CUTTING EDGE ISSUES IN RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE

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Santa Cruz County

League of California Cities
County Engineers Association of California
Public Works Officers Institute
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OLD PROBLEMS, NEW SOLUTIONS
DRUG AND SHARPS TAKEBACK PROGRAMS
TO COMBAT THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

The Problem

- Prescription drug use has skyrocketed
- Opioid addiction is at historic levels
- Accidental overdoses have soared
- Black market drug sales are a nationwide problem
- Used needles litter our parks and beaches
- Accidental needle sticks are a costly and dangerous problem
- Drugs are contaminating drinking water and the environment
- Safe disposal options are few and inconvenient
What Are We Doing Now?

- Drugs and needles go in the trash or down the drain
- Residents can take drugs and needles to Household Hazardous Waste Sites
- Some jurisdictions host takeback days once or twice a year

A New Approach: Extended Producer Responsibility

- Embraces the “circular economy” approach now common for many products in Europe, Canada and elsewhere.
- Requires producers of problem products to share responsibility for ultimate disposal.
Existing laws & ordinances

California:
Ten counties, multiple cities, more in process.
Pending: Los Angeles County
Statewide bill pending.

Statewide Laws in Massachusetts and Washington.
More in the works.

How It Works
Consumers drop off drugs or sharps in secure locked bin.
Licensed disposal service collects waste from locked bins.
Waste is incinerated.
Waste is securely transported to medical waste disposal facility.
Prepaid mailback containers are a good option where space is limited, disposal sites are far away or for homebound residents.

Santa Cruz County Ordinance Highlights

- Drugs AND Sharps
- No convenience zones
- ALL sellers must participate
- Bins required at all pharmacies & public health facilities
- Sharps disposal containers required with all sales
- Public sharps bins required
- Industry pays ALL costs.
- Outreach and education program
- Administrative fees assessed
The Stewardship Organization

The Pharmaceutical Product Stewardship Work Group (PPSWG) is a US membership association of more than 400 manufacturers of prescription and over-the-counter medicines and medical sharps representing over 90% of all drugs and sharps sold in the United States. PSWG sets up individual operations, called “MEDProjects” in each jurisdiction with an ordinance.

For more information

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Also see:
https://calpsc.org/
California Product Stewardship Council
The California Compost Revolution

AB 32 California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006
A watershed moment in California’s history. Requires California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.

AB 1826 Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling 2014
Requires businesses, schools and institutions to recycle their organic waste on and after April 1, 2016, depending on the amount of waste they generate per week. Also requires local jurisdictions to implement an organic waste recycling program to divert organic waste generated by businesses, including multifamily residential dwellings. Includes food waste, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, nonhazardous wood waste, and food-soiled paper waste that is mixed in with food waste. Phases in the mandatory recycling of commercial organics over time, while also offering an exemption process for rural counties.

SB 1383 Short-lived Climate Pollutants: Organic Waste 2016
Requires a 50 percent reduction in organic waste from the 2014 level by 2020 and a 75 percent reduction by 2025. Grants CalRecycle the regulatory authority required to achieve the organic waste disposal reduction targets and establishes an additional target that not less than 20 percent of currently disposed edible food is recovered for human consumption by 2025.
CalRecycle SB 1383 Regs

2017-2019: CalRecycle holding workshops now, will adopt regulations in late 2018 or early 2019.

2022: Regulations Effective. Enforcement begins

REQUIREMENTS

• No landfilling of any organic material.
• Organic Waste Collection Service provided to all generators for food waste, soiled paper, green waste, landscape and pruning waste.
• All organic material must be transported for separate handling at a facility offering composting, anaerobic digestion, or other approved process.
• Jurisdictions must regularly inspect all containers and cite generators for contamination.
• Jurisdictions can be penalized for failing to meet requirements.

ISSUES

• AD? Composting? Both? Something else?
• Where will it go?
• What about permitting?
• What if not everyone has collection service?
• How will we pay for it?
• Will there be grants?
• How do we meet the timelines?
• How do we minimize contamination?
• Exemptions?
AD, Composting and other options

- CalRecycle
- Air Districts (APCD or AQMD)
- Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Coastal Commission
- Fish and Wildlife
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Other state, local and federal agencies

Permitting
MORE ISSUES

- Capital needs: Vehicles, carts, bins
- Financing
- Staffing
- Franchise vs In-House
- Self-haulers
- Impact on landfill operations and landfill life
- Need for local ordinances?

Rules for Food Service Businesses

- Recycling and Food Waste Bins Available?
- Requirements for compostable food ware?
- Polystyrene foam?
- Plant-based plastics?
- Compostable can liners?
In Santa Cruz County:
• No polystyrene
• No plastic straws or stir sticks
• All food service ware recyclable or compostable

• Other Issues
  • Batteries
  • Solar panels
  • Electronics
  • China!
  • Other?
Thank you!

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