About this Resource

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Service's (DES) Pollution Prevention Program (NHPPP) prepared this resource as a quick-reference guide to provide New Hampshire hospitals and other healthcare facilities with information and resources regarding persistent, bioaccumulative toxics (PBTs) such as mercury and dioxin. NHPPP recognizes that there are many useful documents on these topics already published, and wishes not to "re-invent the wheel," but to guide the healthcare facilities toward the most useful resources currently available. This guide introduces healthcare facilities to many useful web sites created by technical assistance providers, non-profit organizations and state agencies dedicated to promoting pollution prevention and waste reduction.

Mercury, Dioxin and Other P2 Opportunities

While there are many opportunities for hospitals and other healthcare facilities to use P2, this document's primary focus is on reducing mercury, dioxin and other PBTs in healthcare facilities. This focus was chosen because the state of New Hampshire has mercury reduction and dioxin reduction strategies, and because EPA has included mercury, dioxin, and cadmium on their list of national priorities for waste minimization in 2002.

As mentioned above, this document is designed as a reference document to aid facilities in finding assistance with their waste reduction and pollution prevention activities, particularly decreasing the amount of waste being incinerated. It is worth noting that this document is designed to aid all N.H. healthcare facilities, not just those with onsite incinerators. Most healthcare facilities send their wastes offsite for treatment, but much of this waste is incinerated, and the healthcare facility still bears responsibility for the ultimate treatment and fate of this waste.

Disclaimer

Vendors referenced in this document are not necessarily the only available options, nor does their listing imply endorsement from New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. They are merely offered as a reference to healthcare facilities in search of alternative pollution prevention products and services.

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