



# DISPOSAL DAYS CLEANS UP THE LABORATORY WITH LAB-WIDE EVENT

**Argonne took strides in cleaning up the Laboratory and identifying legacy chemical waste for disposal thanks to great teamwork and a focus on safety during the Lab-wide Disposal Days clean-up event in July.**

Across the Laboratory, 35 different buildings participated in Disposal Days, helping to reduce clutter and material stored in active work areas and common spaces. The most popular items for disposal were obsolete industrial or laboratory equipment, furniture, electronics, and scrap metal. In total, 140 oversized pallets of electronics were processed, representing 30 metric tons of electronics. As part of an ongoing partnership, all electronics were sent to Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and combined with their material before being recycled. Disposal Days also filled 17 dumpsters of scrap metal, representing 36 metric tons of material recycled.

Teamwork was a key to success for Disposal Days. Research and support staff worked with building managers, deployed safety staff, property managers, and subject matter experts to identify and prepare materials for disposal. Waste management personnel worked with waste generators to write up waste requisitions for legacy chemicals. Rigging, grounds, and custodial staff collected material, many working extended hours and on two Saturdays to address the large volume of requests. Identified by their forest-green vests, ambassadors from Argonne's Infrastructure Services Directorate provided additional customer service and helped eliminate unapproved dumping of waste in hallways, common spaces, and dumpsters.

Over a 1-week period, more than 90 tons of materials were collected and disposed of. More than 70% of the material was recycled.



**Disposal Days Ambassador Kevin Crosson (PMO) reviews list of items for pick-up with rigging staff Julian Mares (FAC) and Angel Del Rio Rodriguez (FAC).**

SUCCESS STORY: **ELECTRONIC STEWARDSHIP**

Disposal Days focused on safe work and embedded safety into all aspects of planning and implementation. The Disposal Days project manager and deployed safety staff developed guidance on how to safely prepare and handle the non-hazardous and non-radiologically impacted equipment and materials that were eligible for disposal. All staff involved in the operational aspects attended a safety briefing the Friday before pick-up began. Rigging, grounds and custodial managers discussed daily safety reminders with their staff throughout the week. Work was completed safely and there were no safety incidents reported as a result of the Disposal Days activities.

The Disposal Days implementation team used Argonne's online operations support request system, Vector, to collect disposal requests from employees and site occupants. In total, 335 Vector requests were submitted for non-chemical items, representing roughly 7,200 items to be disposed. An additional 192 Vector requests representing over 7,500 items were submitted for chemical waste; Argonne's Waste Management is processing these for pick-up over the next few months. The high level of engagement exceeded the Laboratory's expectations and collection continued past the initial 1-week event to address all of the Disposal Days requests.

Disposal Days showcased the Laboratory's ability to work together and set aside time to clean up areas critical to our safe work. Impacts were widespread thanks to the attention all employees gave to this important activity.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
PLEASE EMAIL**

**Sustainability Program Manager  
[sustainability@anl.gov](mailto:sustainability@anl.gov)**