



Health Care Industry Waste Reduction and Recycling

The Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) works to ensure waste materials are reduced, reused, recycled, or disposed of properly to protect public health and the environment.

Key Players

One of the main components to starting or expanding waste reduction and recycling programs is to bring together key players that can contribute to the development or expansion of sustainable waste management programs:

- Health care industry workers
- Local jurisdiction contacts
- City/county public works department representatives
- Hauling company representatives
- Recycling and collection service vendors
- Product suppliers

Commercial Organics Recycling

AB 1826, the Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling law (<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Recycle/Commercial/Organics/>), will require businesses including hospitals to recycle their organic waste on or after April 1, 2016, depending on the amount of waste they generate per week.



Blue Wrap

CalRecycle's Hospital Blue Wrap Fact Sheet (<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Publications/Detail.aspx?PublicationID=1314>) is for hospitals implementing a waste reduction and recycling program for blue wrap. The information includes a definition of blue wrap, ways to reduce its disposal, alternatives to blue wrap, and steps for setting up a collection and recycling program for the material.



Other Resources

- Health Care Industry Waste Reduction and Recycling (<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/HealthCare/>). This CalRecycle webpage includes links for various materials and programs related to health care industry waste.
- California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) (<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/>). DTSC's mission is to protect human health and the environment from toxic harm. Check out that department's website site for reports, case studies, and fact sheets.
- Hospital Pollution Prevention Program (<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/medicalwaste/Pages/HospitalPollutionPrevention.aspx>). The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) webpage provides information regarding mercury assessment, strategies to preventing pollution, tips on making red bag waste less environmentally harmful, and a self-assessment manual for proper management of medical waste.
- Pollution Prevention (<http://www3.epa.gov/region9/waste/p2/hospart.html>). The U.S. EPA Region 9's pollution prevention page includes ideas and information for hospitals.
- Association of Medical Device Reprocessors (AMDR) (<http://www.amdr.org/>). AMDR's mission is to promote and protect the legal, regulatory and other trade interests of the nation's third-party reprocessing industry.
- Practice Greenhealth (merged with H2E) (<https://practicegreenhealth.org/>). Practice Greenhealth is a membership organization dedicated to health care facilities that are committed to being green. This site includes articles, resources, helpful tools, and awards.
- World Health Organization (WHO) and Health Care Waste Management (<http://www.who.int/en/>). WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. WHO is responsible for global health issues, setting standards, shaping health research, and providing technical support to countries.

Remember: Waste reduction, reuse, and recycling strategies can have a positive impact on the environment and patient wellness, and it can provide potential cost savings.

CalRecycle is your guide to waste reduction, recycling and composting!