



Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

MedStar St. Mary's Hospital



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www.medstarhealth.org/locations/medstar-st-marys-hospital

Hospital

Member since April 2022

Management and Leadership

Environmental Team

The MedStar Health systemwide Environmental Leadership Council includes representation from each member hospital. The team's mission is to establish, maintain, and support environmental sustainability programs in support of the Corporate Mission, Vision, and Values. This team meets quarterly and serves as a collection and dissemination point for all environmental sustainability activities and programs across the system.

MedStar St. Mary's has maintained a hospital Green Team for 10 years. The team meets every other month and includes clinical and non-clinical departments. Top priorities include waste/recycling, healthy foods, room service for patients to reduce food waste, and utilizing/transitioning to green chemicals when possible.

Annual Environmental Goals

- *Revamp shred bin program awareness for collecting confidential and non-confidential paper.*
- *Food & Nutrition team to host National Nutrition Month (March), Earth Day (April) and Buy Local Week (July) Celebrations to highlight importance of plant-based meals and locally grown products for both human and environmental health for staff, patients, and visitors.*
- *Research and develop outlet for blue wrap reduction and recycling.*
- *Revamp recycling program to collect only plastic bottles and metal cans to limit potential for contamination sent to recycling facility.*

- *Utilize Lean Path tracking system for pre-consumer food waste 7-days a week to ensure accurate data tracking.*

Waste

Unless otherwise stated, waste data is reported for calendar year 2020.

Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse

- *Eliminated polystyrene and plastic straws from food service.*
- *32% of operating room kits are in reusable sterilization containers rather than plastic.*
- *Donated 1.69 tons of unexpired/unopened consumable clinical supplies, expired/opened consumable clinical supplies, capital medical equipment, and furniture through Brother's Brother.*
- *Diverted 9.25 tons of plastic from landfill through reusable sharps container program.*
- *Selected a vendor to optimize and oversee print management program in 2020. While paper usage increased due to COVID procedures and additional/new forms were required, these paper reduction efforts should deliver positive results in the future.*
- *Implemented Waste Watch powered by LeanPath, a technology program that tracks details and data on food waste. This data is used to create strategies for pre-consumer food waste reduction.*

Recycling

- *Maintained nearly 20% overall recycling rate, despite the global recycling industry trending downward and added scrutiny locally on the recycling coming from hospitals at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.*
- *Maintained recycling efforts throughout the facility for single-stream recycling, paper shred bin consoles, light bulbs, and cooking oil.*
- *Launched a communications plan to inform staff what's accepted in recycle bins to align with changes in the recycling industry and the local Municipal Recycling Center. Internal communications and poster boards were put in place to promote proper recycling.*

Hazardous Waste/Toxic Use Reduction

- *Mercury free hospital since 2016.*
- *Transitioning to the new MedStar Standard of 'no finish flooring.' This new flooring does not require harsh chemicals typically used for waxing/stripping, but rather only water and green-certified cleaning chemicals, as needed.*
- *Achieved a 80.6% spend on green floor cleaners.*

- *Utilize integrated pest management techniques through third-party pest management company.*

Energy

Unless otherwise stated, energy data is reported for calendar year 2020.



Energy Efficiency

- *Installed LED lighting across the hospital.*
- *Assessed hospital to identify a list of where new sensor lighting could be installed.*
- *Created education on importance of turning off lights whenever possible.*
- *Completed research for new chiller equipment.*
- *Participated in the Hayes Energy recommendations for energy savings along with Converge through SMECO. This included electricity savings and utility optimization.*

Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities



Sustainable Foods:

- *Reduced pounds of meat and poultry by 13.3% by offering seafood and plant-based options on a regular basis as a substitute for meat entrees. This represents a 6.5% reduction in GHG emissions from the 2019 baseline.*
- *Hosted a local farmers market that sells grab bags of fresh produce in the Café and held a Buy Local Week Celebration.*
- *Provide referrals to local food pantries, including produce distribution events through faith-based agencies.*
- *Implemented a Healthy Snack Program in Hospital Cafes.*
- *Created a Monthly Mindful Wellness Retail Packet.*
- *Added Reflection Room with healthy snacks for associates.*



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at green.maryland.gov

