



July 2009

Maryland H2E News Round Up



Call For Abstracts ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE: Greening Maryland Hospitals

Maryland H2E is interested in receiving abstracts on environmental programs developed, implemented, and tracked at healthcare facilities in Maryland and elsewhere. Abstracts and subsequent presentations that address climate change in the health care setting are particularly encouraged as are presentations that show quantifiable results. Selected presentations will be made on **November 6th 2009 at the Environmental Excellence in Healthcare** conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Topic areas are:

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing: Topics may include EPP policy development, product selection committees, developing environmental criteria for purchasing, working with suppliers and GPOs, or the purchase of alternative energy.

Climate Change: Topics may include energy audits and energy conservation, water conservation, green building construction or renovation, use of the Green Guide for Healthcare or LEED, or transportation strategies.

Integrated Waste Management: Topics may include pollution prevention, recycling, RMW segregation and minimization, composting, single-use device reprocessing, developing [an integrated waste management plan](#) or utilizing a waste tracking tool.

Sustainable Foods: Topics may include the purchase of meat, poultry, seafood and dairy produced without added growth hormones or routine antibiotic use, menu plans to reduce your carbon footprint, marketing healthier foods, hosting farmers markets, or composting.

Please submit an abstract (no more than 250 words) and contact information (i.e., name, title, organization, phone, address, e-mail) to Joan Plisko at plisko@son.umaryland.edu for consideration by **August 21th, 2009**. Early submissions are encouraged.



A Greener Greater Baltimore Medical Center

Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC) is a 334-bed community hospital in Towson, Maryland, with a mission of Health. Healing. Hope. According to President and CEO **Laurence Merlis**, "Creating a healthy, sustainable environment is a moral, social and fiscal responsibility that supports this mission." To further it, GBMC formalized a Green Team committee in April 2009. Consisting of 25-plus employee members from nearly as many departments, the Green Team is ahead of the game thanks to the running start it got from hospital executives and leaders.

GBMC initiated eco-sensitive healthcare practices long before its Green Team was formed. After joining MD H2E in 2007, the hospital began limited recycling programs (for toner cartridges, medical batteries, electronics and carpeting), stocking its dining room with biodegradable cups, purchasing local produce and energy efficient appliances, using FSC certified paper for publications and brochures as well as converting bimonthly payroll statements from printed confirmation pieces to online-only notices.

"With some environmentally friendly practices already underway, the Green Team has been able to focus its attention on more strategic projects," explains **Michael Forthman**, Vice President of Facilities and Support Services, who also serves as the Green Team chairman. As of late June, the group joined Practice GreenHealth, selected a logo (above), developed an internal website – "The Green Pages" – and published information about

Continued on Page 4, GBMC

Union Hospital of Cecil County Unveils "Green" Logo!



Bon Secours Invests in Clean and Green in the Community it Serves

(from *The Difference — Cleaner Greener Together in Action: Baltimore City — July 2009*)

Baltimore's Bon Secours facility is located in Southwest Baltimore, a neighborhood once known for being highlighted in the novel "The Corner." But, things have changed! In 1998, the Bon Secours of Maryland Foundation launched the program, Operation Reachout Southwest. In partnership with a very motivated group of 250 citizens and leaders from churches, associations and non-profits their collective goal was to turn Southwest Baltimore into a vibrant place to live and work. It's working!

Bon Secours and the neighborhood coalition have built "a village" where there wasn't one, all with the purpose of improving the quality of life. An important aspect of the plan was to make Southwest Baltimore cleaner and greener. Inner city neighborhoods are often plagued by vacant, overgrown and ugly lots. Kate Joyce, Open Space Management Program Director, explained, "A vacant lot, covered with trash and maybe a sofa or two can soon become a stash spot for drugs; not really a positive in places trying to turn the tide." So, in drove the Clean & Green program armed with a Bobcat, a dump truck and many community volunteers. This motivated group has turned 22 acres of vacant lots-that translates into 700 vacant lots -- into attractive green spaces.

First, the Clean & Green team cleans out all of the trash. Then they grade the lot and apply top soil. Native trees are then planted around the perimeter of the lot, to create a defined space; and finally a mix of grass and clover seeds are spread. Once landscaped, the team mows and upkeeps the lots every two weeks. Clean & Green's key to success is that most lots become "adopted" by local residents who keep watch and partner with the Clean & Green team to make sure the lots stay green, and do not return to being trashed.



