



2012 Trailblazer Award Guidelines

PLEASE READ GUIDELINES CAREFULLY BEFORE BEGINNING APPLICATION.

Description

Each year, Maryland Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (MD H2E) gives the Trailblazer Award to Maryland health care providers that serve as models for other hospitals and health care providers and have demonstrated leadership in advancing sustainability in a particular area of operations. MD H2E invites hospitals to self-nominate for this award. Hospitals that qualify for the award are ones which pave the way to move all area hospitals forward by reducing their environmental footprint in unique and pioneering ways. Examples of actions:

- reducing use of toxic chemicals such as pesticides, phthalate-containing plastics, brominated flame retardants, and/or heavy metals
- significantly reducing the quantity of waste generated while increasing quantity of recycled materials in a *unique* way
- growing, purchasing, and serving local, healthy, sustainable foods and reducing environmental impact of food service operations
- designing, renovating and/or constructing sustainable buildings
- changing operations in the facility's laboratories to be more sustainable
- tracking and reducing carbon footprint
- planning, developing, and implementing sustainability policies, trainings, and events
- generating on-site renewable energy
- working collaboratively within departments and/or with vendors, organizations, and community groups to accomplish sustainability goals

Eligibility

- Nominations are accepted from hospitals, health systems, and other health care facilities in Maryland only.
- Only recent initiatives (from January 2012 to the present) that demonstrate quantitative and/or qualitative sustainable results are eligible. However, if this is the first time a facility is applying, there is room for submission on a cumulative effort.
- Applicants can submit up to three attachments/documents to support their application and are encouraged to include pictures as appropriate.
- Although applicants may be leaders in multiple areas of environmental sustainability, nomination forms should **focus on no more than two areas** of sustainable practices. However, please do not focus on more than one area unless the practices are truly unique and trailblazing.
- Hospitals, health systems, and other health care facilities are welcome to apply whether or not they have won an award in previous years.



- Applicants must be in compliance with all relevant EPA and state environmental regulations for the past 12 months. (Please work with your facility's environmental compliance officer to ensure that this is the case.)

Judging

Nominations will be reviewed by a panel of judges from MD H2E and other organizations involved in working to move healthcare toward more sustainable operations.

All award decisions will be made based solely on the merits of the information provided in the award nomination. **Since judges may not be familiar with hospital operations and initiatives, it is important to describe the trailblazing work and programs in a clear and easy to understand manner.**

Nominations will be assigned scores for:

- leadership and organizational commitment
- innovation
- environmental sustainability
- potential for the program to be self-sustaining and
- replicability at other facilities.

Recognition and Responsibilities

All nominations will be considered for inclusion on MD H2E's website and highlighted as having some of the region's best practices. All entries become the property of MD H2E and may be freely disseminated in MD H2E publications and web resources. Each award winner will be presented with a Trailblazer Award at MD H2E's November 14th conference, *Environmental Excellence in Health Care: Measuring Success*. In addition, the award winners will be featured in a MD H2E press release.

All 2012 award winners will be expected to:

1. Collaborate with MD H2E staff in writing up a case study of the award winning program.
2. Participate in a one day Trailblazer Educational Event (for all winners) in the spring of 2013, coordinated by MD H2E. This will include:
 - a. Developing a PowerPoint presentation in the time frame specified by MD H2E staff;
 - b. Presenting the program at the Trailblazer Educational Event;
 - c. Participating in Q&A following the presentation; and
 - d. Assisting MD H2E in advertising the Trailblazer Educational Event.

Submission

Applications must be submitted by September 7th to Joan Plisko, Technical Director, MD H2E, plisko@son.umaryland.edu. All applicants will be notified by October 1st of their award status.