 895.1 lbs. and 2007/08 - 744.5 lbs.</p>	<p>Lyn Beurmann</p>
<p>Los Angeles County</p>	<p>The County of Los Angeles has implemented a home-generated sharps waste management program to assist the residents in conveniently and safely managing their sharps waste. Convenient sites have been designated throughout the county for the distribution of free state-approved sharps containers to its residents. Sites have also been designated throughout the county for the safe, proper, and free collection and disposal of sharps waste from the residents. More information on the designated sites and on the proper management of home-generated sharps waste is available on the county's website at www.lacsd.org/info/hhw_e_waste and at 1-888-CLEAN LA and www.888CleanLA.com.</p>	<p>Gabriel Arenas</p>
<p>Monterey County</p>	<p>Sharps containers may be purchased for a nominal fee at pharmacies and household hazardous waste facilities throughout Monterey County. Drop off and disposal at the same locations is free. For locations, look for the Sharps Information Sheet at: http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/health/environmentalhealth/solidwaste/forms.htm.</p>	<p>Maria Ferdin</p>
<p>Riverside County</p>	<p>The County of Riverside accepts sharps in approved containers from residents for proper disposal at their permanent and temporary HHW collection events. Approved containers are provided free to residents through the HHW program, while supply lasts. Their website and HHW schedule has a description of alternative approved containers so that residents can collect sharps safely and bring them into the HHW events for disposal. http://www.rivcowm.org/hhw/hhw_schedule.html and http://www.rivcowm.org/hhw/medications.html</p>	<p>Janet Moreland</p>

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<p>San Diego County</p>	<p>Currently the County of San Diego accepts waste sharps at the Permanent HHW Collection Facility in the community of Ramona. They will be implementing a grant-funded sharps collection project in underserved unincorporated areas in the next year. This project will include the establishment of sharps collection kiosks at approximately 8 locations where home users can drop off their waste sharps. In addition, to gear up for the regulatory change, they have developed an informational flyer and will be meeting with groups such as healthcare providers and the San Diego Diabetes Coalition to ensure sharps users know these items will not be allowed in the trash.</p>	<p>KariLyn Merlos</p>
<p>San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority - (IWMA)</p>	<p>San Luis Obispo County IWMA has instituted a mandatory "Take-Back Sharps" ordinance that requires any pharmacy inside the county that sells sharps to take them back from the public for FREE. With help of grant funding, they supply local pharmacies with sharps containers to give out FREE to the public. Currently, there are 44 pharmacy drop-off locations found throughout the county.</p>	<p>Patti Toews</p>
<p>San Mateo County</p>	<p>Currently they do not take home-generated sharps at the county HHW events, mainly due to liability issues; however, Environmental Health Department has worked to get 4 fire stations and the transfer stations to take the sharps - currently Blue Line in SSF accepts, the other transfer stations are soon to follow. To control the flow of needles to these locations, the county is not ready to publish addresses and it is recommended that citizens calling to inquire about disposal options be referred to Environmental Health at 650-363-4305 - After April 28th 650-372-6200</p>	<p>Dean Peterson</p>
<p>Santa Barbara County</p>	<p>In Santa Barbara County, the Public Works Department partners with the Public Health Department to provide free drop-off sites for home-generated sharps. Residents may bring their sharps to one of five County clinics located throughout the region. When dropping off sharps, participants may also pick up a free collection container to store and transport their sharps. Additionally, the County collects sharps at its regional household hazardous waste collection events in Santa Ynez and New Cuyama. Further details about the County's program can be found at http://www.lessismore.org/Programs/sharps.html</p>	<p>Robinson, Leslie</p>
<p>Santa Cruz County</p>	<p>The County of Santa Cruz was awarded an HHW grant in the recent cycle to assemble a network of convenient and permanent collection sites for used sharps and waste pharmaceuticals throughout Santa Cruz County. They would like some of the collection sites to be located in pharmacies. They feel they are lucky in that several locally owned pharmacies are already participating in their program. They anticipate some challenges convincing chain pharmacies to join their network of collection locations.</p>	<p>Jeffrey Smedberg, Recycling Programs Coordinator County of Santa Cruz Public Works Department</p>
<p>Shasta County</p>	<p>The Department of Public Health began installing kiosks in October 2006 at convenient locations for community members to safely dispose of contaminated needles, syringes, and lancets at no charge. Diabetic patients and clients enrolled in drug treatment programs were surveyed about frequency of needle use, current method of disposal, and suggestions for types of disposal options. The survey results directed their efforts to partner with Big Foot Recycling Centers to install 12 kiosks at recycling sites, one kiosk at Shasta College, and 3 kiosks at Public Health Department offices in Redding and Burney. Most kiosk sites are available 24-hours a day, seven days a week. This provides convenience as well as privacy. Containerized sharps are preferred, but loose ones are also accepted. They have utilized HIV Education & Prevention One-Time Funding Allocations, as well as Public Health general funds, to support the project. Each kiosk cost \$1,325 to purchase; each 8-gallon sharps bucket is \$7; and their bio waste disposal vendor (Sanitec) will service the kiosk for \$32. Shasta County provides them with a supply of the 8-gallon buckets, so they just replace it when they take the full bucket of sharps from the kiosk. They expect to spend about \$6,000 for disposing of the sharps from 16 kiosks in 2008.</p>	<p>Heidi Vert</p>

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Sonoma County	The Sonoma County Waste Management Agency operates a Household Toxics Facility with three disposal options for residents. In addition, the agency was awarded a HD16 grant from the CIWMB to develop a sharps collection strategy. Sonoma County plans to develop more infrastructure to collect home-generated sharps.	Karina Chilcott
Tehama County	The Tehama County Landfill is allocating over \$40,000 in funding and staff time for this year alone to work on the sharps problem at some level, which will get them 10 satellite drop-offs and infrequent collection by a third party. This amount almost equates to the annual spending on all other HHW programs, which they have to provide to a county spanning 3000 square miles.	Alan Abbs
Trinity County	They set up at 3 of their 9 transfer sites for collection of sharps and were awarded funding under the HD 16 from the CIWMB to collect sharps.	Barbara Rapinac
West Contra Costa County	1. Call an 800 number and the county sends a free sharps container, 2. Drop off the full sharps container at West County HHW Facility 3. Pick up a new sharps container at the time of drop-off.	Mersina Purlantov

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