The Clean & Green successes are many!

- * More than 1,000 trees have been planted in the 22-acres;
- * More than 500 tons of debris have been removed;
- * Three community gardens growing organic produce have been established;
- * One Straw Farm, organized by the community, brings fresh organic and locally grown produce into Southwest for sale to the residents.

For more information contact: Kate Joyce Program Director, 410.362.3629 or Katherine_joyce@bshsi.org www.bonsecoursbaltimore.com

Nurses in the Lead: Johns Hopkins Hospital

At Johns Hopkins Hospital (JHH), nurses are prevalent in greening initiatives:

Green Team Co Chair: Colleen Cusick, RN, works in Supply Chain as the clinical products specialist and is the co-chair of the JHH Green Team.

Farmers Market: Roneet Mallin, RN, MPH, home care coordinator and Shannon Gregor, project coordinator in the Patient & Visitor Services and nursing student at Howard Community College, coordinated the recently debuted Farmers Market.

Clinical Unit Champions: Many of the clinical units have unit champions at JHH. Abby Denbo, RN works in the CCU and spear-headed the recycling pilot for her unit prior to the hospital roll-out and set up educational boards for staff even before the green team was formed.

Donations: Carol Gentry, RN, Nurse Manager of the Pediatric and Trauma ORs has long coordinated efforts of the hospital's SHARE program which sends unused supplies to third world countries.

Supply Chain: Tom Galloway, RN works in Supply Chain. He recently championed a program to reduce the consumption of reusable pillows. In fact, 50% of the membership of our JHHS Clinical Products Value Analysis Committee are nurses who have made decisions which reduce plastic in the environment, decrease the use of latex-containing products and reduce packaging materials.

For more information on the greening initiatives at JHH, contact: Colleen Cusick, RN, Clinical Products Specialist, Materials Management Department, Johns Hopkins Health System, 410-502-1900 or ccusick@jhmi.edu.

On behalf of the MD H2E Team, Way to Go Johns Hopkins Hospital!



Food Update: AMA Prescribes Sustainable Food Chain



The American Medical Association has approved a new policy that supports a healthy and sustainable food chain within healthcare systems at a recent AMA meeting in Chicago. AMA also plans to work with healthcare and public health organizations to educate their community and the public about the importance of healthy and ecologically sustainable food systems.

The AMA's new Sustainable Food policy builds on a report from its Council on Science and Public Health, www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/475/refcomd.pdf, which indicates that locally produced and organic foods "reduce the use of fuel, decrease the need for packaging and resultant waste disposal, preserve farmland ... [and] the related reduced fuel emissions contribute to cleaner air and in turn, lower the incidence of asthma attacks and other respiratory problems."



The study also notes that industrial food production is a significant contributor to increased antibiotic resistance, climate change, and air and water pollution. In addition to providing fresh, nutritious food choices, healthcare food services across the country are implementing new initiatives such as sourcing organic food and meat produced without the use of antibiotics, buying locally produced foods, and sponsoring farmers markets and food boxes for staff, according to the Healthcare Without Harm (HCWH) coalition.

More than 240 hospitals have signed the HCWH Healthy Food in Healthcare Pledge, which promote sustainable food systems in their facilities. U.S. Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT) has introduced a "Blueprint for Health," legislation that calls for incentives to prevent chronic diseases, including investments in healthy and sustainable local and regional food systems.

Globally, U.N. delegates at a recent climate conference said a new focus on the impact of farming on climate change could reduce carbon emissions and drive efforts to boost yields and rural incomes in developing countries, reports Reuters. Globally, agriculture accounts for about 14 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, although in some countries the figure is far higher, reports Reuters.

Peninsula Regional Medical Center Is On Board With Green!



There is a lot of activity in the greening and sustainability arena at Peninsula Regional Medical Center. According to Bruce Patterson, Executive Director of Facilities and Properties, "We have really started to kick off our green and sustainability efforts. There are many teams working on different projects. For instance, one team is working to implement blue wrap recycling and another team on special medical waste reduction efforts."

As a result of a 100 million dollar expansion, PRMC is now finishing up the roadway and parking lots and a key feature is a brand new pervious concrete parking lot. The rainwater will run through the concrete into a special substrate soil system, be filtered and then pumped back into the groundwater. It does not get stored in ponds or underground storage systems, or piped into the river.

