Oregon Drug Take Back Program

NACWA P2 Conference
November, 2007
Denver, Colorado
Oregon ACWA

Statewide non-profit serving
- Wastewater treatment
- Stormwater management
- Associated professional firms

114 members statewide
Oregon’s Pretreatment Programs

 Outstanding programs

 - Corvallis
 - Wilsonville
 - Salem
 - Clean Water Services
 - MWMC
  - Eugene/Springfield
Summary

- Oregon’s actions to develop a Drug Take Back Program
- Advocate for NACWA and your utility leadership
  - Moving issue to national agenda
  - Emerging contaminants
    - Leadership
    - Partnership
    - Product stewardship
The Viagra in the water makes me want to swim upstream, but the Prozac is making me too tired.
Why?

- Reduce avoidable poisonings
  - Children & adults
- Prevent prescription drug abuse & addiction
  - Mostly teens
- Protect water quality
Why?

- Reduce avoidable poisonings
  - Drug poisoning was 77% of the pediatric hospital visits in Oregon in 2004
  - In the US
    - Poisoning is 2nd leading cause of death for 35 – 54 year olds
    - 3rd leading cause for 25 – 34 year olds
Why?

- Prevent prescription drug abuse & addiction
  - Prescription drugs only second to marijuana as nation’s most prevalent drug problem
    - Average number of people using pain relievers non-medically for the first time exceeds new marijuana users
    - Young people get drugs from family and friends
Why?

- USGS study found microcontaminants in 80% of the streams sampled
  - Can’t distinguish between flushed and excreted
- Detected in landfill leachate
  - Landfills often connect to POTWs
- Industry estimates 10% of drugs in influent is flushed
  - Might be higher
Sources of drugs

- Long term care facilities
- Other adult care facilities
  - Adult foster care, etc.
- Homes
- Hospitals
- Vet clinics
Regulatory Challenges

- DEA Regulations
  - Controlled drugs can only be returned to law enforcement officer
    - OxyContin
    - Morphine
    - Ritalin
    - More...
Developing an Oregon Drug Take Back Program

- Stakeholder group process
  - Graduate student for research

- Funded by
  - ACWA
  - Oregon Water Utilities Council
  - Oregon DEQ
  - Others...
Developing an Oregon Drug Take Back Program

Broad Stakeholder Group
- Oregon Board of Pharmacy
- Oregon DEQ
- Oregon State Pharmacist Assoc.
- PhRMA
- Oregon Water Utilities Council
- Oregon Hospice Association
- Oregon Poison Center
- Environmental public interest groups
- Drug Enforcement Admin.
- Others...
Goals for Oregon Program

- Legal under Federal Drug Enforcement Administration regulations
  - Controlled substances
    - Chain of custody and tracking requirements
- Focus on home and health care industry
- Convenient and understandable for public
- Affordable
- Statewide
Developing an Oregon Drug Take Back Program

Stakeholder Group
- Met since October, 2006
- Detailed recommendations for Oregon program
  - Gathering endorsements
  - Moving to 2009 Oregon Legislature
Building An Oregon Program

- Estimating 60,000 pounds of unwanted drugs annually in Oregon
  - Based on existing program in British Columbia
British Columbia

- Medicines Return program
- Virtually all BC pharmacies participate
- In 2006, collected 44,000 pounds
  - $257,000 CN
- No incidents in the 10 years of the program operation
- Most drug companies that serve BC, serve Oregon
Recommendations

- Product stewardship model
  - Drug manufacturers (including generic) and over the counter
  - Develop and fund best program
    - Likely mail back
  - Might need 2009 Oregon legislation to ensure participation
    - Want to work with industry
Options for an Oregon Program

- Drop Box at Pharmacy & Law Enforcement
- Drop Box at Pharmacy/Law Enforcement Mailer
- Law Enforcement Drop Box
- Oregon State Police Mailer
- Reverse Distributor Mailer
- Product Stewardship Model
Drop Box at Pharmacy & Law Enforcement

**Pros**
- Pharmacy drop off
- Convenient for public
- Allowable under DEA regulations

**Cons**
- Added burden for law enforcement
- Pharmacist time to sort controlled & uncontrolled drugs
Drop Box at Pharmacy/Law Enforcement Mailer

Pros
- Pharmacy drop off convenient for public
- Allowable under DEA regulations

Cons
- Expensive to establish and operate
- Added burden for law enforcement
- Pharmacist time to sort
Law Enforcement Drop Box

Pros

- Allowable under DEA regulations

Cons

- Not convenient for public
- Likely low participation
- Burden on limited local resources
Oregon State Police Mailer

Pros
- Allowable under DEA regulations

Cons
- Diverts resources from State Police primary mission
Reverse Distributor Mailer

Pros
- Convenient for public
- Controlled & uncontrolled mailed together
- Cost effective
- Easy to expand (long term care, hospices, vets, etc.)
- Business interest

Cons
- Need waiver from DEA
- Needs cooperation and financial contract with commercial entity
Product Stewardship

Pros
- Industry organized and led
- Efficient
- Little/no government involvement
- Could be model for other parts of the nation

Cons
- Depends on industry to voluntarily organize and fund program
Final Stakeholders Report

- Includes detailed information
  - Regulatory framework
  - Other national programs
  - Research details
  - Stakeholder discussions
  - 2-page executive summary

- Available on ACWA web site
  - www.oracwa.org
Model for Emerging Contaminants

Leadership, collaboration with other stakeholders
- Transparency
- Clear communication

Product stewardship model
- Pollution prevention is answer
- Increase public’s awareness of chemical use
NACWA Role?

- Assist in funding national dialogue with Product Stewardship Institute
- Successful in tackling other products
  - Electronics
  - Paint
Your Role?

- Engage your community
- Initiate discussions with pharmacists, law enforcement, and others in your community
- Lots of resources
  - PH:ARM
  - San Francisco Bay Area
  - Maine group
Questions?

Janet Gillaspie
- Executive Director
- Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies
- 537 SE Ash, Suite 12
- Portland, OR  97214
- 503/236-6722
- Gillaspie@oracwa.org
- www.oracwa.org