COVENANT HEALTH SYSTEMS
SUSTAINABLE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING OPERATIONS PHILOSOPHY

As a Catholic health care system we practice good stewardship of the resources entrusted to us. We create healthy environments for the people we serve and our employees. In recognition of the critical linkages between environmental health and public health it is Covenant's desire to limit adverse impacts upon the environment resulting from the design, construction and operation of our health care facilities. We consider the life- cycle impacts on facilities generated through sustainable design and construction standards, selection of materials and equipment and maintenance practices. We utilize the Green Guide for Health Care (GGHC) as a guide for our sustainable design, construction and building operation projects.

Covenant will incorporate, where feasible, natural and renewable energy flows. Additionally, Covenant will require architects, engineers and contractors to specify commercially available, cost-competitive materials, products, technologies and processes, where appropriate, that have a positive impact, or limit any negative impact on environmental quality and human health. Overall, Covenant will strive to integrate sustainable design, operation and maintenance practices in building, rebuilding and/or retrofitting facilities to meet regulatory and/or community health needs.

The following are some of the benefits of sustainable design that Covenant seeks to achieve by following this procedure:

*__Benefits to building occupants:__ People who live and work in facilities designed and constructed with sustainable materials and methods have less illness, are more productive, and report higher satisfaction with their indoor environments.

*__Environmental benefits__: Clean air and water and resource conservation are some of the positive environmental results of sustainable design and development.

*__Financial benefits:__ Decreased energy costs, increased valuation, improved durability, and increased productivity are all potential benefits to sustainable building design.