



**DANE BUY LOCAL**  
Sharing Local Sustainability Practices  
for a Better World.



Keeping our Community Safe



As a town with three hospital systems, countless biotech firms, and innumerable veterinarian offices, tattoo parlors, and funeral homes, it should come as no surprise that medical waste collection is a huge need in the Madison area. Madison Environmental Resource, INC, (MERI) is a local solution for this need which honestly, not many of us likely spend much time thinking about. Started in 1985 as a joint venture between the three big hospitals, MERI has become a critical player on the dual front lines of the pandemic and the opioid crisis, as well as providing local businesses with an affordable and safe alternative for disposal of medical waste and needles or “sharps.”



This service comes in the form of mail back kits, containers where the business can dispose of medical waste and sharps safely and effectively, and then mail the kits back to MERI where they are thoroughly decontaminated and shredded for disposal. This service makes it easy for smaller places like tattoo shops, smaller biotech companies, and even local restaurants and bars to access this service and obtain documentation without having to spend a lot of money or work with someone from out of state.



**MERI** **Mission Statement**

To provide innovative, environmentally safe, and cost-effective medical waste disposal services while providing a personalized customer experience so our clients can dedicate resources to patient care.

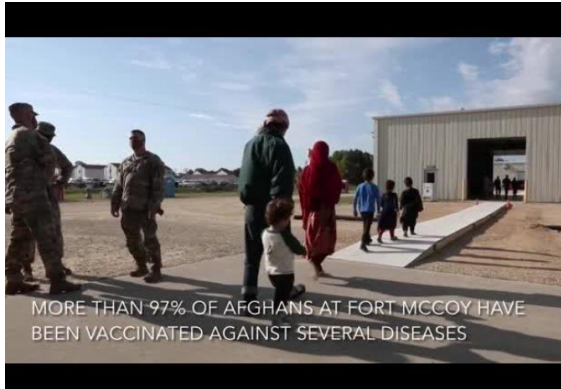
Madison Environmental Resourcing, Inc.

When more businesses can access this service, it means needles aren't left out for employees or customers to become injured and it means these businesses are not leaving potentially infectious biowaste to go, still contaminated and dangerous, into our local landfills. The ugly, truth is people are using needles in places like grocery store and restaurant bathrooms. Providing a safe disposal place for those needles keeps the whole community safer. This is why MERI also works with larger companies you might not expect, like Kwik Trip and Woodman's. When asked what MERI would like the larger community to know about them, they were emphatic that local businesses, even those who do not think they need medical waste disposal, should think about having safe sharps containers to help keep everyone safe.



MERI has also quietly been on the forefront of Dane County's massive COVID-19 testing

