

Upper Valley Household Hazardous Waste Committee ANNUAL REPORT 2010

During 2010 the Committee continued to maintain a regional website (www.uvhhw.org), provide educational outreach, and support the HHW collections with the assistance of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission.

Home & Life Show Event Booth: The Household Hazardous Waste Committee's booth in March 2010 featured information on collections in the area including dates and what materials are and are not accepted. Prescription and over-the-counter medicine examples and management options were provided.

Other materials included information on proper management of rechargeable batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, auto batteries, antifreeze, and mercury-containing devices such as button batteries, thermostats, and thermometers. Alternative cleaning recipes and pesticide-free lawn and garden care information were distributed. A large map displayed the household hazardous waste collections in the area in both New Hampshire and Vermont with their dates, times, and contacts for further information.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Support: The committee provided volunteer support at the collections held at the Lebanon Landfill, keeping waiting times short and residents informed. A total of 498 households from Cornish, Enfield, Goshen, Hanover, Lebanon, Lempster, Lyme, Newbury, Orford, Piermont, Plainfield, Springfield, Sunapee, Unity and Wilmot brought waste to two collections at the Lebanon Landfill in July and September. Over 160 households from those towns brought waste to the Newbury, NH collection in August.

Unwanted Medicine Collections: Dartmouth-Hitchcock Outpatient Pharmacy partnered with the Upper Valley HHW Committee and the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission to provide unwanted medicine collection. At the two Lebanon collections, 84 households brought unwanted medicines for proper disposal. At the Newbury, NH collection, 17 households brought unwanted medicines.

Proper handling of unwanted medicines is strictly regulated. A police officer must oversee the process and a pharmacist must determine the type of medication and document all "controlled" medicines (those addictive drugs having "street value"). The controlled substances are taken by the police officer at the end of the collection and stored at the police department until taken for incineration. The non-controlled medications are taken by the HHW contractor and incinerated with other materials collected.

The Upper Valley Household Hazardous Waste Committee is made up of volunteers from Upper Valley towns. We encourage anyone interested to attend our meetings and become involved. Contact Joyce Noll, Chair at 643-3083 for more information. We would love to talk to you.