



**Nursing &  
Environmental  
Stewardship –**

**Making the  
Connection**



**PRACTICE  
Greenhealth™**

# What Do Nurses Have to Do with Sustainability? Everything.

In every one of the 63 Magnet® Hospitals that are members of Practice Greenhealth, nurses are change agents and healing forces with a commitment to reducing their facility's environmental impact on behalf of patients, staff and communities.

Nurses are also part of the team leading the movement for sustainability in health care at the other 1,100+ organizations that have joined Practice Greenhealth, the nation's leading networking and membership organization for institutions in health care that are implementing, expanding and embracing sustainable, eco-friendly practices.

63 Magnet® Hospitals are members of Practice Greenhealth. Each recognizes that environmental stewardship and Magnet® Hospital principles are in direct alignment, with a shared mission of quality care, better patient outcomes and safer working environments, and increased staff engagement – with reductions in their environmental footprint.

## Magnet® Hospitals That Are Also Members of Practice Greenhealth

Advocate Christ Medical Center and Advocate Hope Children's Hospital *	Palomar Pomerado Health - Palomar Medical Center *
Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital *	Palomar Pomerado Health - Palomar Pomerado Home Health
Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center *	Palomar Pomerado Health - Pomerado Hospital
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital *	Palomar Pomerado Health - Villa Pomerado
Atlanta VA Medical Center	Plaza Medical Center of Fort Worth
Baptist Hospital of Miami *	Portland VA Medical Center *
Bon Secours Memorial Regional Medical Center	Providence Portland Medical Center *
Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital *	Providence St. Vincent Medical Center *
Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital	Reston Hospital Center
Bronson Methodist Hospital *	Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center *	Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center
Christiana Care Health System - Christiana Hospital	Saint Francis Hospital
Christiana Care Health System - Wilmington Hospital	Schneck Medical Center *
Cleveland Clinic *	Seton Medical Center Austin
Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas	Seton Northwest Hospital
Fairview Hospital *	Spectrum Health - Blodgett Hospital *
Franklin Square Hospital Center *	Spectrum Health - Butterworth Hospital *
Georgetown University Hospital *	Spectrum Health - Helen DeVos Children's Hospital *
Holy Name Medical Center	Stanford Hospital & Clinics *
Inova Fair Oaks Hospital *	Tampa General Hospital
Inova Fairfax Hospital *	Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth
Inova Loudoun Hospital *	The University of Chicago Medical Center
John Muir Medical Center Concord Campus	University Hospitals Case Medical Center
Lehigh Valley Health Network Hospitals	University of Maryland Medical Center *
Massachusetts General Hospital	University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview *
Mayo Clinic Rochester	University of Washington Medical Center *
Medical Center of Plano	VHS Children's Hospital of Michigan
Medical City Dallas Hospital	VHS Detroit Receiving Hospital
MetroHealth Medical Center *	VHS Huron Valley Sinai Hospital
Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center	William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospitals and Clinics
Morristown Memorial Hospital	
NYU Hospitals Center - Tisch Hospital and Rusk Institute for Rehabilitation Medicine	
Palomar Pomerado Health - Palomar Continuing Care Center	

\* Winner of 2011 Practice Greenhealth Environmental Excellence Award

*Listing as of October 1, 2011*

# Making the Connection

<b>Magnet® Model Components:</b>	<b>When Nurses Lead Sustainability:</b>
<b>Transformational Leadership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Nurse Environmental Health (EH) advocates emerge</li><li>■ An environmental philosophy becomes a driver in all activities of the organization</li><li>■ LEAN and Green Programs are implemented</li></ul>
<b>Structural Empowerment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Nurses are challenged and supported to be EH change agents</li><li>■ Nurses effectively incorporate EH into the organization's processes</li><li>■ Strong partnerships are developed resulting in improved community health</li></ul>
<b>Exemplary Professional Practice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Nurses participate on Green Teams</li><li>■ Nurses teach the value of EH and sustainability in health care</li><li>■ Models of care are developed integrating EH principles</li></ul>
<b>New Knowledge, Innovations, &amp; Improvements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Structures and processes for quality management include EH</li><li>■ Systems and practices are redesigned and refined to improve the environment</li><li>■ Potential reduction in asthma and other occupation-related conditions among nurses<sup>1</sup></li></ul>
<b>Empirical Quality Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Patients in green hospitals heal faster</li><li>■ Nurses believe that a healthier environment results in better outcomes for patients</li><li>■ Safer working environments</li></ul>

