



Education Program

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Why should we care?



How can youth be part of the solution?





Audience

- Formal educators and students: Grades 6-12
- After school science clubs
- Non-formal educators serving the public
- 4-H Programs



Education Resources

- Toolkit for Community Collection Programs
- High School Service-learning Curriculum
- 4-H Guide for after school clubs and middle/high school classrooms

The Medicine Chest – A High School Curriculum



- Informs youth and their families about the harmful effects of improper medicine disposal
- Provides teachers with best practices for creating a community awareness campaign
- Incorporates a variety of educational approaches for instructing youth



Students paint rain barrel to inform public about medicine disposal.

The Medicine Chest (cont'd)

- Informs high school teachers about the Prescription Pill and Drug Disposal Program (P²D²)
- Provides supplemental activities
- Encourages students to become actively engaged
- Offers models, resources, and guidance to support community stewardship



Youth Work in Teams to Educate Communities

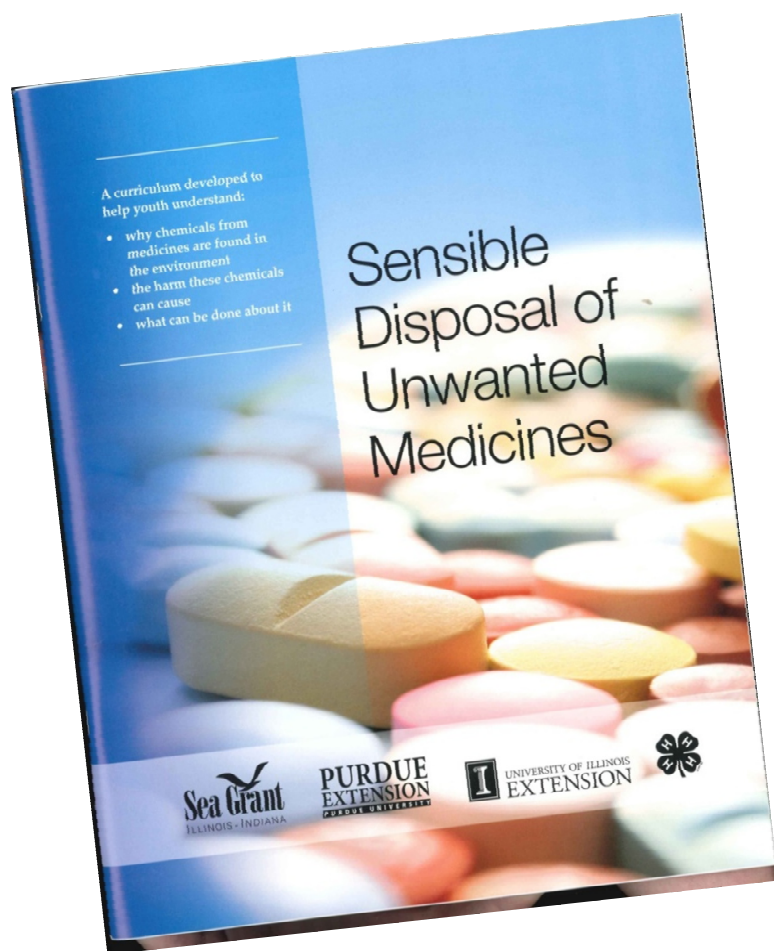
- Poster displays
- PSA's
- Demonstrations at community events and local venues
- Informing police, pharmacists, and hazardous waste managers





4-H Guide

Sensible Disposal of Unwanted Medicines



Helps youth understand:

- Why chemicals from medicines are found in the environment
- The harm caused by these chemicals
- What can be done about them

Sensible Disposal of Unwanted Medicines (cont'd)



- Active learning
- Discovery learning
- Enhanced knowledge retention



Best Practices in Curriculum

- Incorporate a multi-disciplinary approach
- Science teaching integrated with instruction in health, social studies, language arts, civics, cultural arts, etc.
- Advance STEM learning (science, technology, engineering and math)

Best Practice

Integrating Earth Force/Earth Action Model



Best Practice--Earth Force Outreach

Earth Force Student Summit 2011

- 146 middle school students at 6 Chicago Public Schools learned about PPCP's via a news media inventory
- George Pullman School explored their local watershed
 - Tested local pond water
 - Inventoried macro-invertebrates to get a snapshot of the local water quality



Earth Force Student Summit (cont'd)

