

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Session II- Wednesday Afternoon - Policy

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# First Steps

- Can We Decrease What Gets Into the Environment?
  - Takeback viewed as most promising approach
  - Involve prescribers in reducing number of pills
- What Could be Done Before Regs
  - Split on whether we should or can do anything
  - Need to show there is a problem - cause & effect
  - Need prioritization process to decide which pharms first
  - Reg changes needed
  - Treatment options need to be developed
  - Study successful takeback programs in other countries

# Trash Not Flush

- Consumer Education
  - Educational materials made & distributed
  - Outreach to special groups, i.e., hospices
  - Print disposal instructions right on Rx bag
  - Guidance from regulatory agencies on disposal
  - FDA provide guidance on disposal – no flush

# Product Stewardship

- Pharm companies have a responsibility to ensure the proper disposal of their products
- Pharm companies should explore making their products more environmentally benign
- Can pharms be made and/or a method developed to render pharms unuseable and unrecoverable at home & safe for disposal?

# Data Gaps

- Analytical or Biological Methods
- Treatment technologies – Fast tracked
- Pilot projects to examine options
- Don't wait for regs - reuse issues a driver
- EPA provide guidance on best treatment technologies
- RO effective but removes nutrients
- Stormwater as a pathway for pharms
- Develop Expert System for RCRA waste classes