2011 environmental stewardship report

Advocate Health Care
Inspiring medicine. Changing lives.
“Humans, in service to God, have special roles on behalf of the whole of creation. Made in the image of God, we are called to care for the earth as God cares for the earth.”

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As a health system, Advocate Health Care is committed to serving the health needs of individuals, families and communities. We recognize the inextricable link between a healthy ecosystem and human health. It is natural for us to strive to deliver health care that meets today’s needs without compromising the health needs of future generations. Through the commitment of a growing coalition of leaders, physicians and associates, Advocate is proud to be leading efforts to mitigate environmental harm and contribute to the well being and health of the communities we are privileged to serve. In 2011, Advocate demonstrated progress in its efforts to be ‘true stewards of the environment’ in many ways, including:

- Cumulative reduction in energy consumption; 11 percent over four years
- 24 percent reduction in medical waste volume
- 95 percent of major construction and demolition debris recycled
- 7.4 million pounds of solid waste recycled
- 26 percent increase in medical device reprocessing

During 2011, Advocate’s fourteen green teams, representing diverse sites of care from hospitals to physician and support offices, continued to engage in efforts to educate, create awareness and develop strategies to reduce energy use and minimize waste. More than 9,000 Advocate associates participated in the annual environmental stewardship online training, providing specifics on green work place habits and the relevance our actions have toward protecting human and environmental health. The second annual Environmental Stewardship Awards event on America Recycles
Day recognized twenty Advocate associates with awards for their significant contributions and leadership in the areas of Recycling, Innovation, Commitment, Sustainable Food Service, Energy Reduction and Office Paper Reduction.

The U.S. Green Building Council – Illinois Chapter recognized Advocate Health Care in 2011 with the Natural Leader’s award – SMALL feat/large FEAT, for superior achievement in adopting principles of sustainability into our work within the built environment. Advocate’s commitment to build healthy spaces for our patients to heal, our physicians to practice and our associates to work in, continued in 2011. Advocate developed building construction and design standards intended to incorporate sustainable features such as increased daylight, efficient light and water fixtures, and materials and finishes with no harmful chemical emissions.

For the fourth year in a row, Advocate Health Care was recognized with a System for Change award from Practice Greenhealth for working cohesively to set system goals, track data, benchmark, and share successes in environmental performance. For achievements in environmental excellence and green operations, all of Advocate’s ten hospitals also were recognized with competitive award recognition for environmental excellence by Practice Greenhealth in 2011.

Respected by its peers in health care energy management, Advocate is widely viewed as leading the way in reducing energy consumption and related carbon emissions. Most recently, Advocate earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Energy Star award for excellent energy performance at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, and the Touhy Avenue and Kensington Road Support Center buildings.

Advocate has adopted industry-leading strategies to reduce harmful environmental impacts on our surrounding communities and conserve our precious resources. An Environmental Dashboard reports quarterly progress on key metrics associated with annual goals in energy and waste reduction. Through measurement and accountability, Advocate is on its way to creating a culture of conservation where accountability is hard-wired and matched with the growing passion of its 32,000 committed associates.

This report details the progress Advocate Health Care has made in establishing sustainable practices in operations and programs as it serves the health needs of individuals, families and communities. It highlights continuous efforts to enhance environmental performance and resource conservation in areas such as energy, waste, recycling and construction management.
As a leading health care organization, Advocate has a unique responsibility to associates, patients and communities to maintain and encourage a safe and healthy environment. Advocate Health Care considers conservation of resources, both natural and monetary, as fundamental to its mission of delivering quality health care to the communities it is privileged to serve.

**Mission Driven** Stewardship is a core value of Advocate Health Care, embedded in its mission and philosophy. Integrating stewardship, a sense of responsibility for all that we are, have and do, is central to our health care ministry.

**Bottom Line Driven** Conserving resources and materials in use every day saves dollars that, in turn, can be invested in our healing ministry. Advocate’s commitment to a culture of stewardship and conservation translates to efficiency, less waste and decreased operating costs. The implementation of environmentally friendly best practices which maximize opportunities to reduce environmental impact, also generate financial savings.