- Provided fliers to residents at train station informing them of local collection event
- Spoke to local school council about the issue
- Created informational banner to display in school
- Made educational brochures to disseminate to local residents and advertised upcoming collection event



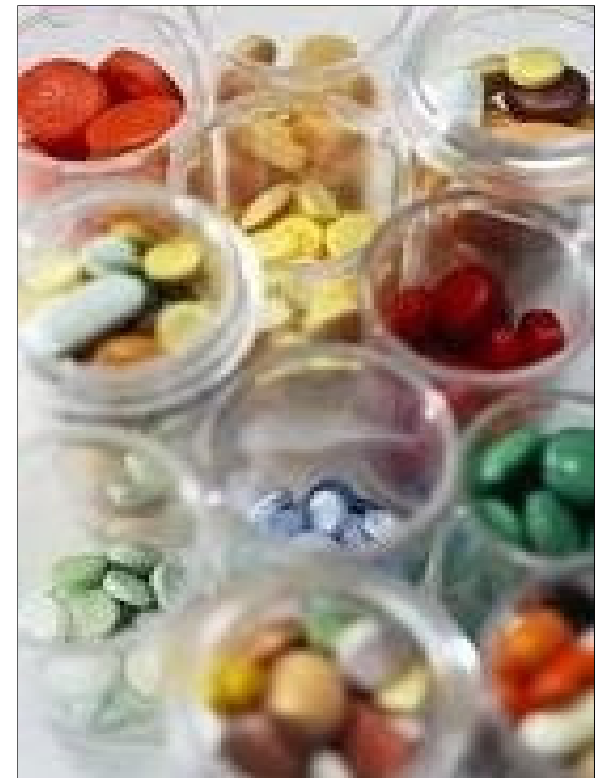
Best Practice--Earth Action Outreach

Earth Action students gathered input from Erie citizens and pharmacists and shared this with Pennsylvania legislators in a visit to the state capitol in June 2011. Representative John Hornaman is proposing legislation re: returning unwanted meds to PA pharmacies in the spring 2012 session.



Best Practice—Engage Youth in Community Stewardship



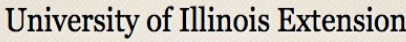

- Inform adults about critical action steps
- Protect our waterways
- Reduce medicine poisoning in children
- Reduce identification theft



Best Practice

Share exemplary stewardship projects with other educators, students, and communities

unwantedmeds.org



How to dispose of Medicine & Personal Care Products

Why We Care

- » Unwanted Medicine
- » Personal Products

Where to Dispose

How to Start a Collection

Teachers & Students

- » Curriculum
- » Service Projects

Research & Resources

For Educators: Curriculum and Service-Learning Projects



Looking to engage your students and youth groups in new learning activities that are both fun and educational? Then you've come to the right place. When people no longer need their medicine, they often flush or throw them away. But doing so can contaminate waterways, harming fish and other aquatic wildlife. In response to growing concerns about the impacts of improper medicine disposal and prescription drug abuse, Sea Grant has developed curricula and service-learning projects that teach kids how they can be part of the solution.

Maybe you are interested in this topic but aren't quite sure where to begin. If that's the case, we encourage you to browse through some of the service-learning projects that others have done to spark your own creativity. [The Medicine Chest](#) curriculum has a chapter devoted to [student stewardship projects](#). The information on these pages will provide you with all the tools you need to get students excited about learning how to properly dispose of unused medicine.

Check out our [blog](#) to get the latest information about upcoming workshops and other events.

Curriculum

IISG has developed two curricula about unused medicines that are great ways to introduce students to water quality issues and help them learn to raise awareness and promote action. IISG and the [P2D2 Program](#) worked together to develop [The Medicine Chest](#), a stewardship- based middle and high school curriculum. It is a compilation of multidisciplinary, standards- based classroom lessons, sample activities, and background information describing how the improper disposal of unwanted medicines can be harmful to people, pets, and the environment. This service-learning guide features samples of student projects, including billboards, eco-poems, [songs](#), artwork, and student presentations--all meant to inspire action. [Sensible Disposal of Unwanted Medicines: 4-H Guide](#), developed by Purdue University, is a curriculum that helps 4-H members and students in grades 6-12 understand why medicines have been found in the environment, the





Sharing Curriculum in Your Community

- Meetings with school administrators or teachers
- Interactions with County Extension Youth/4-H
- Interactions with area museums, aquariums, zoos
- Public events focusing on environmental stewardship
- Other Great Lakes education-related events