

Z. Encourage placement of collection boxes in every locality and subsequently inform Virginians of their locations.

Increase disposal opportunities via mail-back programs and collection boxes, with a minimum goal of one disposal container in every locality.

Implementation Steps:

- As work continues to place collection boxes in every locality, those that are already placed will be noted on the state website and new containers will be added as they become available.
- The state website should have a dedicated page, clearly noted on the homepage, which lists up-to-date disposal locations in an easy-to-use and direct format.
- The link to this page should be used in social media by localities and state agencies and officials when take-back days and events occur.
- The link should also be posted to applicable state agencies' sites.

Additional Action Required: Collection boxes must be purchased and placed (See Storage and Disposal)

**Recommendation of Education Workgroup. Coincides with Storage and Disposal recommendation.*

AA. To increase disposal opportunities via drug take-back events within the law enforcement agencies (LE), increase number of law enforcement agencies participating as drug collection sites.

Since 2010, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has held national take-back events semi-annually. During the last event in November 2014, 309 tons of unwanted prescription drugs were collected and destroyed. ~~DEA has announced it will no longer hold take-back events.~~ To continue providing opportunities for the public to dispose of unwanted prescription drugs, it is important to continue holding statewide take-back events semi-annually and increase voluntary participation of law enforcement agencies installing drug collection boxes, with the goal of having at least one collection box in every locality in Virginia.

Implementation steps:

- State leadership to ~~designate-encourage law enforcement and public participation in two fixed days bi-annually for semi-annual~~ state-wide take-back events. Events could be combined with existing holidays for recognizing the environment, recycling efforts, tax-free holidays, etc.
- ~~Two options for collecting and disposing of drugs:~~

- ~~○ local law enforcement agencies collect and transport drugs to regional locations then National Guard, accompanied by law enforcement officers, transports drugs to incinerator in Alexandria, Virginia owned by Covanta for free incineration, or~~
- ~~○ local law enforcement agencies collect and have responsibility for disposing of drugs on their own.~~

- Survey of law enforcement agencies was conducted by the Storage and Disposal Workgroup in June 2015 to determine willingness to participate in take-back events and install collection boxes, and to identify location of current collection boxes.
- Continue encouraging law enforcement agencies to obtain free collection boxes from an identified source. For example, CVS/pharmacy and The Partnership at Drugfree.org has approximately 150 collection boxes available for free through an application process.
- Provide funding for purchasing any additionally needed collection boxes to reach the goal of one collection box per locality.
- Provide (or pursue) ongoing funding for disposal efforts, giving localities the flexibility to determine the best method of using those funds.

Additional Action Required: Identify funding resources to offset costs, if any, associated with purchasing collection boxes, ~~if needed, holding take-back events,~~ and offsetting drug disposal ~~costs, if any~~. Designate someone to coordinate take-back events.

**Recommendation of Storage and Disposal Workgroup*

BB. Increase disposal opportunities via mail-back programs and collection boxes provided by pharmacies.

Recently enacted Federal regulations authorize pharmacies to install collection boxes for the public to dispose of unwanted prescription drugs and to participate in mail back programs, wherein patients receive envelopes from the pharmacies for directly mailing prescription drugs back to reverse distributors for destruction. Drugs collected via collection boxes must be returned by the pharmacy to a reverse distributor for destruction.

Additional Action Required: Meet with interested stakeholders to evaluate feasibility of increasing voluntary participation of pharmacies installing drug collection boxes or participating in mail-back programs.

**Recommendation of Storage and Disposal Workgroup*

CC. Determine ongoing funding sources for drug disposal.

Law enforcement survey and other Workgroup discussions reveal that additional funding and resources are needed for both local and state law enforcement in order to increase participation in drug collection and disposal efforts.