

Product Stewardship for Unwanted Household Medicines

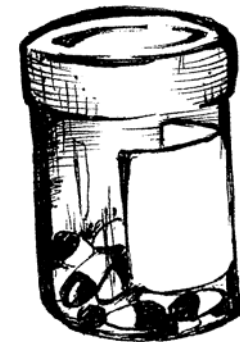
Suellen Mele
Washington Citizens for Resource Conservation
Suellen@WasteNotWashington.org
206-441-1790

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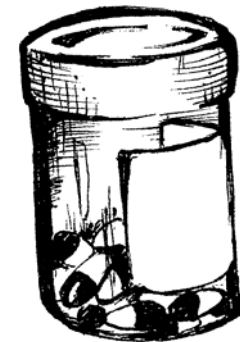
What is Product Stewardship?

- Product Stewardship means that **whoever designs, produces, sells, or uses a product takes responsibility** for minimizing the product's environmental impact throughout all stages of the product's life cycle
- **Shared Environmental Responsibility** for the product at the end of its life



Shared Responsibility in the BC Program

- **Pharmaceutical industry** pays for program (Stewardship Organization administers)
- **Pharmacies** provide take-back locations
- **Consumers** return their unwanted medications to participating pharmacies
- **Government** provides oversight and education



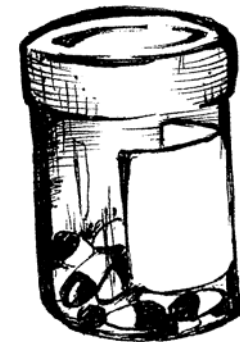
In Washington

Will a takeback program for medicines work here?

2006 Survey showed:

- 74% of respondents said they are willing to properly dispose of unwanted medicines if a convenient location is offered
- 84% said a local pharmacy would be the most convenient location to dispose of unused medicines

Source: SoundStats Survey of King County households
(2006, WCRC)

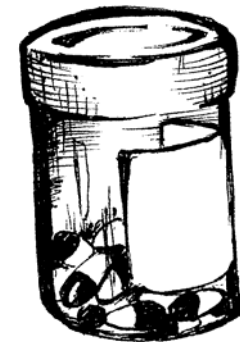


In Washington

Will a takeback program for medicines work here?

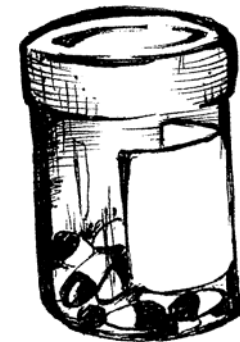
Examples in Washington:

- Rechargeable Batteries drop-off
- Cell Phones drop-off
- Ink Cartridges drop-off
- Thermostats
- Fluorescent Bulbs “Take It Back Network”
- Computers & TVs “Take It Back Network”
- Washington’s new recycling law for computers and TVs (2009 implementation)



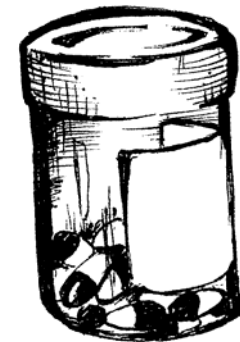
Private Sector Solution

- Medicine return becomes part of doing business
- Uses relationships that already exist between pharmacies, distributors, manufacturers, and regulatory agencies
- Provides good customer service



Benefits of Product Stewardship

- Provides easy and convenient return program
 - 1300 pharmacies in Washington
- Washington program modeled after BC could collect:
 - 83,000 lbs of medicines per year
 - 68 million pills
- Pharmacies are set up for safe and secure handling of medicines



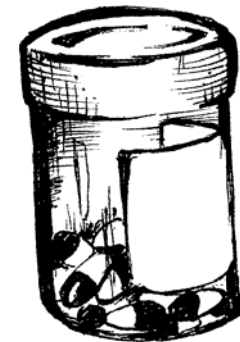
Benefits of Product Stewardship

- Avoids new costs to local governments
- No charge to consumers when returning medicines
- Negligible impact on price of medicines
 - 2005 WA prescription sales at pharmacies = \$2,850,000,000
 - BC program cost is under \$200,000
- Can't get same convenience or cost savings with government programs



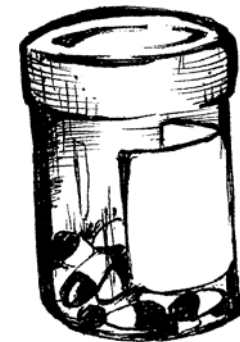
The longer view

- We all want to keep pharmaceuticals out of our streams and drinking water
- The pilot is a short-term program that will help us learn what's needed to transition to an ongoing program
- A product stewardship approach would make a sustainable program possible for the long term



Next Steps

- Broaden stakeholder participation
- Seek pharmaceutical manufacturer involvement
- Work with diverse stakeholders to propose establishment of ongoing statewide system
- If Committee is interested, work in cooperation with the Committee on medicine collection and disposal issues



Additional Information

- **Coming soon for info about Washington pilot:**
www.medicinereturn.com
- **Northwest Product Stewardship Council**
www.productstewardship.net
- **Product Stewardship Institute**
<http://www.productstewardship.us/>
- **Washington Citizens for Resource Conservation**
www.WasteNotWashington.org

