



Brad D. Schimel
Wisconsin Attorney General

P.O. Box 7857
Madison, WI 53707-7857

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 1, 2017

AG Schimel Announces October Drug Take Back Day Collection

MADISON, Wis. – Today, Attorney General Brad Schimel announced 60,257 lbs. of unused medications were collected at Drug Take Back events on Saturday, October 28, 2017, at nearly 350 permanent drug collection receptacles located throughout the state. Wisconsin collected more unused medications than Illinois and Indiana combined. To see what it takes to process more than 60,257 lbs. of unused medications, the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) shared [this time lapse of the drugs' processing.](#)

“Wisconsin families heard the message – the opioid epidemic starts in your medicine cabinet – and they got to work collecting and disposing of unused and unwanted medications at permanent drug disposal boxes throughout our state,” said Attorney General Schimel. “And without the help of the DEA, local law enforcement, hospitals, and pharmacies, Drug Take Back Day wouldn’t have been nearly as successful. Communities are engaged in fighting the opioid epidemic, and they’re making sure these powerful medications don’t fall into the hands of someone struggling with or prone to addiction.”

Statewide, 266 police and sheriffs’ departments hosted more than 130 Drug Take Back events on October 28, and have provided 349 permanent drug disposal drop boxes, giving citizens a convenient, environmentally-friendly, and anonymous way to dispose of unused medications all year long. Proper drug disposal is essential to preventing prescription painkiller abuse. Research has shown that 70% of initial painkiller abuse starts when drugs are obtained improperly from family members or friends.

Drug Take Back Day is a collaborative effort between public and private sector partners and would not be possible without the support of Covanta Energy, Fuchs

Fuchs Trucking, Indiana State Police, Waukesha County, Waukesha County Sheriff's Office, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, Wisconsin National Guard, Wisconsin State Patrol, U.S. DEA, and the 266 law enforcement agencies who participated in this October's Drug Take Back Day.

The preliminary weight of 60,257 lbs. of prescription drugs have been boxed, palletized, shrink wrapped, and secured in three Fuchs Trucking semi-trailers for transportation to Covanta Energy Corporation in Indianapolis, where the drugs will be incinerated. An official weight will be assigned by Covanta Energy prior to destruction.