



April 2009

Maryland H2E News Round Up



Nursing, Health and the Environment

April 30, 2009, 1:30 – 5:30 pm

UMMC Shock Trauma Auditorium

**Corner of Greene and Lombard Streets
Baltimore, Maryland**

The focus will be Environmental and Occupational Health issues in healthcare, including:

- e-commons, an online presence for all nurses interested in environmental health;
- Green Team workshops for nurses already on green teams and nurses interested in starting or being on a green team; and
- An open discussion with nurses leading green initiatives.

As over 50% of Maryland acute care hospitals have a green team, this will be a great way to learn the issues and skills to be a leader in environmental change in health care and to network.

The conference is open to all to attend. Non-nurses are encouraged to come and learn the vital role nurses play in sustainability issues and how best to engage nurses at their facilities.

The conference is free; registration is required. Contact Michaela Lindahl-Ackerman at mlind006@umaryland.edu or 410-706-6832.

MD H2E Compilation of Case Studies Available

Check it out! In 2008, MDE funded a project with MD H2E that involved audits at six hospitals to identify and reduce sources of mercury and certain PVC-type plastics. Case study information is also available on "blue wrap" plastic recycling and reusable sharps. See:

www.mde.state.md.us/assets/document/H2E_Case_Studies.pdf

March Madness Hits MD H2E!

Close to 50 members of Maryland's health care community, including hospital representatives and service providers, listened attentively to Laura Armstrong of Maryland Department of the Environment and Angela Wood of the Veterans Administration discuss the *Development and Implementation of an Environmental Management System (EMS)*.

According to Angela and Laura there are MANY benefits to developing and implementing an EMS, including:

- Systematic development of a program.
- Improved environmental compliance & recognition of environmental non-compliance.
- Regular meetings to discuss environmental findings, goals, and issues.
- Required group that is dedicated to developing & enforcing environmental policies.
- Acts as a catalyst for environmental issues to be brought to management attention.
- Document control under one service & office.
- Useful to organizations with multiple locations or on-site contractors.
- Enhances communication and image among stakeholders.
- Boosts employee morale - encourages employees to report problems and suggest solutions
- Root-cause analysis helps ensure that incidents are seen as a problem with the system not the individual.
- EPA likes them.

To view the full presentations visit the Maryland Department of the Environment website and look under "Resources for Hospitals":

<http://www.mde.state.md.us/BusinessInfoCenter/PollutionPrevention/information/h2e.asp>



MD H2E Wants to Meet Your Green Team

Invite Maryland H2E to your next Green Team Meeting!

MD H2E has nursing, sustainable foods, and technical staff that can come to your hospital Green Team meeting. We can make a presentation, help develop a policy, goals, or implementation plan, or speak on a subject of your choice! Contact us at plisko@son.umaryland.edu.



Carroll Hospital Center Educates Staff with Green Events!

Carroll Hospital Center (CHC) has jumped into spring with a number of initiatives to educate staff and customers on "Practicing Green Health" programs. On March 6th, CHC held it's first **Scrub-a-dub Sale** — Staff donated scrubs they no longer wear to the Green Team; members of the Green team laundered, mended and ironed the scrubs; and CHC sold them to the staff at bargain rates! The event was very successful, and illuminated the three R's of Green Health...Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. The funds are being used to defray the cost of the recycling containers that have been placed throughout the facility. Word has it that the new recycling program is a huge success! On April 3rd, staff members will hit the campus during their lunch break to enjoy the weather and **clean up the campus**. This event is being held in conjunction with the Wellness Team, and associates will receive Wellness Points for participation in the Spring Walk. On April 22nd, the Green Team is sponsoring an **Earth Day Fair** — Several vendors will participate to educate staff and visitors on composting, reducing fuel and electricity costs, using green landscaping, gaining benefit from bicycling, using green products, and more! For more information on Carroll Hospital Center, contact Kate Painter: KPainter@carrollhospitalcenter.org



Maryland Fact: Over 50% of the acute care hospitals in Maryland have Green Teams!!!

St. Joseph Medical Center Holds First Green Team Meeting



St. Joseph Medical Center had it's first official Green Team Meeting on Feb 26th. Over 40 enthusiastic attendees turned out to this energizing meeting. Executive sponsor, Craig Carmichael, Green Team Council Lead & Safety Officer, Dawn Zeigler, and Heather Keller, Clinical

Practice Specialist lead the meeting. St. Joseph Medical Center has recently launched a recycling program and is implementing an educational and promotional program for roll-out and monitoring. Everyone is very excited about the greening efforts! For more information, contact, Heather Keller, RN, Clinical Practice Specialist:

heatherkeller@catholichealth.net



Bon Secours Is Greening Up!

