



Intravenous news: BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company) and Rady Childrens Hospital-San Diego today announced that they have implemented an innovative pilot program at the Hospital that is designed to safely divert a significant percentage of BD sharps waste from landfills and utilize the recycled materials.

Single-use, disposable medical devices such as needles and syringes provide clear clinical and public health benefits, including protecting patients and healthcare workers from the spread of infections. However, disposal of these devices may create unintended environmental concerns, and unnecessary costs. BD is committed to seeking innovative sustainability solutions to address the environmental impact of disposal without compromising patient care. One approach BD is exploring to manage its disposable medical device products is a comprehensive “cradle to cradle” program, addressing every stage of a product’s lifecycle. This entails recycling waste materials and utilizing them to manufacture new products rather than permanently disposing of them in a landfill.

The connections between human health and a healthy environment are inseparable. BD is committed to reducing our environmental impacts and supporting our customers and suppliers to do the same, said Bill Kozy, Executive Vice President, BD. Rady Childrens Hospital shares our commitment to sustainability, and we commend it for its leadership in participating in this important pilot program.

This environmentally-friendly solution to disposing of sharps wastes falls perfectly in line with our hospital initiatives to reduce, reuse and recycle,” said Randy Veenstra, Green Team

leader at Rady Childrens. We estimate that, thanks to this program, 38,000 pounds of sharps waste that might have been sent to a landfill will be recycled.□

Based on initial tests, BD believes that more than 70% of its overall sharps waste may ultimately be recovered and recycled for use in new products. This novel pilot program, developed in collaboration with Waste Management (WM), the largest waste management and recycling company in North America, uses BD Sharps Containers as natural, convenient aggregation points for the collection of sharps waste. Waste Management collects filled sharps containers at the hospital, transports the material to a nearby WM facility, safely treats it to eliminate any potential biohazard and sends it to a local recycling company for raw material recovery. BD then incorporates these post-hospital recycled materials, along with recycled materials from other sources, into the making of new BD Recykleenâ„¢ container products. BD plans to sell excess recycled materials that cannot be used in BD products to other recyclers.

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