**Board Endorsed** Advocate Health Care recognizes that sustaining the environment is critical in an era of multiple threats to the ecosystem on which human beings and all life depend for their very existence. In 2006, Advocate’s Board of Directors endorsed Environmental Stewardship as one of several primary characteristics of its role as a corporate citizen. Since then, Advocate’s activities in environmental stewardship—its progress in “Going Green”—have been outlined in an annual Corporate Citizenship Report to the Executive Committee of the Board.

**Church Supported** Advocate Health Care’s affiliated denominations—the United Church of Christ and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—both embrace care for the environment as care for God’s creation.

**Clinically Relevant** Health care organizations have a special responsibility to avoid contributing to environmental health risks because their avowed purpose is not only to benefit patients but also to “do no harm.” Preserving the health of our environment is linked to preserving the health of patients, associates and our communities.

“To understand the world as God’s creation is to understand our responsibility as God’s stewards and our accountability to God as tenants. This means that faithful human action is always aware of the nature of creation, seeking to enhance and not destroy what has been so richly provided.”

-United Church of Christ

leadership in the healthcare sector

Proud to share its growing experience and successes in reducing energy consumption and waste minimization, Advocate Health Care regularly collaborates with health systems nationwide to drive best practices in reducing the health care industry’s impact on environmental health. Advocate is one of eleven founding and sponsoring health systems and three environmental nongovernment organizations (Health Care Without Harm, Practice Greenhealth and the Center for Health Design) to sponsor the Healthier Hospitals Initiative (HHI), national campaign to implement a completely new approach to improving environmental health and sustainability in the health care sector. Each hospital will commit to one or more of six challenges in the categories of Leadership, Healthier Foods, Less Waste, Leaner Energy, Safer Chemicals and Smarter Purchasing. HHI serves as a guide for hospitals to urge the nation’s hospitals to commit to improve the health and safety of patients, staff and communities by using the initiatives newly issued, free step-by-step guides to implement the HHI challenges.

Advocate Environmental Stewardship Journey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>LEED gold certification sought for Advocate Lutheran General Hospital Patient tower</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>First Site Green Team formed</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Additional Green Teams formed</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Advocate Lutheran General Hospital receives 1st Partner for Change Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>System Green Council established</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Green Strategy adopted and initiatives identified</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Focus on Culture Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Advocate receives 1st System for Change Award from PGH</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Advocate becomes a Founding Member of Healthier Hospitals Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Created and filled system Environmental Stewardship and Energy Managers</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Dashboard reporting established</td>
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The idea of leaner energy is quite simple; it is using less energy to accomplish the same level of service. However, realizing this goal is much more challenging. Energy consumption at Advocate Health Care is expected to increase with added facilities, medical and office equipment, associates and patients. New technology and other types of equipment being added to the infrastructure will mean a further increase in overall energy needs and consumption.

In an effort to mitigate increasing cost and consumption, several initiatives and strategies are being deployed to meet Advocate’s present energy needs and to better position the organization for the future. There are three core pillars in our strategy: efficiency, cost savings and conservation. Through a methodical retro-commissioning process—a systematic, documented process that identifies low-cost operational and maintenance improvements in existing heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems—the reliability and efficient use or transfer of the energy to heating and cooling applications is verified. With all of Advocate’s sites residing in the deregulated state of Illinois, Advocate is able to procure electricity and natural gas with a “best value” philosophy to keep costs of energy as low as possible. Equally important in alleviating the stresses of growing demand for energy are the multitude of conservation measures implemented, from automated solutions to habit-driven behaviors by individuals working in Advocate’s buildings.

