



Emerald Coast Utilities Authority

Customer Pipeline

Take-Back Day Yields Over 927 Pounds of Pharmaceuticals

On Saturday, October 29, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the ECUA, Escambia County Sheriff's Office, Pensacola Police Department, Pensacola Fire Department, and CVS/Pharmacy, in coordination with the Community Drug and Alcohol Council and the Drug Enforcement Administration, conducted the "Prescription Drug Round-Up."

The free one-day effort between local and federal law enforcement yielded over 927 pounds of expired, unwanted or unused pharmaceutically controlled substances-- an increase of 640% over the April 30, 2011 event, which accumulated 125 pounds of medications for destruction. The pharmaceuticals collected through these events are destroyed in a controlled and safe manner.

The October 29 event featured eight "Take-Back" locations with deputies and officers from the Escambia County Sheriff's Office and Pensacola Police Department participating in the effort. CVS/Pharmacy donated \$5.00 gift cards to individuals turning in outdated and unneeded pharmaceuticals.

Pharmaceuticals are being discovered in our nation's waterways at very low concentrations. While the sources of these pharmaceuticals may be numerous, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been studying unused pharmaceutical disposal practices. This study was prompted by the concern that potentially large amounts of pharmaceuticals are being flushed or improperly disposed of down the drain, ultimately ending up in rivers, streams and coastal waters.

Customer Service: 476-0480 • www.ecua.fl.gov
customer.service@ecua.fl.gov • After-hours Emergency Calls: 476-5110
Commercial Sanitation Customer Service: 476-0480



Mark Your Calendars!

ECUA offices will be closed **Friday, December 23** and **Monday, December 26**, in observance of the Christmas holiday, and on **Monday, January 2, 2012**, in observance of the New Year's holiday.

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Sanitation Pick-up Schedules for the Christmas and New Year's Holiday Weeks

There are **no changes** to the collection schedules for all Residential and Commercial customers. All garbage, yard trash, recycling and commercial dumpster collections will be made on their regularly scheduled days.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!

Thirty Years of Environmental Leadership: Seeing Clearly Through the FOG

As ECUA marks its thirtieth year, we are celebrating the environmental initiatives we have achieved to date, and those we look forward to implementing in the future. This month, we're focusing on our commercial Fats, Oils & Grease (FOG) Educational Program.

The ECUA works to maintain over 1200 miles of sewer pipes throughout southern Escambia County. Residual fats, oils and grease (FOG) is a by-product from food service establishments (FSEs). Typically, FOG enters a facility's plumbing system from dishwashing, floor cleaning, and equipment sanitation. Sanitary sewer systems are not designed, or equipped, to handle the FOG that can accumulate on the interior of the sewer collection system pipes from improperly maintained discharges. These accumulations may cause chokes in the sewer lines, which can result in sanitary sewer overflows (SSO). An SSO is the unintentional flow of untreated sewage from the wastewater collection system onto the ground or into a facility, home, or waterway. SSOs can present a health risk to the public, damage property, and pollute our environment.

In 2006, the ECUA introduced the FOG (Fats, Oil, and Grease) Educational Program, as a grease control initiative designed to decrease and/or eliminate SSOs and to comply with the Clean Water Act. Any food service establishment or commercial/institutional kitchen that is connected to the ECUA sewer system is required to participate in the FOG program.

Through this program, local businesses in the food service industry are instructed in the proper handling and disposal of FOG. Managers or owners of FSEs are required to install grease trap/interceptors and maintain them properly. Pump-out reports must be submitted after the trap/interceptor cleaning, and all receipts and records associated with the maintenance of grease traps must be kept for a required period of time. Finally, Best Management Practices (BMPs) are requirements used to minimize grease and solids build-up in FSE grease traps. Following BMPs reduces plumbing expenses and the disposal fees associated with the materials removed from grease traps during maintenance.

Since the inception of this program, ECUA has seen a continuing reduction of SSOs and the trend is improving annually. We won't rest until SSOs are completely eliminated.



FOG coats a cross-section of sewer line

First Recycling Drop-off Site

If your recycling can is full this week, or you haven't yet signed up for free curbside recycling service, you now have one more recycling disposal option to consider.

ECUA has placed its first recycling drop-off site at our Ellyson campus. The new site is located on Sturdevant Street (off Copter Road), between the old airplane hangar and the ECUA Water Quality Laboratory. Additional drop-off locations are currently under consideration.

Items accepted at this drop-off site are the regular recyclables that are permitted for disposal in the residential curbside recycling container. **Household hazardous waste, bulky recyclables and yard waste are not accepted at this site.**

For a full list of items included in the ECUA Residential Curbside Recycling Program, please visit us at: <http://www.ecua.fl.gov/system/files/default/RecyclWhat.pdf>.

We also have repositioned the Residential Cooking Grease collection rack to this same area for the convenient drop-off of your household cooking oils and grease.



Next month: **Made for Each Other:** The Bayou Marcus Wetlands Boardwalk Nature Trail