

YELLOW JUG OLD DRUGS PROGRAM[®]

Great Lakes Clean Water Organization
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NEWS RELEASE

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7746 Pounds of Unused/Unwanted Drugs Collected and Disposed of Properly in Recent Collection in Michigan

During the recent quarterly collection at participating pharmacies in Michigan, the Yellow Jug Old Drugs program collected 7746 lbs. of unused/unwanted drugs. Yellow Jug Old Drugs is a program that works in partnership with local pharmacies to collect and properly dispose of unwanted/unused drugs in a safe and approved manner to help keep our water clean. Individuals can dispose of unused/unwanted drugs free of charge at participating pharmacies.

Currently there are 251 pharmacies participating in Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin. The program was started by Great Lakes Clean Water (GLCW), a non-profit organization in May 2009. Along with the total collected in Michigan 375 pounds were collected in October at pharmacies in Illinois and Wisconsin. A total of 55,516 lbs. has been collected to date. Total weight is for drugs collected only and does not include product packaging as packaging is returned to customers for recycling where appropriate.

According to Chris Angel, GLCW President, interest in the Yellow Jug Old Drugs program is very strong and continues to grow. He states, "It's a win-win for pharmacies to provide the program and for the residents where those pharmacies are located. We all want clean water and disposing of unused/unwanted drugs properly is something we can all do to help keep our water safe."

Angel added that presently retail pharmacies can only accept non-controlled substances, however that is soon to change as new regulations proposed by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) will allow retail pharmacies to accept controlled substances as well. Angel states, "Since the beginning of our program four years ago we planned for being able to accept controlled substances at some point. We are now taking steps that will allow us to do that in accordance with the new DEA regulations."

Program support in Michigan is provided by local pharmacies, United Water, Detroit Renewable Power, SSCENT, Community Foundation of Northeast Michigan, Northern Michigan Substance Abuse Services, Barry County Substance Abuse Task Force, Gratiot County Solid Waste Authority, Ten Sixteen Recovery Network and the Michigan DEQ Michigan Community Pollution Prevention (P2) Grant Program for the development of ongoing household drug collection programs.

To find a participating pharmacy in your area go to www.greatlakescleanwater.org or call 989-736-8179

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