



## JANUARY 2022

### Waste & Recycling Programs from 2021

The Waste and Resource Recovery Branch (WRRB) [within the Division of Environmental Protection (DEP)] is responsible for the supervision, management and conduct of the [waste management](#) program at the NIH. This group released many new or redesigned waste and recycling programs in 2021, most of which have been featured in previous newsletter issues. This article provides a consolidated list of 2021 highlights and their associated programs. Please contact DEP for assistance with waste and recycling or any of these waste management programs.

- [Recycling Coordinator Sessions](#) - Recycling Coordinator Sessions were established to provide an outlet for recycling education and information, such as NIH guidelines and resources available to staff. The first session occurred in October and addresses laboratory waste management. Future sessions will occur quarterly, with the next session focused on Everyday Recycling scheduled for January 21, 2022.
- [Styrofoam Take Back Program](#) - The Styrofoam Take Back Program was re-started to collect and reuse Styrofoam packaging products. Collection bins are available for each building on the Bethesda campus. Please contact DEP (301-496-7990) to request a collection bin or to learn where a bin is already located. DEP is collaborating with the scientific community to find eco-friendly Styrofoam alternatives. Please visit the [Styrofoam Alternatives Microsoft Teams Channel](#) to view, post and discuss alternatives to Styrofoam coolers.
- [NIH Chemical Waste Tag](#) - The NIH Chemical Waste Tag was redesigned to address regulatory changes. The tag was last revised in 1993 and at the time was reformatted and modified while retaining many aspects of the old tag. The newly released tag again retains aspects of the old tag, while also including pictograms derived from the Global Harmonized labeling system to easily identify hazards. Explanations of hazards, with examples of chemicals commonly found within the laboratory, were added to the new tag to assist with compliance. Current step-by-step instructions along with a recorded presentation on the intricacies of the new tag can be [found here](#).
- [Hazardous Waste Search Table](#) - The Hazardous Waste Search Table was created to assist the NIH community with filling out the NIH chemical waste tag.
- [NIH Drain Discharge Guide](#) - WRRB and NIEHS leadership coordinated to develop a guide on what can go down the drain, as part of a larger, far-more comprehensive waste management strategy. This policy outlines over 275 chemicals that are approved for drain disposal along with an 8-step safety protocol that must be followed when performing this action.
- [Application for Disposal of Specific Chemical Reagents to the Sanitary Sewer](#) - In coordination with the Drain Discharge Guide, the IT software used to submit and approve drain disposal applications to the sanitary sewer was redesigned. The redesign was conducted to address the limited need for the disposal of specific liquid chemical waste to the sanitary sewer.
- [NIH Drain Discharge Guide Outreach](#) - Several posters and decal stickers were developed for placement above laboratory sinks to promote the NIH Drain Discharge Guide. To obtain posters or decal stickers, please contact [Craig Upson](#).



## SPOTLIGHT



### A Synopsis of the 2021 HHS Climate Adaptation & Resilience Plan

In 2021, HHS established its Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan, as required by Executive Order 14008. We have summarized this document to promote awareness of the HHS strategy to prepare for and combat climate change.

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## TAKE ACTION



### Make a Resolution to Be More Sustainable!

The start of a new year is a great time to change your actions to benefit the environment. In this article, we discuss a few ways to live a more sustainable lifestyle starting now!

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## NEMS TRAINING

**Did you know?** The NIH will provide further instruction in the future for implementing the Climate Adaptation & Resilience Plan into IC activities. To learn more about executive orders that apply to the NIH, please visit the [NEMS Training webpage](#) to view a short (20 minute) NIH environmental awareness training video.