



Maryland H2E News Roundup

May 2011



Environmental Excellence in Health Care: Call for Abstracts

MD H2E is accepting abstracts on environmental programs developed, implemented, and tracked at health care facilities across the region. Abstracts showing measurable results and subsequent presentations that facilitate discussion are of particular interest. Selected abstracts will be presented **November 10, 2011 at the Environmental Excellence in Health Care Conference** at the University of Maryland School of Nursing in Baltimore.

The theme of this year's conference is "**Measuring Success.**" Therefore, **appropriate abstracts will share methods of measuring and the results of environmental programs put in place at the facility or system level.** MD H2E welcomes product and service providers to partner with hospitals for case study presentations. Measurements can be qualitative or quantitative. Examples include:

- Building Design and Construction
- Carbon Footprint Reductions
- Chemical Usage Reductions
- Community Benefits
- Cost Savings
- Employee Engagement and/or Satisfaction
- Energy Conservation
- Patient Exposure Reductions
- Sustainable Food Purchases and/or Practices
- Waste Reductions
- Water Conservation

Deadline for submission: Friday, July 29, 2011.

Submit abstract as an e-mail attachment to: mdh2e@son.umaryland.edu Attention: Joan Plisko

Guidelines: Abstracts are limited to 250 words. Include the title, description, author(s) name(s), credentials, title, organization, work phone number, cell phone number, mailing address, and e-mail address. Presentation at the conference is limited to two authors only. Both authors must provide the listed information.



Freedom to be Green

LifeBridge Health Trailblazer Event Tackles it All: Energy, Waste, Recycling, the OR, and more!

On April 19th, LifeBridge Health Green Team members welcomed attendees of the MD H2E Trailblazer educational event with compost filled (discarded) water pitchers and packets of wildflower seeds



Attendees were given wildflower seeds and a compost sample in old water pitchers.

in hand. It was a fitting introduction to LifeBridge Health's sustainable initiatives and to their Trailblazer educational event: *LED Lighting and Waste Life Cycles.*

The third event in MD H2E's Trailblazer Education Series brought sustainability enthusiasts together to learn and share about LifeBridge Health's diverse sustainability program.

LifeBridge Health composts at four facilities, where food waste is segregated into bins that are then hauled away for composting. To complete the lifecycle, LifeBridge Health buys the compost back for use in therapeutic patient gardens. The use of compost eliminates the need for non-organic chemical fertilizers, decreases greenhouse gas emissions and also reduces waste sent to the landfill. Additionally, it cuts back on water usage, since compost increases the capacity of the soil to hold water by up to 50%.



Lionel Weeks, VP Facilities, gives a warm welcome.

Continued on Page 2.

MD H2E Trailblazer Education Series

Franklin Square Hospital Center's: **Environmental Management Systems (EMS)**

May 24, 2011 from 8:30 – 11 am

9000 Franklin Square Drive, Rosedale, Maryland 21237

FSHC is the first Maryland hospital to develop and implement an Environmental Management System (EMS) as a method for reducing environmental impacts. As part of MedStar Health, FSHC began a hazardous pharmaceutical waste management program in 2007 that is now fully operational. And, while designing and building the new Patient Care Tower and Emergency Department, FSHC implemented a multitude of LEED-compliant features. Come learn from the folks that implemented these programs!

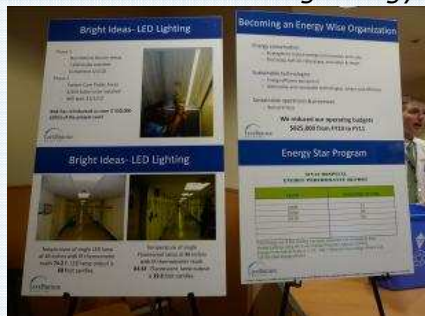
Please RSVP to trailblazer@son.umaryland.edu by May 17th

Priority is given to employees from any hospital or health system.

Snacks will be provided

More from LifeBridge Health...

Posters show LifeBridge Health's "Bright Ideas" when it comes to saving energy.



LifeBridge recycles batteries for Earth Day.

LifeBridge Health's "Green Roof" absorbs rainwater and helps insulate the building.



LifeBridge Health, Continued from Page 1:

Facilities Director, Lewis Poe – who "lives and breathes energy and waste" – spoke about LifeBridge Health's energy savings initiatives. Sinai Hospital saved over \$800,000 in the last fiscal year on energy alone! Sinai now has LED lights in all non-patient areas. The bulbs have a life expectancy of 5-7 years; fluorescent bulbs must be changed every year. This saves on energy costs and the labor costs of installation. Some of the new ORs also have LED lights. LifeBridge Health made these changes with the help of BGE rebates and federal stimulus funding. LifeBridge Health is currently building a 31,000 square foot children's hospital which will add zero increase to their 2012 utility budget!

