

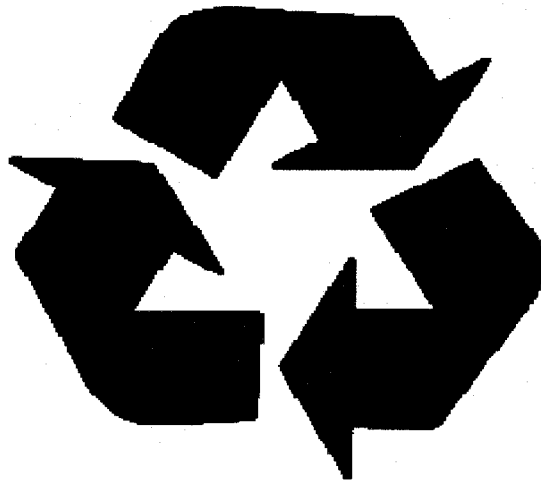
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

INFORMATION PACKET

FOR

July 16, 2009



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORT

July 16, 2009

Solid Waste, Recycling

- Solid Waste legislation
- Paint stewardship
- Electronics recycling
- 2008 SCORE Report
- Sharps Disposal program
- Pharmaceutical Waste collection program
- Recycling possibilities using prison labor

Ponderosa Landfill

- Teal operations contract
- New loader
- New dozer
- MPCA Inspection
- Litter control
- OSHA Inspection
- Homemade hoist
- Areas for special waste collection

Household Hazardous Waste

- MN Department of Agriculture waste pesticide program
- Loadout scheduled for the end of July
- Waste from foreclosed homes

Miscellaneous

- Citizens Academy
- Magnatometer
- Xcel construction of cell 7
- Electronic Permitting system

Next scheduled meeting - September 17, 2009

Information Articles

- Free Press "Needle Disposal to Get Easier"
- Parade Magazine "Keep Drugs Out of the Water Supply"
- Star Tribune "First National Study Finds Range of Pharmaceuticals in Fish Near US Sewage Treatment Plants"
- Hermantown Star "Medication Disposal"
- Star Tribune "Disposing of the Disposable-Wipe Habit"
- USA Weekend "Waste Not, Want Not"
- Reader's Digest "Going Green"
- Free Press "How to be Green @ Work"
- Waste News "Bag Makers Set Recycling Goal for 2015"
- Star Tribune "Plastic Bags and Recycling: A Primer"
- Star Tribune "San Francisco Approves Toughest Recycling Law in the Nation"
- Star Tribune "Reusable Shopping Bags can Breed Bacteria"
- Star Tribune "Paper or Plastic?"
- County News "Counties Help Businesses Go Green, Improve Bottom Line"
- Star Tribune "Plans for Gasification Facility Spark Concerns"

Star Tribune "Unwanted Paint is Their Raw Material"
Star Tribune "A Push to Burn More Trash"
Star Tribune "Bid to Burn More Trash Near Ballpark Turned Down"
Star Tribune "City to Hear Appeal on Bid to Burn More Trash"
Star Tribune "Out of the Ashes"
Duluth News Tribune "In a Recession, Less Stuff Bought Means Less Tossed"
Duluth News Tribune "Dormant Dump Sites Get Green Cap"
Time Magazine "Going Green: Got Wind?"
Scientific American "Why Do Wind Turbines Have Three Narrow Blades?"
Star Tribune "Fueling Minnesota's Need for Electrical Power"
Kiplinger's Personal Finance "5 Pillars of Renewable Power"
Star Tribune "Wetlands Protection Gets Boost"
Free Press "Koochiching County Frustrated by Wetland Laws"
Minnesota Counties "Septic System Enforcement: State and County Partnership"
Free Press "Picking Targets"
Star Tribune "Pawlenty Signs Legacy Funding Bill"
Star Tribune "From the Toilet to Lakes, Streams, Wells"
Free Press "Minn. Sales Tax Projects"
Free Press "Green and Burples"
Free Press "Excuse Me! Lobby Wins on Burps"
Star Tribune "Climate Debate Heating Up in Congress"
Star Tribune "Student Finds Signs of Climate Change in Ice"
Star Tribune "For 1st Time, House Passes Bill to Curb Global Warming"
Star Tribune "Climate Change is Real; A New Report Paints it by Numbers"
Scientific American "Act Now on Global Warming"
Star Tribune "We Can Cool the Planet. We Have the Technology"
Free Press "Raising a Stink"
Free Press "Quick Compost"
Free Press "MPCA, LeHillier Landlord Squaring Off"

Needle disposal to get easier

By Dan Linehan
Free Press Staff Writer

MANKATO — Even if Deb Vogelsang's patients want to dispose of their syringes responsibly, the only alternatives to the trash are costly and time-consuming.

"That's why I think having a sharps program makes good sense for the peace of mind for people disposing their sharps but also people handling the garbage," said Vogelsang, an endocrine nurse practitioner at Immanuel St. Joseph's specialty clinic.

Proper disposal of sharps, a blanket term for medical devices with needles, has long been a concern. Only two local governments in Minnesota have programs to help.

Please see **NEEDLES**, Page B2

If You Go

What

Blue Earth County
Home Sharps Disposal
Program

Where and when

Drop-off every fourth
Thursday between 9:30
a.m. and 6 p.m. at
Snyders Drug Store, 602
S. Front St., Mankato.
Collection dates this
year are March 26, April
23, May 21, June 18,
July 16, Aug. 13, Sept.
10, Oct. 8, Nov. 5 and
Dec. 3.

More information

Visit www.co.blue-earth.mn.us or call the
24-hour hotline of Blue
Earth County
Environmental Services
and Community Health
at 507-304-4242.

NEEDLES: Program to make disposal less expensive

Continued from Page B1

That might have been enough for Jean Lundquist, recycling coordinator Blue Earth County. But "what really brought it to the forefront was a friend who got a finger poked from handling recycling," she said. In addition to the obvious threat of disease, those poked may have psychological problems nurtured by the unknowable: Whose needle was this, and why were they using it?

Currently, people with sharps can purchase a container then fill it up and mail it away, all of which costs between \$20 and \$40 per container, Lundquist said. Considering some people go through multiple needles per day — they're typically single-use supplies — those containers can fill up fast.

Lundquist's program charges a fee of \$2 for each container, up to a gallon.

The container should be made of heavy plastic, such as the type used for clothing detergent, and have screw-on caps. Ice-cream buckets and coffee cans, for example, are too thin and have caps that can pop off.

They can be dropped off at Snyders Drug Store, at 602 S. Front St. in Mankato, between 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Anyone can participate.

And to accommodate the schedule of the collection company, the sharps have to be dropped off every fourth Thursday. That's not the fourth Thursday of every month, but every fourth Thursday. The first collection is this Thursday, March 26.