

The Environmental Sustainability Steering Committee was established at Harborview Medical Center (HMC) in 2010. The committee is made up of representatives from key departments who focus on implementing practices that draw maximum value from resources used, while minimizing waste and negative impacts. The goal is to promote healing and well-being for patients, employees, visitors, the neighborhood, and the broader community through environmentally sustainable practices.

### **Awards and Recognition in 2015**

- ◆ Practice Greenhealth Awards
  - Top 25 Environmental Excellence Award
  - Circles of Excellence—Chemicals, Healthier Food, Greening the OR, Environmentally Preferable Purchasing
- ◆ 50 of the Greenest Hospitals in America—Becker’s Hospital Review
- ◆ Husky Green Award—HMC Surgical Services

### **Waste Diversion Efforts in 2014**

- ◆ HMC had a recycling rate of 41.2% and diverted 1,168 tons of waste from the landfill.
- ◆ A total of 224.75 tons of food and yard waste was composted at HMC.
- ◆ Paper reduction efforts resulted in a decrease of 4,551 reams or 2.3 million sheets of paper being purchased.
- ◆ Reusable sharps containers resulted in 30.4 tons of plastic being diverted from the landfill. The sharps containers are reused up to 600 times before being disposed.

### **Reducing Harmful Chemical**

- ◆ Environmental Services uses green-certified cleaning chemicals.
- ◆ UV disinfection equipment is used in patient rooms to remove airborne bacteria and viruses.
- ◆ Integrated Pest Management plan in place to reduce or eliminate harmful chemicals.
- ◆ Purchase furniture and furnishings free of halogenated flame retardants, PVC, and Formaldehyde—66.7% in 2014.

### **Greening the OR**

- ◆ Clinical/medical plastics are recycled before, during and after OR procedures.
- ◆ OR kits are reformulated annually to remove supplies not being used.
- ◆ Single-use medical devices are reprocessed and then repurchased.
- ◆ Fluorescent lighting has been replaced with LED surgical lighting to save energy.



## Healthier Food

- HMC Nutrition and Foodservices' sustainability initiatives include:
  - Purchasing meat and poultry produced without antibiotics when feasible
  - Increasing healthy beverage options
  - Purchasing locally and/or sustainably grown and produced foods
- Events and activities to promote the healthy eating habits of patients, staff and visitors:
  - Providing bi-weekly cooking classes to patients in its Mental Health classes
  - Removing pastries from the cafeteria salad bar and replacing with fresh fruit
  - Installing a new 'hydration station', featuring two purified water dispensers

## EPP – Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

- HMC evaluates the environmental and health impacts (e.g., waste, energy, and toxicity) of products and services in an effort to select ones that are healthy, safe, environmentally preferable and sustainable.
- EPP successes at HMC:
  - Purchasing products made from recycled fibers, i.e., copier paper, toilet paper and paper towels.
  - Switching to plastic wash basins and emesis bowls made from pigment-free plastics that are made from post-consumer recycled plastics.
  - 100% of computers, laptops, and monitors purchased in 2014 had an EPEAT rating of Gold.

## Energy and Water Conservation

- Energy conservation initiatives resulted in a 7% reduction in energy usage, i.e.,
  - Installing LED lighting in parking garages and office areas
  - Replacing old HAVC/AC chillers and surgery fans
- Low flow shower heads have been installed in patient room showers to conserve water.

## Green Building

- When selecting new flooring, wall coverings, paints, materials, finishes, furniture or exterior material, chemicals of concern are considered in the decision process.
- The new meditation room on 4WH was designed with sustainable materials, including cork floors, low VOC paints, LED lighting, salvaged wood tables and re-purposed stained glass art panels.
- Acoustical wall tiles of sustainable materials, non-PVC back carpet tiles and casework built with rapidly renewable Kirei board were used in the new 9CT ICU waiting area.

## How can YOU help?

Visit the newly expanded Environmental Sustainability web page on the HMC Intranet found under Hospitality – <https://hmc.uwmedicine.org/BU/Sustainability/Pages/default.aspx>

Submit suggestion and ideas on making HMC greener, safer and healthier – [hmcgreen@uw.edu](mailto:hmcgreen@uw.edu)

Start a Green Team or become a Green Champion in your area – [hmcgreen@uw.edu](mailto:hmcgreen@uw.edu)