

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Prairie Research Institute

Illinois Sustainable Technology Center
1 Hazelwood Drive
Champaign, Illinois 61820



March 21, 2013

Laura Kammin
Pollution Prevention Program Specialist
Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program
University of Illinois
382 NSRC, MC-635
1101 West Peabody Dr.
Urbana, IL 61801

Dear Ms. Kammin:

The Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC), a division of the Prairie Research Institute, is providing this letter of support to Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant (IISG) for their "C-U Area Medicine Take-Back Program" project proposal, which is being submitted to the University of Illinois Student Sustainability Committee's request for proposals.

The frequent occurrence of pharmaceutical and personal care products (PPCPs) in the aquatic environment is an emerging environmental issue in the United States. Two important sources of PPCP contaminants in the environment are municipal/industrial sewage treatment plants and concentrated animal feeding operations. Scientists at the ISTC are conducting several studies associated with PPCPs: (1) developing analytical methods using LC/MS/MS; (2) investigating environmental fate and transport; (3) identifying contamination sources, and (4) remediating or mitigating environmental contamination from PPCPs. ISTC is currently undertaking a new study examining the most prevalent PPCPs found in the wastewater at the Champaign and Urbana wastewater treatment plants and several point sources in C-U.

The ISTC supports the development of a permanent medicine collection program for Champaign, Urbana, and the campus community that can legally accept controlled substances along with other prescription medications. ISTC agrees to work with IISG to: educate University of Illinois students about the research being conducted by ISTC, provide outreach materials on the topic of PPCPs that IISG and ISTC can distribute at public engagement events on and off campus, and support campus and community awareness efforts undertaken by IISG.

ISTC agrees with IISG that having a medicine collection box located on campus at the University of Illinois Police Department would make it more convenient for students and staff to be able to properly dispose of their expired or unused medications. ISTC urges the Student Sustainability Committee to partner with IISG, the University Police Department, and ISTC to make this program a success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Holm".

Nancy Holm
Assistant Director for Sponsored Research,
Public Engagement and Communications