MedStar Union Memorial Hospital

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www.medstarhealth.org/locations/medstar-union-memorial-hospital
Hospital
Member since April 2022

Management and Leadership

☑ **Environmental Team**

The MedStar 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.

The MedStar Union Memorial Green Team has a diverse team that includes members from across the organization. The Green Team meets bi-monthly. The Executive Leadership team receives periodic updates and reviews recommendations from the Green Team on a regular basis and seeks feedback from the hospital Board when necessary. Additionally, The Green Team supported their sister hospital, Medstar Good Samaritan, in re-establishing their Green Team in 2020.

☑ **Annual Environmental Goals**

- *Determine an action plan to revamp shred bin program awareness for collecting confidential and non-confidential paper.*
- *Convert at least 50% of inpatient clinical areas main waste stream collection receptacles from regulated medical waste to clear bag waste.*
- *Establish a Green Link on MedStar's intranet that advertises the New2U program, which offers gently used items for reuse (see below for more information).*

- *Create a data collection system for the Green Team to track collections of items diverted from landfill such as clothing, cell phones, books, glasses, hearing aids, pens, toners, batteries, furniture, and office supplies.*
- *Explore current status of reusable rigid surgical containers and potential outlets for blue wrap recycling.*

Waste

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

☑ **Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse**

- *Maintain a space for year-round collection of gently used furniture and office supplies for our New2U Program for reuse in the hospital, associate sales, and donations to non-profits. The most popular items are desk chairs and desks.*
- *Eliminated polystyrene and plastic straws from food service.*
- *Collected 4630 pounds of single-use devices, saving the hospital $480,687, through a medical device reprocessing program.*
- *More than 50% of operating room kits are in reusable sterilization containers.*
- *Diverted 17.58 tons of plastic from the landfill through reusable sharps container program.*
- *Donated 2.91 tons of unexpired/unopened consumable clinical supplies, expired/opened consumable clinical supplies, capital medical equipment, electronics, linens, and furniture through Brother's Brother.*
- *Continued paper reduction efforts:*
  - *New Pyxis medication dispenser reduces paper reports automatically generated and are printed only as needed.*
  - *Switched to an electronic medical records platform.*
  - *Switched performance improvement process to electronic.*
  - *Manuals, policies, and reference materials/books are now hosted on MedStar's StarPort intranet site, versus stored in binders.*
  - *Nonclinical printers are defaulted to double-sided printing.*
- *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 overall recycling rate of nearly 27%.*
- *Pharmacy created a mandatory electronic learning module via SiTel for clinical associates outlining where to properly dispose of items encountered in the hospital setting.*

- *In celebration of America Recycles Day, coordinated hauler to provide an educational session to highlight what is accepted in the recycling stream.*
- *Green Team coordinates donation drives for clothing for emergency department patients, eyeglasses, cellphones, batteries, toners, and writing utensils.*

☑ **Composting**

Composted 11.8 tons of food waste.

☑ **Hazardous Waste/Toxic Use Reduction**

- *Mercury free hospital since 2014.*
- *Utilize integrated pest management techniques through third-party pest management company.*
- *Use a urethane floor finish that decreases the need for stripping and scrubbing chemicals.*

Energy

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

☑ **Energy Efficiency**

- *100% of ORs are equipped with LED lighting.*
- *Energy use intensity (kBtus/sq foot) was 168.2, lower than the average EUI for top sustainable hospitals.*

Transportation

☑ **Employee Commute/Customer Travel**

- *Provide preferred parking for electric vehicles.*
- *Participate in Bike to Work Day, Ecochallenge, National Bike Challenge.*

Water

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

☑ **Water Conservation**

Total gallons per gross square foot was 10.63 and per cleanable square foot was 16.05, both significantly lower than the average in sustainable hospital surveys.

Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities

☑ **Sustainable Foods:**

- *Reduced pounds of meat and poultry by 18.9% by offering seafood and plant-based options on a regular basis as a substitute for meat entrees.*
- *Health and Wellness initiatives:*
  - *Implemented a Healthy Snack Program in Hospital Cafes.*
  - *Created a Monthly Mindful Wellness Retail Packet.*
  - *Implemented a Patient Communication Program-Wellness Tip Cards.*
  - *Cafeteria signage includes nutritional labeling on items.*
- *Coordinated guest speakers for the Green Team focusing on "being green at home and work."*

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

Maryland

Learn more at green.maryland.gov