PRMC is also partnering with Tandus, a major commercial floor covering company and a local installer to develop a carpet recycling program. The plan is to keep a storage trailer at the vendor, send the appropriate carpet back to the container, and when enough product is collected, have it shipped back to the Tandus mill for recycling. For more information on activities at PRMC, contact Bruce W. Patterson at 410-543-7342 or bruce.patterson@peninsula.org.

GBMC Continued, from Page 1.

upcoming changes in GBMC's employee newsletter and by hospital wide e-mail broadcasts. All of this was in preparation for an initial awareness campaign that began with fiscal year 2010.

The first wave of communication, in progress at press time, stresses three tactics that employees can take to benefit the environment right away and with minimal effort. They include energy curtailment methods (using the Peak Load Consumption, or "PLC," predictor service to which GBMC subscribes), paper recycling via existing document shredding bins and reduction of paper consumption through education about electronic means for archiving and faxing.

A more extensive communication plan is being developed to prepare staff for changes to take place in January 2010, when GBMC expects to begin a partnership with its new waste management provider (yet to be awarded). Mr. Forthman describes the hospital's current waste management contract as too cost-prohibitive to support a meaningful recycling program. With a new provider, GBMC will have the ability to segregate garbage and increase recycling drastically. He remarks, "Once the waste stream is better managed, our team will have the sky as its limit for introducing engaging new programs that provide the same quality care for the environment as GBMC offers to its patients."

Regulatory Update - Antimicrobial Labeling Update from EPA



Thursday, Jul 30 2009 - 01:00 PM Eastern

The Environmental Protection Agency said June 12 that approximately one-third of 325 registered hospital disinfectants and 36 of the 72 tuberculocides tested thus far under the Antimicrobial Testing Program (ATP) failed to meet its standards for effectiveness against bacteria.

Products failing the tests "are brought into compliance through regulatory or enforcement measures, or a combination of both," EPA said. EPA has already ordered changes to the antimicrobial claims on some product labels and is reviewing others, according to a table of test results and other information published on the agency's antimicrobial testing website June 12.

The reviews could result in requiring registrants to reformulate their products, reduce their product claims, change their use directions, or cancel the products, EPA said. On this Webinar, representative of the Antimicrobial Division of the EPA Office of Pesticides Programs will discuss the implication of this report and answer questions. See Page 6 of Newsletter for webinar details.

MD H2E Seeks Proposals for Sponsored Educational Seminars



MD H2E is seeking proposals for vendor-sponsored educational seminars on subject matters related to environmental sustainability in Maryland hospitals. Relevant topics may include, but are not limited to, environmentally preferable purchasing, integrated waste management, green building, resource conservation, sustainable foods, and toxics reduction. Sessions should focus on cost savings, regulatory compliance and/or environmental health issues. *Innovative ideas are encouraged.* Seminar content must be topic based and not vendor-service focused.

A typical ½ day seminar will include coffee, breakfast, lunch, and beverages. Attendance will vary based on the topic. For planning purposes, please estimate attendance between 40 – 80 people, including hospital staff, industry representatives, and other interested parties. Seminar will be free to attendees.

In consultation with MD H2E, vendor responsibilities will include setting the agenda, confirming speakers, managing registration, and providing local sustainable foods, as possible. MD H2E will convene the seminar which includes securing a location, advertising the seminar, assisting with agenda, speaker, and food selection, and facilitating the seminar.

The proposal should be no longer than three pages and must include the following:

- Title
- Scope
- Target audience
- Description of seminar
- Proposed agenda
- Contribution to Maryland healthcare going green
- Contact information of person coordinating the event
- Company name, location, experience in sponsoring educational seminars
- Verification of company's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability
- Verification of company environmental compliance record

Incomplete proposals may not be reviewed. All complete proposals will be reviewed by MD H2E staff. Accepted proposals will be scheduled from Fall 2009 to Summer 2010.

**Please submit completed proposal by August 1st 2009 to Joan Plisko, PhD,
Technical Director MD H2E, plisko@son.umaryland.edu.**



Be #1 in Employee Participation by Signing Up for the Buy Local Challenge

Hospitals Can Participate in 2 Ways:

1. Food Service can sign up to serve at least 1 food from a local farmer each day from July 18th—26th
2. Employees can sign up to eat at least 1 food from a local farmer each day from July 18th—26th

Hospitals Participating So Far:

- Anne Arundel Medical Center
- Calvert Memorial Hospital
- Carroll Hospital Center
- Children's National Medical Center
- Civista Medical Center
- Fayette Health & Rehab. Center
- Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center
- Johns Hopkins Hospital
- Mercy Medical Center
- Northwest Health & Rehab. Center
- St. Agnes Hospital
- St. Joseph Medical Center
- Union Hospital of Cecil County
- Union Memorial Hospital
- University of Maryland Medical Center
- Washington County Hospital

The Governors' Office is "pleased to see that hospitals are setting such a great example for institutions of all kinds."