Bon Secours Health System, Inc. (BSHSI), headquartered in Marriottsville, Maryland, has made a major commitment to greening its system through it's Ecological Stewardship Initiative. BSHSI is working methodically to reduce it's carbon footprint and take a positive role in building healthier communities. Currently, BSHSI has a system wide green team and is implementing green teams at all facilities which will include system-wide waste stream management program.

In Baltimore, the Green Team will be lead by George Scruggs, Director of Housekeeping. Mr. Scruggs informs MD H2E that they have an on-site autoclave, recycle paper, cardboard, batteries, fluorescent bulbs, and computers and are transitioning to microfiber mops! For Earth Day, BS is committing to work with Tree Baltimore, particularly in the areas surrounding BS Baltimore. Contact George Scruggs: George_Scruggs@bshsi.org



Good Samaritan Has a Plan for Earth Week!

Event	Description	Cost	Incentive to GSH
<p>Reusable Mug Discount Days</p> <p>Monday April 20-Friday April 24</p> <p>Contact: Chris DeRocco Tracy Masur</p>	<p>Employees may purchase reusable GSH mugs from the gift shop and use their receipt to receive a 10 to 15 cent discount on coffee or tea when they bring in any reusable mug 24 oz. or smaller. This offer will expire when the reusable mugs arrive in stock and employees pick-up their pre-ordered merchandise.</p>	<p>GSH would subsidize a 10 to 15 cent discount on coffee refills for participants.</p>	<p>Employees will get into the habit of reusing their coffee mugs, saving paper cups, associated costs.</p>
<p>Spring Cleaning (mercury)</p> <p>Monday April 20-Friday April 24</p> <p>Contact: Bob Drexler Bill Griffith</p>	<p>We will put together a scavenger hunt of mercury-containing items (thermometers and sphygmomanometers) staff to collect within their departments and turn in to Safety. The department that turns in the most material at the end of the week will win a prize.</p>	<p>GSH would supply reusable GSH shopping bags for staff in winning department(s). Estimated cost: \$200</p>	<p>Kick start our efforts to remove mercury from the hospital, work toward earning H2E Making Medicine Mercury Free award.</p>
<p>Recycling Information & Resources Display</p> <p>Tuesday, April 21</p> <p>Contact: Mary Kleinsmith, helping to obtain location for event Florin Kuhn, working with vendors</p>	<p>We will invite our Greening Partners to setup tables to display the services they provide to our facility. The Green for Good Team will have an educational display on how to go green at work and at home. We have contacted local municipalities for facts sheets on how residents can recycle at home and will also be inviting our current vendors to display information.</p>	<p>Volunteers to run the table, likely 2 volunteers from 6:30-9 AM and 11-1 PM, and one volunteer during other non-peak daytime hours.</p>	<p>Get employees excited about recycling, encourage recycling at home and increase interest in GSH greening initiatives.</p>
<p>Employee Electronic Recycling Drive</p> <p>Wednesday, April 22</p> <p>Contact: Mariel Steiner Florin Kuhn</p>	<p>We will host a collection in the parking lot behind the loading dock from 6 to 10 AM and have another drop-off location for small items in the main lobby. Employees may bring in electronics from to home for recycling. Everyone who contributes to the drive will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win cash prizes.</p>	<p>CDM charges a \$75 flat fee for pick-up. Employees would be asked to pay \$10 per TV and \$5 per computer monitor because they cost more to process. Everyone who contributes to the drive will receive a raffle ticket to win \$75, \$50, and \$25 giveaways. We also need employee volunteers to help run this event.</p>	<p>Help employees recycle troublesome items in a responsible way.</p>

Be Square or Be Green at Franklin Square

As part of the greening effort at Franklin Square Hospital Center (FSHC), the hospital recently shut down it's on-site incinerator and installed an autoclave. With a great education and training program, FSHC has reduced its regulated medical waste to 23% of the total waste stream and is recycling 17%! Check out FSHC solar-powered compactor for recyclables (pictures at right). FSHC is developing an Environmental Management System, considering a closed-loop process for kitchen grease recycling, completed a PVC/DEHP audit in the NICU and so much more. For more information, contact George Matthews, Green Team Chair: George.Matthews@Medstar.Net



Franklin Square Hospital Center
reduce/reuse/recycle



global links

What is Global Links?

Global Links is a Pittsburgh-based medical relief and development organization dedicated to a two-fold mission of environmental stewardship and improving health in developing countries. Global Links collaborates with U.S. healthcare facilities to redirect still useful materials away from landfills to public health improvement efforts in targeted countries throughout the hemisphere.

Surplus medical items recovered include:

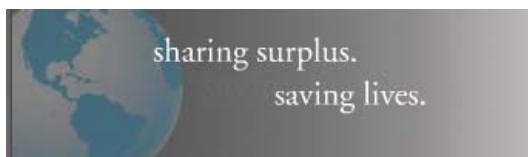
- Single-use supplies that have had no patient contact (syringes, gauze, suture, catheters, ambus, etc);
- Office supplies & furnishings;
- Clinical & patient room furnishings;
- Durable medical equipment (wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, nebulizers);
- Biomedical equipment in working order;
- Hospital linens; and
- Surgical instruments.