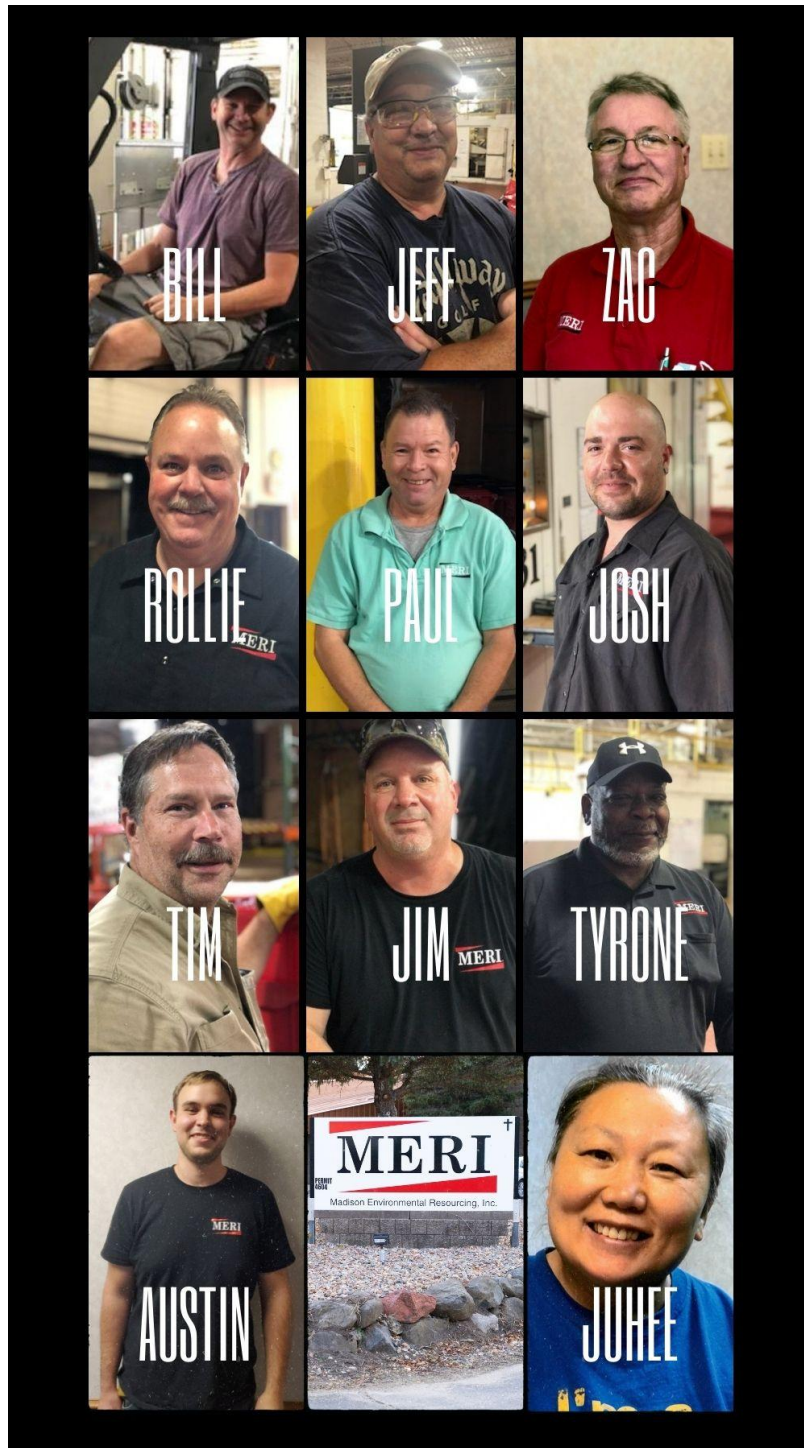
and vaccination campaigns, working with most of the large clinics and testing sites in the area. The pandemic has created mountains of medical and biohazard waste in our community, and MERI has been there making sure it is properly decontaminated and disposed.



But one of their crowning achievements over the past year has been the work they have done with the Afghan resettlement effort. When those folks came to Wisconsin, most of them needed medical care and all of them needed various vaccines to get themselves ready for resettlement in our communities. Because of the pandemic and a shortage of the red resin it takes to make them, the team working with the refugees was having trouble sourcing enough sharps containers to do this work. While many of MERI's customers use disposal containers through the mail back kits, MERI also has reusable containers for their regular pick up customers, and was able to implement them in Fort McCoy, allowing the work to continue and saving an estimated 1000lbs of valuable red resin from reaching the landfill.



MERI was started almost 40 years ago with a mission to make medical waste pick up in Madison cheaper, easier, and more localized. Now, as our communities and needs grow, they continue to be a critical resource in keeping us all safe.



## 5 Sustainable Office Supplies Swaps

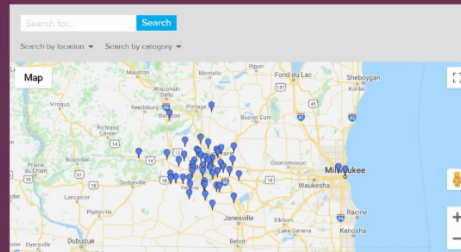
You can create a more sustainable workspace with these easy, eco-friendly office product swaps — learn more in our latest blog post!

[Read More](#)



## New Member Directory!

Members: please update ASAP



More ways for you to be found!



Email [lieneke@danebuylocal.com](mailto:lieneke@danebuylocal.com) with questions.

[Update Here](#)



April 20, 2022  
8:00am - 10:30am  
Lexus Dealership in Middleton, WI

[Get Tickets!](#)

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