Inova Office of Sustainability and Wellness

# VP of Supply Chain

# Hospital/Health System

# City, State, Zip Code

Date

Dear

As part of our commitment to a healthy environment, I am writing to ask for your leadership support in greening the [Hospital/Health System] supply chain.

The U.S. health care industry spends more than $200 billion annually on medical and non-medical products, with more than 70 percent of that spend occurring through use of a group purchasing organization (GPO). Hospitals are environments for healing, but many of the products and materials that come into them may be harmful to patients, staff, and the community. There is a tremendous opportunity to have a positive impact on health and well-being through the work of our procurement team.

The [Supply Chain Management/Materials Management Department] is the front door to a sustainable [Hospital/Health System]. Every purchasing decision has the potential to reduce packaging, waste, energy, water, and chemicals ultimately reducing patient harm, particularly in sensitive patient populations.

Your support in purchasing environmentally preferable products and services and sharing our successes are crucial to our success as a sustainable health care system. In order to achieve our goals, we request that you support these efforts by taking the following steps:

1. **Make a Commitment:**
   1. Demonstrate our organizational commitment to sustainability in health care and specifically to sustainable (or environmentally preferable) purchasing (EPP) by:
      1. Adopting a Sustainability or EPP commitment statement or policy
      2. Notifying all suppliers about our support for sustainable health care and environmentally preferable products
2. **Data Transparency:**
   1. Request access to the data from the Standardized Environmental Questions for Medical Products (developed by Practice Greenhealth) and other responses to questions related to sustainability and partner together to identify how best to communicate this to employees and community.
   2. Partner to find ways to support our need to measure success, specifically to obtain spend data on environmentally preferable products.
   3. Take a proactive role to ensure environmental attributes for health care products, services, and packaging are included in contracting considerations.
3. **Engagement and Communication**
   1. Educate staff and partners on the environmental priorities in health care.
   2. Partner with suppliers and manufactures to provide education information on the EPP attributes for product end users.

In support of the health care oath “do no harm”, it is important we work together to embed environmental criteria in all purchasing decisions. By doing so, we will create safer and healthier environments for our patients, staff and local and global communities.

Thank you for your support and leadership in sustainable procurement.

Sincerely,

[Hospital/Health System lead on Sustainability]