**NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**<Date, 2012> Contact: <Hospital Contact>**

 **<Hospital Name>**

 **<XXX-XXX-XXXX>**

 **<****name@hospitalname.org**>

**<Hospital Name> Joins Greening the Operating Room™ Initiative**

***Effort will help reduce waste, increase efficiency***

<(City, State) – Hospital Name> announced today that it has joined the Greening the Operating Room (OR) Initiative, a Practice Greenhealth program that helps hospitals run more efficient, environmentally-friendly operating rooms.

Practice Greenhealth began the Greening the OR Initiative to help hospitals and health care facilities of all sizes reduce environmental impact, reduce costs, increase efficiency and improve worker and patient safety. <Hospital Name> is utilizing the tools and resources available to (ADD DETAILS ABOUT SPECIFIC HOSPITAL OR PRACTICES HERE)

“We recognize that our operating rooms are an incredibly important part of our community,” said <Hospital Name Spokesperson>. “Being a part of the Greening the OR Initiative is critical to running our facility in the most efficient and sustainable way possible.”

Operating rooms use much of the energy in hospitals, since they are open 24 hours per day and are filled with medical equipment. They are also a major consumer of resources, with supply costs at 56 percent of the total OR budget. In addition, operating rooms produce a disproportional amount of waste—between 20 and 30 percent of a hospital’s total waste volume.

Much of the operating room waste is disposed of as regulated medical waste, which costs between 10 and 15 times more in disposal fees than regular waste. In addition, most operating room supplies are thrown out after just one use, or after being opened but not used, even though re-use may be an option.

“We welcome <Hospital Name> to our growing network of nearly 200 facilities dedicated to reducing the environmental impact of their operating rooms,” said Laura Wenger, Executive Director of Practice Greenhealth. “As hospitals across the country look for ways to reduce their environmental impact, it makes sense to start with the areas that have the largest environmental footprints.”

**About Practice Greenhealth:**

Practice Greenhealth is the nation’s leading membership and networking organization for institutions in health care that have made a commitment to sustainable, environmentally-friendly practices. To learn more about Practice Greenhealth membership, visit [***www.practicegreenhealth.org***](http://cts.businesswire.com/ct/CT?id=smartlink&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.practicegreenhealth.org&esheet=6471994&lan=en-US&anchor=www.practicegreenhealth.org&index=1&md5=2b39aa2980a4faf403ef63ccff98fcdf)***.***