

# **REDUCTION OF MEDICAL WASTE: HOSPITALS SAVE MONEY UNDER EPA INITIATIVE**

EPA's waste minimization initiatives extend beyond industrial waste and municipal solid waste to other categories of regulated waste. In conjunction with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Agency has recently implemented a program to reduce hazardous waste generated at hospitals.

The Iowa Hospital project began with a workshop entitled "Statewide Pollution Prevention for Healthcare Facilities," demonstrating ways that hospitals could reduce waste generation. The program also includes on-site technical assistance and job training activities. EPA estimates that the five pilot hospitals involved in the program will save a total of \$500,000 each year in waste management and energy costs as a result of the initiative.

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