

Whereas pharmaceuticals and medications improperly disposed of (flushed down the toilet and poured down the drain) can get into the environment. Wastewater treatment plants and septic systems are not designed to remove all medications from wastewater. Pouring these substances down the drain can send the medications to area lakes and streams. Small amounts of antibiotics, anti-depressants, veterinary drugs, birth control hormones and ibuprofen have been detected in waterways across the United States.

According to the Wisconsin DNR, hormones found in pharmaceuticals may cause abnormalities in the reproductive cycles of fish. Antibiotics that are present may also lead to the development of drug-resistant germs, which are linked to antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Toxic elements such as mercury, selenium and other heavy metals found in pharmaceuticals and medications can pollute ground water and surface water.

Whereas the disposal of pharmaceuticals and medications through the waste management system can also create hazardous pollution, including air pollution through incineration and ground water contamination through landfill seepage.

Whereas the EPA, US CDC, and Wisconsin DNR recommend that unused medications and pharmaceuticals be returned to authorized medication drop off sites to prevent the potential for water contamination.

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Oshkosh Sustainability Advisory Board recognizes and commends the leadership and commitment to public health of the Winnebago County Solid Waste Department, the Oshkosh Police Department, Morton Pharmacy, the Lake Winnebago Area MEG Unit, the Winnebago County Health Department, and ReTHINK-Winnebago in the establishment of a permanent, 24-hr pharmaceutical and medication drop off site located at the Oshkosh Safety Building, 420 Jackson Street.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of this recognition be issued to all municipal departments, Oshkosh Common Council members, and parties responsible for this program.

Adopted the 7th day of June, 2010

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Ronald Kane Hardy, Chairman