

# YELLOW JUG OLD DRUGS PROGRAM<sup>®</sup>

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Yellow Jug Old Drugs Program to Collect Unused/Unwanted Drugs to be available State-Wide in Michigan**

Coordinated by Great Lakes Clean Water Organization, a Michigan based Non-Profit, the Yellow Jug Old Drugs program began in May 2009 in Northeast Michigan. The program has progressed very well and is now expanding to provide the service to all communities in Michigan.

Until now when an individual wanted to dispose of unused/ unwanted/expired drugs the only option available in many communities was to flush these substances down the drain or send to a landfill. In Michigan and across the country this has led to an emerging problem of trace amounts of chemicals showing up in our water. The Yellow Jug Old Drugs program is providing a positive solution to help address the issue. Individuals can bring unused/unwanted/expired drugs to participating pharmacies. Collected drugs are then taken to a Covanta Energy Energy-from-Waste (EfW) facility for safe and proper disposal.

The Yellow Jug Old Drugs Program is currently available at pharmacies in Northeast Michigan, Northwest Michigan, Central Michigan and Southeast Michigan. Over the next few months additional pharmacies will be added in West Michigan, Southwest Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. By the end of the year the program will be available state-wide.

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Chris Angel President of the Volunteer Board of Director for Great Lakes Clean Water states,

“Since founding Great Lakes Clean Water and developing the Yellow Jug Old Drugs program our goal was to provide a comprehensive state-wide approach to safe and proper disposal of unused/unwanted drugs. We are extremely pleased that the Yellow Jug Old Drugs program is being so well received by pharmacies and their customers. Because of that positive response and the financial program support we receive from organizations concerned about this issue we are now able to provide this very important service throughout Michigan to help keep our water in the Great Lakes region clean.”

Program costs are supported by Covanta Energy, United Water, The Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan, Northern Michigan Substance Abuse Services, support from local pharmacies and individual donations. Companies and Foundations concerned about keeping our water clean are encouraged to contact GLCW for sponsorship opportunities to help support the Yellow Jug Old Drugs program.

The Yellow Jug Old Drugs program accepts non-controlled drugs only at pharmacies. Participating pharmacies have a complete list of accepted/not accepted items and can help customers with any questions they may have. There is no cost for individuals to bring unused/unwanted drugs to a participating pharmacy

Pharmacies interested in participating in the Yellow Jug Old Drugs may contact Great Lakes Clean Water for details. A complete list of participating pharmacies Michigan is available on the Great Lakes Clean Water website [www.greatlakescleanwater.org](http://www.greatlakescleanwater.org) or by phone at 989-736-8179