



Undo the Great Lakes Chemical Brew: Proper Pharmaceutical and Personal-Care-Product (PPCP) Disposal

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- A lower Great Lakes–wide collaboration organized through the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network and led by Pennsylvania:
 - Pennsylvania (project host), Illinois-Indiana, New York, and Ohio Sea Grant programs
 - David Kelch and Frank Lichtkoppler for Ohio Sea Grant
- Start/End dates: September 2010 – August 2012
- Funding: \$66,748 to Ohio programming (\$530,759 project wide)
- Program Area: I.A.9. Pollution Prevention and Toxics Reduction in the Great Lakes

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- Within Ohio, Sea Grant will develop educational materials and exhibit, present, and distribute materials at numerous events with expected contacts in the 100 thousands;
- Post updates to a page on Ohio Sea Grant's web site; and
- Partner with law enforcement to host PPCP collection events (two in 1st project year and four in 2nd).

Top three accomplishments/impacts

- Ohio Sea Grant partnered with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and local law enforcement on National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, 29 October 2011, and collected 1,311 pounds (more than half a ton!) of unwanted PPCP in Lorain County
- More than 2 million pills collected at organized events project wide throughout the project area
- At least 705,340 people to date reached through workshops, print, and other media

Regional value

- Because of its collaborative nature through the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network, this project is being implemented regionally by design.
- Problems associated with improper PPCP disposal are a potential issue on any watershed with human populations: methods could be emulated by any community to beneficial results.

Ecosystem and management improvements

- With effective outreach to the public, contamination of watersheds and the Great Lakes by PPCPs and endocrine disruptors is reduced.

Public benefits from project

- Reduced contamination of watersheds reduces contamination of source waters, reducing potential human exposures to contaminants.
- Proper PPCP collection and disposal benefits and reduces costs of law enforcement in making it less likely unused prescription medication will fall into illegal traffic.

Economic impact

- Potential reductions in costs associated with water treatment and law enforcement: difficult to quantify within scope of project.

New research needs and management questions

- Implications for future management: Some partner states (most notably Pennsylvania) are pressing for legislation to create formal return programs and allow the public to return unused medications to pharmacies.



Benefits of synthesis effort

- Improved networking with managers and researchers.

