

Healthcare Environmental Awareness and Resource Recovery Team (HEARRT)
MN Pollution Control Agency Conference Room 2 A & B
520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
Thursday, July 9, 2009 9:00 a.m. – noon
Meeting Summary

Announcements

- . **MnTAP Intern Presentations**, Friday Aug. 21, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. McNamara Alumni Center, U of MN. See, www.mntap.umn.edu/resources/cal.htm
- . Spent **alkaline batteries** exempt from DOT regulations-DOT letter attached.
- . Soredex Optime digital **chairside x-ray** plates exceed TCLP limit for barium. From Peggy Krishnan, Mpls, VA.
- . **Antimicrobial, foaming alcohol hand rubs contain perflourinated chemicals**—same compounds found in Lake Elmo, Oakdale, Mississippi River, etc. Concern mounting re: persistent compound, similar to PCB. PFC are also potent greenhouse gases with warming potential 6500 times that of carbon dioxide. Alternatives such as alcohol gels are preferable. See, *Perflourinated Compounds and Human Health Concerns* at www.globalhealthsafety.org/resources/library/2009-04-20PFCs_fact_sheet.pdf
- . MPCA and MnTAP starting educational **compliance** and pollution prevention initiative for **non-hospital healthcare** facilities; clinics, dentists, long-term care and veterinarians. FFI see attached press release.
- . **Next meeting**, Thur., Oct. 8 at Ridgeview Medical Center, Waconia. See MnTAP website for updates and watch for the agenda to come out soon.

Composting Healthcare Food Waste

Ginny Black, MPCA St. Paul, 651.757.2233, ginny.black@state.mn.us

Composting is a controlled biological decay of organic materials that forms a humus material. Benefits include balancing the pH of soil, reducing water demands of plants, and helps control soil erosion. To get started, you need organic materials like leaves and food scraps, along with water and air. The four factors for successful composting are carbon:nitrogen ratio, air, water, and temperature. The compost recipe includes 4 parts dry leaves/other browns to 1 part food waste/fresh grass clippings.

The compost can be worked directly into soil, in potting soils, and as a top dressing. It will look like dirt when it is ready, and if it doesn't seem to be working, it may need more water added. You can compost in the winter, as it will thaw in the spring and will start up again.

One issue with gardening is lead levels in the soil, which can be absorbed by leafy greens. Crops can be added that don't readily absorb lead and high levels of compost can immobilize lead.

If interested in composting at your healthcare facility, you can look into the Compost Grant Program. Please contact Ginny for more information (see above).

<http://www.reduce.org/compost/index.html>

St. Luke's Roof Top Garden

Mark Branovan, St. Luke's, 218.249.2425, MBranovan@slhduluth.com

St. Luke's roof top garden is starting out small and experimenting using rain gutters and kiddie pools filled with soil. They are growing radishes, lettuce, herbs and tomatoes. They use a rain barrel for watering instead of hauling water up. If the program is successful they hope to expand the selection and volume next year by adding more permanent planters equipped with cold boxes to use throughout the winter.

The kitchen also uses local farmers and has been composting for the past 6 years through a volunteer program at WLSSD. They compost 8-10,000 lbs/month. St. Luke's has established a partnership with the local farmers market where locally grown produce is brought to the hospital weekly.

Pharmaceutical waste management and reduction discussion --All

Sureway has reusable hazardous waste containers. FFI, Contact Morry Johnson at 507-993-3035, mjohnsonsws@charter.net

BD has developed a RCRA container, see <http://www.bd.com/sharps/pdf/0800.pdf>. Thanks to Crystal S. for this.

Fairview has developed a comprehensive waste management placard. Contact Crystal Saric-Bevins (see attendee list below).

Hazardous Waste Discussion

Brandon Finke, MPCA, 651-757-2358, Brandon.finke@state.mn.us

Hospitals

- All 122 greater Minnesota hospitals will have been inspected at least once by the MPCA by the end of next week.
- All metro hospitals have been inspected at least once by metro county programs/MPCA/EPA.
- Subsequent inspections are subject to full enforcement of hazardous waste rules.

Surgery Centers

- The ~32 metro surgery centers have been, or will be, inspected by metro county programs.
- The ~20 greater Minnesota surgery centers tentatively will be inspected by the MPCA from October 2009 to September 2010.

Other Health Care Generators

- See attached newsletter release

Fact Sheets

- Several new health care hazardous waste fact sheets are available on the MPCA website:
 - Reverse Distribution of Non-controlled Substance Pharmaceuticals
 - <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/w-hw3-36b.pdf>
 - Regulatory Consensus on Health Care Issues
 - <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/w-hw3-35.pdf>
 - The Lethality Characteristic
 - <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/w-hw2-05.pdf>

Attendees

Name	Phone	Representing	E-mail Address
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