

### L3. TOPIC INTEREST: Environmentally Responsible Dentistry



**Symposium.** In April 2005, SF Environment hosted a Dental Office Pollution Prevention Symposium to present successful program strategies and outreach material to jurisdictions starting up their own dental mercury pollution prevention programs. The material handed out at this Symposium can be found in the [Resources page](#).

**Permit Compliance.** As of June 30, 600 of 601 offices are in compliance, which represents 99.8% of all offices in San Francisco. 339 of the 520 dentists who chose the permit option to install an amalgam separator (65.2%) have been certified as having installed the equipment.



**Amalgam Separator Vendor Expo.** In October 2003, SF Environment hosted an Amalgam Separator Vendor Expo, in collaboration with SFPUC and the San Francisco Dental Society. The expo was envisioned as a friendly way to assist San Francisco dentists in making informed decisions when purchasing amalgam separators for their offices.

**Amalgam Separator Rebates.** SF Environment understands that installing and maintaining an amalgam separator creates an additional financial burden for dental offices. Costs of approved separators generally range from \$250 to \$1800, not including installation. As a result, SF Environment has been proud to offer a total of \$30,000 in financial assistance to dental offices through two rebates programs: 1) rebates for the first 100 offices to install amalgam separators and 2) rebates for dental offices that serve low-income, minority and other types of underserved populations.



**Workshops and Trainings.** SF Environment and SFPUC have jointly hosted a series of informational workshops for dentists and their staff. The workshops taught attendees how to comply with the new wastewater permit regulations, how to choose and maintain amalgam separators, and what supportive services the City could offer dental offices that wish to be more environmentally responsible. In addition, attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions and voice their concerns about the new permit regulations and upcoming inspections.