Global Links supports hospital greening initiatives such as:

- Solid waste reduction through on-going medical material recovery efforts;
- Global health improvements through environmentally responsible material recovery;
- Home medical equipment collections; and
- Solid waste reduction for construction, consolidation and remodeling projects.

In working with Johns Hopkins Hospital this past year 15,150 pounds (7.6 tons) of assorted medical materials were kept out of the region's landfills and the hospitals' waste stream. These donations of beds, I.V. poles, mattresses and soft supplies will be directed to public health projects in developing countries.

Contact Hayley Doering, Hospital Liaison, at 412-361-3424, ext. 213 or hdoering@globallinks.org.



Sustainable Foods Update

Morrison Signs the Healthy Food Pledge



On March 11, 2008, Morrison Management Specialists became the first major national food service company to sign the 'Healthy Food in Health Care Food Service Contractor Pledge.' Jamie Harvie, national coordinator of the Healthy Food in Health Care Initiative through Health Care Without Harm, said, "When a leader like Morrison

pledges their support for sustainable food service practices, it sends a message to the rest of the industry. We're thrilled that a top organization is taking the initiative to sign the pledge and further their commitment to the thousands of guests they serve each day."

The pledge states that food service contractors will support their client hospitals' interest in providing local sustainable food as well as educate, track and report their progress on the adoption of socially responsible food practices.

Morrison already has many environmentally conscious practices currently in place, including cage-free eggs, sustainable seafood, local produce and organic foods. Morrison is a sponsor of FoodMed!

Learn Cost Effective Strategies from Leading Experts for Healthy Hospital Food

June 30 – July 1, 2009

MGM Grand Hotel, Detroit, MI

www.FoodMed.org

- Discover best practices, tools and resources to implement local, sustainable food procurement.
- Join leaders from around the country, including Food Service Directors, Purchasing Managers, Chefs, Dietitians, Distributors, GPO's and more.



FoodMed 2009

Maryland Hospitals for a Healthy Environment presents

Nursing, Health and the Environment

Register Today

April 30, 2009

1:30 pm—5:30 pm

University of Maryland Medical Center
Baltimore, MD

Topics to include: Environmental and Occupational Health in
Healthcare, e-commons, Green Teams 101 and 401,
and a Green Team Panel

RSVP by April 23rd to:
mlind006@umaryland.edu or call 410-706-6832



Who is Maryland H2E?

Maryland H2E is a technical assistance and networking initiative that promotes environmental sustainability in healthcare. Participants include hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and other ancillary health care providers in MD.



Our staff now includes:

- ◆ Joan Plisko, PhD, Technical Director
plisko@son.umaryland.edu
- ◆ Louise Mitchell, PT, Sustainable Foods Coordinator
lmitc001@son.umaryland.edu
- ◆ Denise Choiniere, RN, Nursing Coordinator
dchoiniere@umm.edu
- ◆ Michaela Lindahl-Ackerman, MPH, Nursing Coordinator, mlind006@umaryland.edu

Practice Green Health Webinars



April 17, 1 pm (Eastern)
Greening Operations Series:
Infection Control and Green Cleaning — Tips for Implementing a Safe & Effective Program

April 24, 1 pm (Eastern)
Design and Construction Series:
Pioneering the Platinum Path for Healthcare — Dell Children's Medical Ctr. of Central TX

To Register and Purchase Webinars, go to:

www.practicegreenhealth.org/tools/webinars/

Note: Access to Practice Greenhealth webinars is a fee-based service, and is one of many member benefits. You can learn more about the fees and benefits of membership by going to our website. See:

www.practicegreenhealth.org/community/membership/

LEEDing THE WAY FOR HEALTHCARE IN MARYLAND

An All Star Panel Discusses Critical Issues for Health Institutions

- KumKum Dilwali, Green Guide for Health Care
- Joan Plisko, Maryland H2E
- Cliff Wallace, Leach and Wallace
- Cecilia DeLoach, Practice Green Health
- Jim Albers, CSD Architects
- Frank Weinberg, MedStar Health
- Lorraine Doo, Doo Consulting



If you were not able to attend the First Annual Chesapeake Green Building Expo and want more information regarding the critical issues facing health care facilities as they embark upon sustainability initiatives within their institutions – from building to operations, including a discussion of LEED and the Green Guide for Health Care, contact Lorraine Doo:

lorraine@dooconsulting.net



CleanMed: *The Global Conference on Environmentally Sustainable Health Care:*

CleanMed 2009, Chicago, Illinois May 18-20, 2009 - Hyatt Regency Chicago. [Go to: www.cleanmed.org](http://www.cleanmed.org)