<sup>1</sup> A 2007 study in *The Lancet* found that nurses had the highest rates of work-related asthma of any of the occupations studied and was linked to environmental exposures. (Kogevinas, et al. *Exposure to substances in the workplace and new-onset asthma: an international prospective population-based study (ECRHS-II)*. *The Lancet*, Volume 370, Issue 9584, Pages 336 - 341, 28 July 2007.)

*“Nurses have a unique perspective on the role of Sustainability in health care. They often understand the link between health of the environment and the health of people. Their transformational leadership can drive green programs in their hospitals, thus creating safer working environments and positively impacting patient outcomes. When nurses are empowered, Sustainable operations goals are also achieved — such as regulated medical waste minimization and segregation, increased rates of recycling, and an increase in reusable, vs. disposable, products.”*

— Maureen Swick, RN, MSN, PhD, NEA-BC  
Senior Vice President/Chief Nurse Executive  
Inova Health System

*“Palomar Pomerado Health as a Magnet®-Recognized health system is committed to the principles of environmental sustainability. True to the tradition of Florence Nightingale, by having a holistic viewpoint, responsibility to serve the public, a strong desire to care and a duty to improve the environment, nurses at PPH contribute to improving global health issues under the Magnet Model. Nurses are in excellent positions to effect environmental health change because they serve or directly affect green initiatives. The entire organization strives to continuously improve efforts related to environmental sustainability.”*

— Lorie Shoemaker, RN, MSN, DHA, NEA-BC  
Chief Nurse Executive  
Palomar Pomerado Health System

*“Nurses have many opportunities to improve the safety and quality of care of patients. One growing opportunity is the connection between human and ecological health. Our nurses are intimately involved with identifying and offering solutions to issues surrounding safety, quality and sustainability. They’ve demonstrated excellence in sustainability through numerous initiatives, including patient room recycling, composting, laundry usage reduction and pharmaceutical waste management. Nursing’s efforts have contributed to Spectrum Health’s national and state leadership in health care sustainability. Our nurses’ commitment to environmental stewardship extends well beyond recycling and energy efficiency. This commitment strengthens our core values, helps fulfill Magnet® goals and furthers our mission to improve the health of the communities we serve.”*

— Shawn Ulrich, RN, MSN, NEA-BC  
Chief Nursing Executive, VP of Clinical Operations  
Spectrum Health Hospitals

*“Green healthcare initiatives are directly aligned with our philosophy of patient and family-centered care and our commitment to nursing excellence, as reflected by the Magnet® designation. Through conserving resources, eliminating harmful chemicals and migrating to environmentally friendly materials, we are enhancing the patient experience and working environment for nurses, with an ultimate goal towards improving community health.”*

— Deborah Mulvihill, MSN, RN, FACHE  
Corporate Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer  
Baptist Health South Florida

# Practice Greenhealth — Your Path to Sustainability in Health Care

Practice Greenhealth is a learning community working toward the greening of health care, offering the next generation of tools and services that can take organizations, wherever they are on the continuum, to the next level of sustainability excellence.

Beyond helping members establish goals and best practices, Practice Greenhealth is widely recognized for leadership in developing specific programs, tools and services — and hands-on assistance in reaching those goals.

Join Practice Greenhealth and seize this remarkable opportunity to become a change agent and healing force on behalf of your hospital, patients and staff.

Ask us for a customized presentation on the benefits of Practice Greenhealth membership or request a copy of the Business Case for Membership. Please contact our Director of Membership, Stan Cahill at **866.598.2050**, or **[scahill@practicegreenhealth.org](mailto:scahill@practicegreenhealth.org)**.

**What's good for the planet  
is good for the patient  
and good for the bottom line.**



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