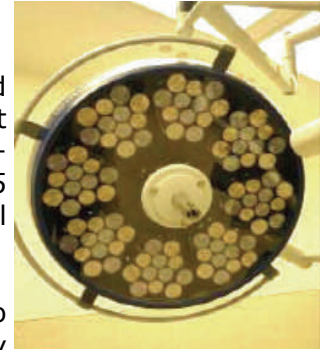

Trailblazer: Anne Arundel Medical Center



AAMC is dedicated to greening its surgical services unit. Studies show operating rooms can account for up to 30 percent of the total waste generated by a hospital. As such, AAMC has installed LED surgical lights in the operating rooms, and in March 2011, began a program to move from disposable single use medical devices to reprocessed and remanufactured ones. The hospital has also implemented a surgical services recycling program, along with other steps to reduce the amount of operating room waste.

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Energy conservation - In April 2011, AAMC successfully implemented Berchtold LED surgical lighting in many of the operating rooms. These bulbs not only last longer (estimated to last 10 years), they also have an estimated 90 percent energy conservation over incandescent bulbs (a 9 watt LED light can replace a 65 watt incandescent bulb). AAMC implemented a plan to add one new LED surgical light per fiscal year.



Regulated Medical Waste (RMW) reduction and segregation: Dedicated to reducing the environmental impact of its waste, AAMC implemented several key programs towards waste reduction, environmental stewardship and cost savings:

- a. AAMC began a **remanufacturing and reprocessing** program in the operating rooms. The reprocessing-remanufacturing program has diverted an estimated 3,944 pounds of waste from the operating rooms.
- b. AAMC successfully implemented a **reusable sharps container** program in the ORs. Dioxin, a known carcinogenic is released when plastics are burned. A single reusable sharps container can be reused over 500 times, greatly reducing the volume of plastics annually sent to the incinerator. Historically, AAMC sent over 30,000 lbs of plastics to the incinerator via the plastic of sharps containers alone.
- c. AAMC went one step further with the implementation of a **recycling program** in the surgical services areas. The ORs have commingled recycling in the break rooms. The other surgical service areas are recycling non-confidential paper, plastics, and glass in break rooms and nourishment rooms.

Toxin reduction - Eight of the OR's in AAMC were opened with **PVC-free** wall and door protection, as well as PVC free flooring.

AAMC has a strong focus on green the surgical services unit. In fact, AAMC started the 2011 year with some aggressive programs and launched a Greening the Surgical Services workgroup of nurses, directors and physicians. AAMC not only has many significant sustainable accomplishments; AAMC also has great momentum "setting the bar" on greening the Surgical Services unit.



L to R: **Carmela Coyle**, MHA; **Charlotte Wallace**, AAMC; **Evelyn Jean Hubbard**, AAMC; **Micheline Holmes**, AMMC; **Jo Ann Shelley**, AAMC; **Katie Boston**, AAMC; **Joan Plisko**, MD H2E