

MechSE WELLness

X04 Waste Management

Intent: Mitigate environmental contamination and associated exposures to hazardous waste.

Hazardous waste is a threat to human health and the environment when handled, transported, or disposed of in an unregulated or uncontrolled manner, creating exposure risk via soil, air, and water. When mercury containing bulbs or batteries containing heavy metals are disposed of improperly, contamination of local area water, air, or land can result impacting human health. Leftover pesticides that have become obsolete or unusable are often disposed of in general-purpose dumps. Hazardous chemicals that are disposed of improperly, such as materials and equipment containing heavy metals like mercury, lead, and cadmium, are associated with cardiovascular, respiratory, renal, and central nervous system damage.

Impact: Addressing chemical exposure risks across manufacture, use, recycling, and waste will have meaningful benefits to the public.

What are the requirements to earn this credit?

1. Implement waste stream plan for batteries, pesticides, and equipment and lamps that contain mercury. The plan will include waste receptacle access, waste or source reduction, recycling and materials recovery (including batteries, pesticides, etc.), and disposal of waste.

How is MechSE accomplishing these requirements?

MechSE has a policy that aligns our efforts with those of the campus and local communities. Our campus has the goal to become 'zero waste' and operates a waste management and recycling center on south edge of campus. We can help by personally following the 5 R's: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot. As a department, let's work together to refuse, reduce, reuse, and recycle whatever we can and encourage exemplary housekeeping, orderliness, and cleanliness. Regretfully, the cities of Champaign and Urbana do not accept institutional battery recycling, so each of us is strongly encouraged to utilize community resources at your place of residence. Campus cares for all pesticide use and disposal per EPA. All fluorescent bulbs are collected and recycled by campus. Division of Research Safety cares for the safe disposal of chemical and bio-hazard waste per EPA.



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