There are always opportunities out there, and Poe, a certified energy auditor, is willing to help you! Low-hanging fruit projects could be operational in as little as 6 months. MD H2E can assist in arranging a meeting with Lewis Poe – contact Molly at englund@son.umaryland.edu.

Janel Parham, an OR nurse, spoke about reducing Operating Room waste. With a Neptune Stryker Fluid Management System, Sinai has reduced the risk of exposure to infectious waste. Every full Neptune manifold can replace up to 7 full fluid canisters, and reduces red bag waste by 86%. According to Parham, it's important to initially and annually give employees in-service training. Staff and administrative buy-in are also key. Parham is working to spread these programs out of the OR.

The event finished up with a demonstration of switching out fluorescent lights for LED lights, with 2 LED tubes replacing 3 fluorescent ones, and a visit to Sinai's green roof.

Thanks to LifeBridge Health for a successful, engaging event!

A LifeBridge employee gives a demonstration of switching fluorescent lights for LED ones.



Earth Day at Garrett County Memorial Hospital

Earth Day activities at Garrett County Memorial Hospital coincided with a visit from Carmela Coyle, Executive Director of the Maryland Hospital Association. Pictured is Carmela Coyle and Donald Battista, Hospital President/CEO with a newly planted Dwarf Weeping Cherry Tree. Ms. Coyle and other MHA executives, Jim Reiter, Senior Vice President of Communication and Mike Robbins, Senior Vice President of Finance, spent the day at the Hospital to meet with administrative officials and to tour the hospital facility.



Several events were organized by the Hospital's Employees Event's Committee including a collection for the Animal Shelter, a Go Green Contest and a Leaf Identification Contest as well as the tree planting. A collection for the Animal Shelter included dog and cat food, collars, dishes, toys, treats, blankets and towels, shampoo, cat litter, and monetary donations to aid the shelter's efforts. The Go Green Contest encouraged employees to enter their ideas to make the hospital more "green" for a drawing to win a gift certificate to Pleasant Valley Green House. Winners were Gina Artice, Jessica Lucas, and Bobbie Gordon. Barbara Pitt won the Leaf Contest by correctly identifying the most leaves to win a book about room makeovers with JUNKMARKET style. The Dwarf Weeping Cherry Tree was donated to the Hospital by Holland Nursery of Aurora, WV.

http://www.gcmh.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=333&Itemid=41

GBMC Earth Day



Employees peruse the giveaways

The green team handed out passports for employees to get stamped in 4 different zones: Farmers' Market, Green Team, Individual/Home Sustainability, and Plants and Gardening. Employees were also entered in a raffle to win a mountain bike.



A recycling station was set up for glasses, cell phones and alkaline batteries.



Staff played a game to toss the trash in the right receptacle.



A new council is launched.
See: <http://www.hprc.org/>

Inspiring and enabling plastics recycling solutions in healthcare

ABOUT

WORK

MEMBERS

CONTACT

WHAT IS HPRC?

HPRC is a private technical coalition of peers across the healthcare, recycling and waste management industries seeking to inspire and enable sustainable, cost-effective recycling solutions for plastic products and materials used in the delivery of healthcare.

WHY DOES HPRC EXIST?

HPRC exists in a collaborative effort to be a change agent for sustainable healthcare product and packaging lifecycle with the end goal of increasing the overall recycling of healthcare plastics.

HPRC is unique in its focus on identification of plastics recycling barriers and solution development

NEWS

04.06.11
HPRC Official Press Release

04.06.11
HPRC to Present Poster at CleanMed 2011
Phoenix, Arizona



The Maryland Recycling Network (MRN) represents individuals and organizations from every facet of recycling who join together to promote the 3 "R's" of recycling - sustainable reduction, reuse and recycling of materials otherwise destined for disposal.

The Maryland Recycling Network is now accepting applications for the 2011 Recycling Award in the following categories:

- The Dwight Copenhaver Recycler of the Year Award
- Outstanding Corporate Leadership Award
- Outstanding Government Leadership Award
- Outstanding Small Government Program Award
- Outstanding Environmental and Community Leadership Award
- Best Market Development Program Award
- Extraordinary Achievement Award

For more information and the application to apply, visit: www.marylandrecyclingnetwork.org.

