



## 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.

# University of Maryland School of Nursing



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[www.nursing.umaryland.edu/](http://www.nursing.umaryland.edu/),  
[www.nursing.umaryland.edu/about/sustainability/](http://www.nursing.umaryland.edu/about/sustainability/)

Higher Education  
Member since January 2018

## Management and Leadership



### **Environmental Team**

*At the University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON), we have two environmental teams, one focused on overall sustainability and one focused on climate change impacts on health and the UMSON and local community environments. Both teams meet monthly and are comprised of members from faculty, staff, facilities, and the University of Maryland Medical Center as well as other campus entities. The teams discuss priorities for action, focusing on communication and education for a variety of initiatives including recycling and turning off lights campaigns, as well as removal of desk side trash cans and the use of water bottle filling stations to reduce plastics use.*

*Because the MD SON is part of the University of Maryland Baltimore campus, we also collaborate with the Environmental Sustainability student group on campus as well as the [campus sustainability group](#), a Maryland Green Registry member since 2009. In addition, UMSON employees and students take part in the various hands-on sustainability educational activities offered by both the campus and the [University of Maryland Medical Center](#) sustainability department.*



### **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing**

*The Dean of the UMSON made an executive decision to discontinue purchasing Styrofoam cups and products. The administrative office has begun purchasing refillable pens and refills.*



## **Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects**

The [Eco-Healthy Child Care® Program with Early Head Starts in the Baltimore area](#) is a three-year University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON) community public health initiative created in partnership with Maryland Family Network (MFN). It is focused on improving the environmental health of Baltimore City Early Head Start (EHS) and Head Start (HS) centers, as well as providing health oversight for the families and children served by these programs. As part of this Initiative is assisting the EHS centers apply for Eco-Healthy Child Care® certification and comply with various factors related to environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation and adaption. ([www.cehn.org/ehcc](http://www.cehn.org/ehcc))

The [workgroup and GreenSON](#) team participated in [UMB's Annual Neighborhood Festival](#) during Earth Week with a focus on recycling education and assistance.

## **Waste**



### **Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse**

Since Fall 2006, School of Nursing students have used a Pay-for-Print system in the four nursing student computer labs. Previously, nursing students had free and unlimited printing and used over five cases of paper, at ten reams per case, per week between the four labs. Paper consumption in the four labs immediately dropped following the Pay-for-Print system to 1.5 cases per week and steadily dropped to an average of 3 reams per week. We have also decreased the number of student labs from four to one and currently use one ream of paper per month in that lab.

In 2017, UMSON instituted a desktop printer policy for staff and faculty. Printers were reconfigured to the Canon multifunction copiers and individual printers were reclaimed. At the start of this project there were over 250 desktop printers, and all but 37 with special approval from the administration have been reclaimed. This has reduced toner cartridge use from 500 per year to 35 per year after the policy was implemented.

We also modified an existing drinking water fountain on the first floor to refill reusable water bottles with filtered water with a counter to show how many plastic water bottles are being saved. We have also replaced plastic five-gallon water cooler dispensers with bottleless models that are tied into the plumbing.

**Recycling**

*The GreenSON committee was able to install outdoor recycling on the Nursing School Lawn, which is used for many events across the whole campus. These are the only outdoor recycling containers on campus (there are some associated with the hospital).*

**Energy**

**Energy Efficiency**

*The workgroup, in conjunction with the GreenSON committee, instituted the “Lights Out” campaign. Stickers are placed by the light switches reminding room users to turn off the lights as they leave the room. There are also rooms, bathrooms and office suites that have automatic sensors to turn off the lights when there is no one using the room.*

**Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities**

*White House’s Health Educators Climate Commitment*

*We signed the [White House’s Health Educators Climate Commitment in 2015](#), joining more than 118 Schools of medicine, public health, and nursing to ensure the next generation of health professionals are prepared, through education and training, to effectively address the health impacts of climate change and to ensure that the world has a cadre of climate change and health experts.*

*Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education*

*UMSON is a member of the [Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education](#), which aims to advance global health security through the development and dissemination of resources for educating health professionals on the effects of climate change.*

*Climate Change Elective*

*As a result of a grant from the [MADE CLEAR](#) organization, we created an online, interdisciplinary elective on climate change. It was first offered in the summer of 2017 and again in the Fall of 2017 to entry-level nursing students (BSN and RN-BSN). Next steps are to submit it to the UMSON Master’s curriculum committee and then the University of Maryland Baltimore Graduate curriculum committee*

*for approval. Upon approval, it will be offered across the other five professional schools on campus and eventually the entire University of Maryland System.*

*Green Wall*

*We installed a model Green Wall on the second floor walkway as an example of climate change mitigation and adaptation option.*



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

*Learn more at [green.maryland.gov](http://green.maryland.gov)*

