



Environmental Stewardship Awards

Huron Hospital

In 2009, Huron Hospital received an Ohio Award for Outstanding Achievement in Environmental Stewardship. The award recognizes Ohio companies and organizations committed to environmental compliance and reducing pollution.

Huron Hospital, part of the Cleveland Clinic system, was a 189-bed, community-based teaching hospital in East Cleveland, employing 80 active medical staff and 900 employees.

Sustainability Pledge

Huron Hospital made a Sustainability Pledge to be a healthier member of the community by implementing sustainable practices to create a healthier environment for its patients, visitors and employees. As part of this effort a multi-disciplinary Green Team with support from hospital administration evaluated all the hospital departments and systems to identify and implement plans to for environmental improvement projects.

Indoor Air Quality

Recognizing that a significant amount of time is spent inside the facility, Huron Hospital identified indoor air pollution sources and found ways to eliminate gasses from building materials, cleaning agents, and other sources. Efforts included:

- Consolidating printers, copiers, scanners, and faxes in favor of multifunction devices to save energy from those devices and reduce toner, ink, and paper use;
- Replaced toxic cleaning chemicals with more environmentally-friendly Green Seal Certified products;
- Purchased two steam cleaners to reduce the use of cleaning chemicals;
- Replaced 7,500 square foot of flooring with recycled carpets or low emission sheet goods; and
- Purchasing policies required “No VOC” paints, that furniture not contain PVCs, and that Styrofoam would no longer be used in the cafeteria.

Recycling and Waste Management

Water conservation and energy efficiency improvement projects were also implemented:

- Recycling paper, plastic, glass bottles, wood pallets, and metals;
- Construction material recycling program;
- Reducing unnecessary red bag waste disposal;
- Donating used furniture and supplies to charity;

Huron Hospital is recognized for:

- Reducing its hospital waste over a 3 year period from 50 tons per month to 32 tons per month and resulting in \$19,000 savings.
- Performing a lighting upgrade at the facility which increased energy efficiency and saved more than \$16,000 annually.
- Implementing a policy to virtually eliminate the use of mercury at the hospital.

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- Providing employees with re-usable mugs to reduce disposable cup waste;
- Replacing Styrofoam dishware with compostable products and composting food scraps, paper bowls, plates, cups, to-go containers, utensils, and straws for use at a community garden;
- Medical device reuse program, reprocessing 1,294 medical instruments that would otherwise be thrown into the solid waste stream, saved Huron Hospital \$17,000.

Water and Energy Conservation

The hospital implemented several water and energy conservation projects, to reduce water. Highlights include:

- Installed dual flush toilets, reducing water by 0.25 gallons per flush;
- Using microfiber mops to reduce water usage by 50 percent for room cleaning while preventing cross contamination between patient rooms and reduction in exposure to disinfectants.
- Replacing and repairing dampers and controls of air handlers in 2008, improving their efficiency;
- Replacing 40 steam traps on boilers , in 2008, to improve their efficiency and reduce natural gas use;
- Re-lamping the facility in 2009, going from 40 watt T12 lamps to 32 watt T8 lamps, increasing energy efficiency and achieving annual savings of \$16,233.

Mercury Elimination

In 2007 Huron Hospital established a policy to virtually eliminate mercury use in the hospital. The policy included protocols for handling of materials, establishing clean-up procedures, educating and training employees, and establishing a mercury free purchasing policy. The program included fluorescent lamp recycling, battery recycling, and taking an inventory of mercury sources in the hospital to manage that equipment correctly and replace it with a mercury-free alternative when possible.

For more information

If you would like additional information about Ohio EPA's environmental stewardship award program, contact the Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) at 800-329-7518, or visit OCAPP's website at epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/ohioe3.aspx.