Awards will be presented at the 2011 Conference on Thursday, June 16, 2011 at the Maritime Institute, Linthicum, MD. Mail materials to MRN, c/o Mariner Management * PO Box 1640 * Columbia, MD 21044.

Sustainable Foods Update

LOCAL SUSTAINABLE MEAT AND POULTRY: MAKING THE SHIFT IN INSTITUTIONAL PURCHASING Last Chance to Register!



Thursday, May 5, 2011

7:30 am – 3:00 pm

Ten Oaks Ballroom & Conference Center
5000 Signal Bell Lane • Clarksville, Maryland 21029



\$25 until May 4; \$35 at the door
Includes local and sustainable breakfast and lunch!

Updated Sessions & Speakers



The Health and Environmental Impacts of Large-Scale Meat & Poultry Production

Keeve E. Nachman, PhD, MHS, *Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health & Center for a Livable Future*, Baltimore, MD



Defining Sustainable Agricultural Practices

Louise Mitchell, *Maryland Hospitals for a Healthy Environment, University of Maryland School of Nursing*, Baltimore, MD



Ensuring the Safety of Local Meat and Poultry

Deanna Baldwin, *Maryland Department of Agriculture*, Annapolis, Maryland
Sherry Donovan-Morris, REHS, RS, *Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DHMH)*, Baltimore, MD



Cost-Saving Purchasing Strategies Used by Leading Institutions

Anders Grant, MS, RD, LDN, CSSD, *Carroll Hospital Center*, Westminster, MD
Holly Emmons, RD, LD, MPA, *Union Hospital of Cecil County*, Elkton, MD
Doug Davis, *Burlington Public School District*, Burlington, VT
Norm Zwagil, *Bon Appetit Management Company/University of Maryland Baltimore and Goucher College*, Baltimore/Towson, MD



Selling to Institutions – The Farmers' Experiences

Ginger Myers, *University of Maryland Extension, Western Maryland Research and Education Center; Evermore Farm*, Keedysville, MD
Shane Hughes, *Liberty Delight Farms*, Reisterstown, MD



Getting a Local Producer into an Institutional Contract – Experiences of a Health Care System & a Distributor

Kip Hardy, MS, RD, LD, *Emory Healthcare*, Atlanta, GA
Gloriane Crater, RD, Director of Healthcare Services, *US Foodservice*, Atlanta, GA



To Register or For More Information: www.mdh2e.org

410-706-1924; sustainablefoods@son.umaryland.edu





Healthcare Employers Warned of Hazardous Drug Risks

By: [David LaHoda](#) April 11th, 2011

OSHA, NIOSH, and The Joint Commission have issued [a letter to hospitals and healthcare employers](#) warning of the serious job-related risks that hazardous drugs pose to healthcare workers, according to an [April 7 OSHA news release](#).

Drugs used in chemotherapy, antiviral treatments, hormone regimens, and other applications may cause irreversible effects from work-related exposures even at low levels.

Those potentially exposed include "workers who handle, dispense, mix, apply, and dispose of them without proper controls and training," according to the letter.

When present in the workplace, these hazards must be identified as part of the written Hazard Communication plan, readily available and accessible to all including temporary workers, contractors, and trainees, according to the letter.

The three organizations call for healthcare facilities to address safe drug handling by:

1. Committing management staff to taking a leadership role in worker safety and health
2. Offering opportunities for meaningful employee participation in efforts to identify and remediate hazards, develop and offer training, and evaluate injury and illness prevention programs for continuous improvement

As resources for employers, the notification lists NIOSH and OSHA publications and web pages:

["NIOSH List of Antineoplastic and Other Hazardous Drugs in Healthcare Settings, 2010"](#)

["Preventing Occupational Exposures to Antineoplastic and Other Hazardous Drugs in Healthcare Settings"](#)

[Hazardous Drug Exposures in Health Care Workplace Safety and Health Topics webpage](#) (NIOSH)

[Hazardous Drugs Safety and Health Topics webpage](#) (OSHA)



WA State Passes First Law Protecting Healthcare Workers from Hazardous Drug Exposures

By: [David LaHoda](#) April 18th, 2011

Washington Governor Chris Gregoire on April 13 signed into law two bills to protect healthcare workers from hazardous drug exposures and to track occupational cancer links from such exposures, reports [InvestigateWest](#).

The two safety laws are the first in the nation to specifically address protection for workers handling chemotherapy and other toxic drugs, and could be a model for other state and federal legislation, Bill Borwegen, health and safety director for the Service Employees International Union in Washington, D.C., told InvestigateWest.

