



YORK COUNTY
SOLID WASTE AND REFUSE AUTHORITY

2700 Blackbridge Road, York, PA 17406-7901 Phone (717) 845-1066 Fax (717) 843-1544

CONTACT: Ellen C. O'Connor
717-845-1066

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 12, 2010

Authority Announces Free Disposal of Prescription Medication

To provide residents with a second option for safely managing unused prescription medication, the York County Solid Waste Authority is accepting it from residents for FREE. Residents who prefer not to place unused prescription medications out with their regular garbage may make an appointment to deliver it directly to the York County Resource Recovery Center (RRC) for destruction.

There is NO FEE to dispose of unused prescription medications. Only prescription (no over-the-counter) medications are accepted in this program. Residents must call 717-845-1066 to make an appointment to deliver prescription medications to the RRC. Residents should call in advance (please allow one to two week's notice) to schedule their desired disposal date. The disposal process will take approximately 20 minutes. Residents are required to complete a brief registration form and will be escorted into the RRC by an Authority representative to dispose of the medications. Medications must come from a single household. Medications collected from multiple households cannot be accepted.

Most residents choose to place their medication out with their regular garbage. Because York County uses a waste-to-energy facility which burns garbage and produces power, medications are completely destroyed and reduced to an inert ash.

To minimize potential impacts to human health and the environment, residents who place medications out with their regular garbage should take it out of its original container and mix it with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter. The medication will be less appealing to children and pets, and unrecognizable to

-MORE-

people who may intentionally go through trash. Put it in a sealable bag, empty can, or other container to prevent the medication from leaking or breaking out of a garbage bag. Before disposing of a medicine container, scratch out all identifying information to make it unreadable. This will help to protect identities and the privacy of personal health information.

Other Tips:

- ▶ The FDA recommends flushing certain unused medications due to safety risks. To learn more, visit: **www.fda.gov/consumer**
- ▶ Do not give your medication to anyone else or take a prescription that was not prescribed for you.
- ▶ Check the Authority's web site: www.ycswa.com under "Upcoming Events" to find community medication take-back programs that may be scheduled near you.

The Authority facilitates responsible solid waste management through an integrated strategy that emphasizes waste reduction, education, recycling and resource recovery. The Authority is the owner of the York County Resource Recovery Center in Manchester Township; and owns and operates a Yard Waste Transfer Facility, a Recyclable Materials Drop-off Center and an Education Center. Other free programs for York County residents include a litter disposal program, electronics, Christmas tree and phone book recycling, household hazardous waste collection, public education programming and a public recycling drop-off center.

#