



Hamilton Family Health Team

Green Initiative

Biohazard & Medication Disposal



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Biohazards

The Crown Point 6-week waste audit showed that we unnecessarily put 1.7kg of material into our biohazard bags, or 15kg per year.

Some of this material should have been recycled or thrown into the garbage instead.



Biohazards are incinerated, and this process releases dioxin, lead, mercury, carbon dioxide and hazardous ash into the air. These compounds are all detrimental to human health and the environment.¹

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Solution

The Crown Point pilot site has stopped using the blue wrap that we were putting into biohazards. Please see the [info sheet on autoclaving](#). We are planning an education session around what needs to be incinerated and the deleterious effects.

Benefits:

Environmental:

15 less kg of material are being incinerated each year.



Financial:

The reduced costs of biohazard disposal for the Crown Point office is estimated to be **\$600 per year.**

2. Medication:



Expired and returned medications are incinerated.

The Crown Point 12-week pharmaceutical audit showed that we inadvertently incinerate 0.7 kg of pharmaceutical waste or 3 kg per year of cardboard and packaging that is not pharmaceutical waste.

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Of this 3 kg, over 2/3 is recyclable and the rest is garbage. The 0.7 kg was composed of 0.5 kg of recyclable material and 0.2 kg of waste.

Solution:

The medication container now has a label that encourages the separation of cardboard and waste from the medications. A copy is attached.



Our medication waste container

Benefit:

Environmental

2 less kg of material are incinerated every year.



References:

1. Donahue, M. [Report: Waste Incineration: A Dirty Secret in How States Define Renewable Energy](#). Institute for Local Self-Reliance. Published December 12, 2018.

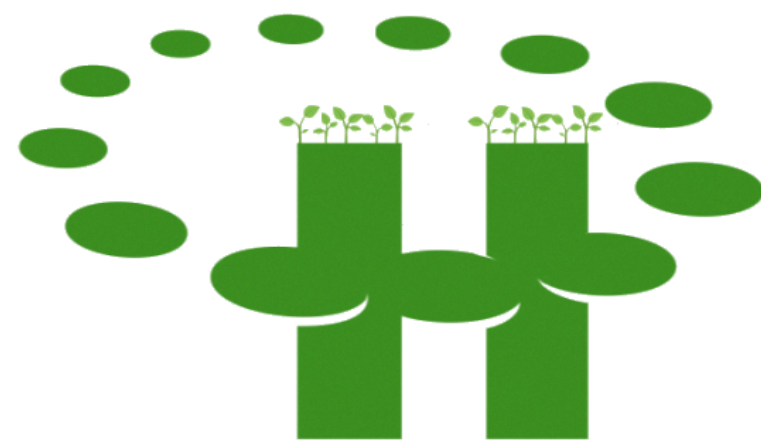
Join the HFHT Green Initiative, and access all infographics, videos, and other resources at:
[HFHT Green Initiative Webpage](#)

If you have any questions, please reach out to us: green.team@hamiltonfht.ca

IMPORTANT:

Anything placed in here will be **INCINERATED** which generates **harmful pollution to nearby communities.**

Please REMOVE all cardboard/paper for recycling, shredding, or garbage prior to placing in this bin.



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