OSHA Healthcare Advisor reported last January that Washington state legislators were considering safety laws partly as a reaction to a [series of InvestigateWest stories about healthcare workers getting cancer](#).

The first bill, [SB 5594](#), directs the Department of Labor and Industries to adopt rules for the handling of hazardous drugs in healthcare facilities with input from the facilities and organizations representing healthcare personnel. The rules developed will be consistent with [NIOSH provisions adopted in 2004 and updated in 2010](#), according to the bill.

The second bill, [SB 5149](#), requires that occupational information to be included on the statewide cancer database. Such data will assist the state in tracking potential links between occupational exposures and cancer outcomes, according to InvestigateWest.

[For the updated NIOSH list of hazardous drugs, see the OSHA Healthcare Advisor Tools web page.](#)



Practice Greenhealth Announces Winners of 2011 Environmental Excellence Awards, 11 Go to Maryland Hospitals!

Practice Greenhealth, the nation's only membership association devoted to environmentally responsible health care, has announced its [2011 Environmental Excellence Award winners](#). These competitive awards are given within the health care sector to institutions for outstanding programs to reduce the facility's environmental footprint. 11 awards went to Maryland hospitals, plus a Champion for Change Award for MD H2E!

Congratulations to all the winners! Here's to your continued success.

System for Change Award

Bon Secours Health System – Marriottsville, MD

2010 Partner for Change, with Distinction Award

Bon Secours Hospital (Bon Secours Baltimore Health Corporation) – Baltimore, MD
University of Maryland Medical Center – Baltimore, MD

Partner for Change Award

Franklin Square Hospital Center – Baltimore, MD
Good Samaritan Hospital – Baltimore, MD
Kaiser Permanente of the Mid Atlantic States – Rockville, MD
Levindale Hebrew Geriatric Center – Baltimore, MD
Northwest Hospital – Baltimore, MD
Sinai Hospital of Baltimore – Baltimore, MD

Partner Recognition

Harbor Hospital – Baltimore, MD
St. Mary's Hospital – Leonardtown, MD

Champion for Change Award

Maryland Hospitals for a Healthy Environment – Baltimore, MD

MD H2E Welcomes New Advisory Board Member

The MD H2E Advisory Board has a new member: Nicole Mazzei-Williams joins us from the Maryland Hospital Association, where she works for a for-profit subsidiary called PRIME, affiliated nationally with MedAssets. As a senior client relations manager, Nicole represents hospitals in Maryland and DC. How did she get involved with greening health-care? More and more, her clients are asking for it. Her interests lie in green building and environmentally preferable purchasing. "I'm also interested in it for the sake of my family's health," says Nicole, who lives in Howard County with her husband and two children.

Nicole is also MD H2E's new liaison with MHA, and has joined the Health Care Sustainability Leadership Council. A former pharmaceutical sales rep, she has been working in health care for the past 11 years. She says, "I look forward to collaborating with MDH2E on current and future initiatives and lending any assistance I can to the cause." We welcome our newest participant, and look forward to the energy and knowledge she brings with her.

What is Maryland H2E?

Maryland H2E is a technical assistance and networking initiative that promotes environmental sustainability in health-care. 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 Program Manager, lmitc001@son.umaryland.edu, 410-706-1924
- Karin Russ, MS, RN, Nursing Outreach Coordinator, kruss003@son.umaryland.edu, 410-706-1389
- Molly Englund, Communications Coordinator englund@son.umaryland.edu, 410-706-6832
- Priya Saha, Sustainable Foods Coordinator saha@son.umaryland.edu 410-706-3077

Practice Greenhealth Webinars



May 04, 2 pm (Eastern)

**Green Operations Series:
Indoor Air Quality in Healthcare**

May 05, 2 pm (Eastern)

Introduction to Greenhealth Tracker (FREE)

May 10, 2 pm (Eastern)

**Getting Started with PGH—
Intro for New Members**

May 11, 2 pm (Eastern)

**Green Operations Series:
Community Organizing 101:
How a Corner Office Can Cultivate a Sustainable
Local Food Program for Patient Health, Healing
and Wellness**

May 13, 1 pm (Eastern)

**Kaiser Permanente's Sustainability Scorecard for
Medical Products—Generation II (FREE)**

May 19, 2 pm (Eastern)

**Greening the OR:
Energy Efficiency in the OR**

May 25, 2 pm (Eastern)

**Green Design & Construction Series:
Greening the Community Hospital:
Re-scaling the Management of Benefits and
Costs**

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:

<http://www.practicegreenhealth.org/community/>