The hospital with the highest % of employees participating in the Buy Local Challenge will be recognized on the Buy Local Challenge website, to the media, and in the newsletters of the Maryland Hospital Association and Maryland Hospitals for a Healthy Environment.

Marketing Tools Available: Flyers, Employee Sign Up Sheets, Cafeteria Signs and Patient Tray Bookmarks, Table Tents & more. For flyers & logo, visit: www.buy-local-challenge.com/request_form.asp For cafeteria signs, patient tray cards, table tents & more, contact Louise at 410-706-1924 or Lmitc001@son.umaryland.edu.

Sign Up Here: www.buy-local-challenge.com/challenge.asp

Be Sure to List Your Name & Your Hospital's Name So You Can Be Counted!!



Wednesday, July 22nd

4:00 pm — 5:15 pm

Good Food, Good Medicine

**How a Physician is Bringing
"Produce to the People"
at Kaiser Permanente's Hospitals**

**University of Maryland Medical Center
22 S. Greene St, Baltimore 21201 (Conf Rm TBA)**

RSVP Here: [Online Registration](#)

Dr. Preston Maring will demonstrate how Kaiser Permanente has launched 30 farmers' markets in 6 states & in DC & uses local foods in their inpatient meals at 19 facilities.



**Directions,
Map &
Parking
Information:**
[www.umm.edu
/gethere](http://www.umm.edu/gethere)

Risks of DEHP to Vulnerable Populations Addressed by Governments of U.S., Canada, and European Union

(from Premier's Green Link, June 2009)

Government-sponsored reports from the U.S., Canada, and the European Union have all concluded that exposures to di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP) are of concern to some patient populations and subsets of the general public. Especially vulnerable are infants and toddlers, pregnant and lactating women, and patients undergoing certain medical procedures. All reports point to the need for action with the U.S. FDA recommending medical device manufacturers reformulate products to remove DEHP, and that hospitals use alternatives to DEHP-containing products, whenever possible, for high risk populations. Health-care Without Harm's (HCWH) March 2009 report, *The Weight of Evidence on DEHP: Exposures are a Cause for Concern, Especially during Medical Care* includes major conclusions from the U.S. National Toxicology Program's Center for Evaluation of Risks to Human Reproduction, the U.S. FDA, the Health Canada Expert Advisory Panel, the Swedish National Chemicals Inspectorate, the European Chemicals Agency, and California's Office of Environmental Health Hazards Assessment.

NICUs pledge to transition away from PVC/DEHP medical devices: HCWH has recently introduced the Neonatal Intensive Care (NICU) Pledge to transition away from PVC/DEHP medical devices — a move also encouraged in a 2006 resolution by the American Medical Association. The pledge also provides the steps NICUs need to take for this transition. Copies of the NICU Pledge and facilities currently signed on, copies of the government report, lists of alternative products, and additional resources from Europe are available at HCWH/s web site: <http://www.noharm.org/us/pvcDehp/nicupledge>

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
410-706-2107
- ◆ Louise Mitchell, PT, Sustainable Foods Coordinator
lmitc001@son.umaryland.edu
410-706-1924
- ◆ Denise Choiniere, RN, Nursing Coordinator
dchoiniere@umm.edu
410-706-2352
- ◆ Michaela Lindahl-Ackerman, MPH, Nursing Coordinator, mlind006@umaryland.edu
410-706-6832



Practice Green Health Webinars



July 24, 1 pm (Eastern)
Green Operations Series:

Getting Started on Chemicals Policy: Ten Steps to Choosing Safer Products and Chemicals at Your Institution

July 30, 1 pm (Eastern)
Green Operations Series:

Regulatory Update — Antimicrobial Labeling Update from the EPA

August 7, 1 pm (Eastern)

Getting Started with Practice Greenhealth

To Register and Purchase Webinars, go to:

www.practicegreenhealth.org/tools/webinars/

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/