Advocate's energy reduction efforts since 2008 saved over 7,045* metric tons of CO2 emissions which equate to:
- Removing 1,381 automobiles from the road annually
- Eliminating electricity used by 878 homes for one year

*Adjusted for square footage
An essential element of our energy plan is measurement and benchmarking, utilizing the Environmental Protection Agency’s Energy Star Portfolio Manager. Advocate’s system-wide Energy Star number has improved 26 percent from 2008 to a rating of 42. With a weather-adjusted 10.6 percent system-wide reduction in energy use per square foot from the baseline year 2008, Advocate has saved over $2.5 million in 2011 dollars. To help continue this trend, construction and renovation standards are being developed to exceed American Society Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers standard 90.1-2007 by 20 percent for renovation and 30 percent for new construction. Water usage is also being targeted with a 20 percent reduction of water use beyond the Energy Policy Act of 1992. With all new construction aimed at achieving LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) gold certification going forward, Advocate’s new building environments will continuously strive to construct the highest level of energy efficiency from the ground up.

With a weather adjusted 10.6 percent system-wide reduction in energy use per square foot from the baseline year 2008, Advocate Health Care has saved over $2.5 million in 2011 dollars.
Reducing and eliminating waste—in all forms—is a priority for Advocate Health Care because it recognizes the triple-aim value of preventing pollution, reducing costs and engaging associates to work together to consciously manage and reduce our waste volume. Advocate invests significant resources to educate and train associates on proper and secure waste segregation. By adhering to the basic principles of reduce, reuse and recycle, Advocate is making significant strides in reducing waste generation. Actively seeking ways to divert waste from landfill, Advocate engages in activities that involve reuse within the organization and donation whenever possible. Through staff education and partnership with waste management vendors, Advocate continues to maximize opportunities to recycle materials resulting from day to day operations and construction and renovation projects. Discouraging the use of disposable materials where possible, and identifying ways to reduce use of paper and segregate waste properly at the point of use are key drivers that reduce waste generation throughout the system.

Creating habits of avoiding material waste has had a positive effect on Advocate associates by raising awareness about reducing waste of energy and water. Responsible management of medical waste is especially important because of the health and safety risks involved in proper handling and disposal. As a result of cumulative training efforts to reduce Advocate’s medical waste, hospitals reduced their amount of medical waste in 2011 over 2010 by 167 tons. Advocate ranks as one of the best performers in medical waste generation across the U.S. with a total of 1.75 pounds of medical waste per adjusted patient day in 2011. This significantly exceeded the long-sought goal of 2.0 pounds of medical waste per adjusted patient day. The goal for 2012 is to reduce medical waste by another 3 percent to 1.70 pounds per adjusted patient day.

Advocate’s recycling efforts in 2011 saved over 10,800 metric tons of CO2 emissions which equate to:

- Removing 1,910 passenger vehicles from the road annually
- Eliminating electricity used by 1,215 homes for one year

*EPA WARM calculator used to estimate the environmental benefit savings.
Tracking and reporting on waste reduction goals to system leaders and grass roots green teams has contributed to a higher level of accountability and more rapid goal achievement progress. To illustrate to Advocate leadership how the conservation of resources translates to operational efficiency, a sustainable operations Dashboard was developed. Friendly competition between Advocate buildings has created a growing interest in achieving and surpassing waste reduction goals. In 2011, Advocate’s hospitals recycled 27 percent of its waste stream, reducing the landfill waste by over 3,700 tons. This reduction translates to saving over 10,800 metric tons of CO2 emissions and equates to removing 1,910 passenger vehicles from the road annually or reducing the equivalent amount of electricity use by 1,215 homes in one year.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advocate Health Care</th>
<th>Regulated Medical Waste 2008-2011</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Lbs/Adjusted Patient Day</td>
<td>2.80</td>
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<tr>
<th>Advocate Health Care</th>
<th>Sustainable Operations Goal Progress</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medical Waste</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal: 2.0 lbs/APD</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.17 pounds per Adjusted Patient Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Single Stream Recycling</strong></td>
<td>(paper, plastic, glass, aluminum) Goal: 30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Construction Debris Recycling</strong></td>
<td>Goal: 85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Energy</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal: 20% reduction by 2015</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Multi-year goal</td>
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In service of its commitment to Environmental Stewardship, Advocate Health Care’s Facilities/Design and Construction Team has adopted ‘Sustainability Standards’. The new standards aim to create and maintain healthy spaces to increase energy efficiency, reduce waste of resources and select safer materials and finishes for improved indoor air quality in new construction and renovation projects. Advocate takes great care to minimize its environmental impact through all phases of new construction and in day-to-day management of its buildings’ operating systems.

