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Summerville, S.C. – EcoSteris, a SCDHEC permitted biomedical waste treatment facility, will launch a new initiative called "Because We Care", a program designed to assist our community patients for a safe disposal of home-generated sharps and sharp containers.

During any one year in the United States, an estimated nine million sharps users administer over three billion injections outside of healthcare facilities. "Sharps" include items such as needles, syringes, lancets, auto-injectors, and infusion sets. Sharps are used by individuals at home to manage a variety of medical conditions, including allergies, arthritis, cancer, diabetes, hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, infertility, migraines, multiple sclerosis, osteoporosis, blood clotting disorders, and psoriasis. The improper disposal of sharps, such as discarding them uncovered in trash/recycling or flushing down the toilet, can lead to significant injuries to family members and solid waste workers, both in terms of needle sticks and exposure to disease.

Responding to this growing concern, EcoSteris has developed the "Because We Care" program, a safe and simple way to dispose of home-generated sharps. The objective of this program is to establish a streamlined and secure process for individuals to drop off personal used sharps containers at the EcoSteris facility, free of cost, for safe treatment and disposal, in an effort to support our state and community.

The "Because We Care" program will initially be offered on a quarterly basis, with the possibility of expanding to a monthly schedule based on community needs. The first event is scheduled for Friday, September 6th, 2024. All the details on how to register for this program, can be found on www.ecosteris.com.

EcoSteris founders Youmna and David Squalli view this program as an opportunity to educate the community on the critical importance of proper needle disposal. "One of the main challenges in ensuring safe disposal of home-generated sharps is the lack of information regarding proper disposal methods and locations. Misconceptions and inadequate awareness significantly influence disposal practices. Even in well-developed communities, it has been observed that many sharps users do not recognize that items such as insulin pen needles and lancets require proper disposal. It is vital that we increase awareness among healthcare providers, patients, and their families," stated Youmna Squalli, CEO of EcoSteris.

About EcoSteris

EcoSteris, Inc. is an innovative medical waste treatment facility that specializes in providing environmental and healthcare integrated waste treatment and disposal solutions through the use of clean sustainable technology that meets strict national and international safety standards and regulations. EcoSteris understands that regulated medical waste management is not only an issue

of cost and convenience, but it is also a subject of liability, negative press, social responsibility, and environmental sustainability. This is why EcoSteris is committed to providing advanced, comprehensive, and integrated medical waste solutions that are designed to help healthcare providers, medical waste generators, and service partners establish safe, sustainable, reliable, and affordable waste management and disposal operations that protect the public, preserve our planet, and reconcile economic and social needs. To help their customers, partners, governments, and communities preserve the quality of our everyday life, EcoSteris' continued efforts are to promote zero emission environment, implement the 3Rs: "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle" practices, lower traffic impact, cut down on the carbon footprint, reduce waste, minimize landfill impact, and reduce risks and liabilities for their clients. For more information visit www.ecosteris.com or call 843-818-3510.

