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# Press Release

## Covanta Energy lets police, DA Morrissey destroy drugs before drugs destroy lives

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Franklin Det. Sgt. James Mill and Safety Officer Dan MacLean took a trip Monday to Covanta Energy’s Haverhill incinerator with District Attorney Michael Morrissey to destroy hundreds of pounds of prescription drugs from in the Franklin PD’s new prescription drug collection container – including thousands of Percocet, OxyContin, Vicodin and other types of the addictive opiate painkillers fueling a regional addiction crisis.

“Covanta Energy’s partnership here is absolutely invaluable,” said District Attorney Morrissey, who gave grants to help Franklin, Medway, Wrentham, Medfield, Walpole and several other Norfolk County communities buy secure prescription drug collection containers in his first year as Norfolk DA.

“My thanks to Franklin’s new Chief, Stephen Semerjian, for helping implement this program as Deputy Chief and continuing it as he assumes leadership of the department,” Morrissey said. “He is providing a very valuable service to the Franklin community that will prevent crimes and save lives.”

Franklin police were surprised and pleased at the community’s response and the volume of drugs deposited in the do-it-yourself drop box, according to Det. Sgt. Mill. He personally weighed the drugs before transporting them to be destroyed by Covanta and said the total was more than 220 pounds collected in the first few months the container has been available.



**THOUSANDS OF ADDICTIVE PAIN PILLS DESTROYED -** Franklin Police Safety Officer Dan MacLean and Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey were at Covanta Energy’s Haverhill plant Monday to destroy the first load of drugs deposited in the department’s free prescription drug collection container located in the lobby of the police station.



**DESTROYING DRUGS BEFORE THEY DESTROY LIVES –** Franklin Police Officer Dan Maclean and District Attorney Michael Morrissey toss hundreds of pounds of collected prescription drugs, including thousands of doses of opiates, into Covanta Energy’s Haverhill Incinerator on Monday.

“There is not a doubt in my mind that Covanta’s Rx-4-Safety program is going to save lives and prevent crimes by allowing us to safely dispose of prescription drugs like this,” District Attorney Morrissey said after personally tossing a few boxes of pills into the hopper to be destroyed. “Call it good corporate citizenship, call it a public-private partnership, I call it an important service to the people of Norfolk County.”

Anyone needing a safe, environmentally responsible way to dispose of unwanted or expired prescription pain or other drugs can deposit them in the self-serve container in the lobby of the Franklin Police Station at any time of the day or night with no questions asked.

“We know from addiction experts that many young people are accessing opiates from the medicine cabinets of their families and their friend’s families,” District Attorney Morrissey said. “This initiative allows

homeowners to safely dispose of those addictive drugs as soon as they no longer need them – and before they end up where they don’t belong.”