Earning the first LEED gold level certification in the Midwest in 2010 from the United States Green Building Council for Advocate Lutheran General’s Patient Care Tower. Advocate continues its green building legacy with several new building projects underway. All new major construction projects within the Advocate Health Care system follow LEED standards, with Gold certification as our target. Integrating sustainable building features into the design and planning phases of all projects, Advocate aims to create and maintain healthy spaces to increase energy efficiency, reduce waste of resources, and select safer materials and finishes for improved indoor air quality.

Sustainable building features also include consideration of increased day lighting to enhance the patient healing experience and increase staff satisfaction, decrease storm water run-off, and increase green space on campus where possible. Advocate excels at partnering with its contractors and sub contractors to send as much of the construction debris as possible to be recycled, and plans to continue to achieve recycling rates greater than 90 percent in the future.

New construction is underway in Oak Lawn, Illinois at the Advocate Christ Medical Center campus. In 2011, ground was broken for a new 320,000 square foot Ambulatory Pavilion that will provide outpatient medical services. The project has been registered with the Green Building Certification Institute as a LEED-NC v.2009 project. The project team anticipates achieving LEED gold certification by reducing waste, preventing pollution and increasing energy efficiency with a targeted savings of 20-30 percent. Additionally, consideration has been given to integrate increased access to natural day light, sustainable building education for patients and visitors and water efficiency features into the building.
At Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, a new Center for Advanced Care is planned as the first phase of the campus master plan expanding our ability to provide vital health services to our community. The 3-story facility expansion will include the following programs:

- Digestive Health Center - diagnostic, procedural and patient access programs
- Ambulatory surgery operation rooms and dedicated pre-op/recovery rooms
- Pre-operative testing program to support the surgery operation
- Integrated medical and radiation oncology, including patient support and amenities
- Community Health Resource Center

Sustainable building features planned for the project include water saving elements such as green roofs, storm water retention systems, parmeable pavers and native plantings that do not require irrigation; low volatile organic compound (voc) paints and building materials containing recycled content produced locally.

**smarter purchasing and safer chemicals**

From the selection of chemical-free building materials to recycling of construction debris, to systematic review and optimization of its major building systems, Advocate remains focused on reducing its impact on the natural environment, preserving human and environmental health, and reducing its building and operating costs.

In an effort to limit and mitigate environmental contributors to disease, Advocate’s Health Outcomes Council endorsed system-wide Chemicals Management Guidelines. This framework empowers Advocate to take a precautionary approach to avoiding risk of harm from chemicals that may be present in the health care delivery system, often a byproduct of delivering care. Several key initiatives are intended to spring from this endorsement, including a standard approach to safe and effective green cleaning procedures and evaluation of chemical contents of the products Advocate purchases.

In 2011, Advocate’s Supply Chain Management department adopted the use of a vendor scorecard for medical supply products to be used during the product evaluation stage of purchasing. The scorecard allows for manufacturer and vendor disclosure of potentially harmful chemicals within the products being considered for purchase as well as life cycle details such as manufacturing processes and waste disposal effects on environmental health.
Advocate’s focus on conservation and improved utilization of supplies and resources creates opportunities to reduce waste in a variety of ways, from clinical operations to food services and business operations. Significant waste diversion and cost savings are being realized via medical device reprocessing—a sterilization process that enables certain medical devices to be safely used more than once. In 2011, over 14 tons of waste were diverted from landfill and $1.9 million was saved by reprocessing medical devices across Advocate Health Care’s acute care facilities.

Advocate’s commitment to serving locally grown, nutritious, sustainable food and modeling healthy food practices are demonstrated in relationships with community supported agriculture, healthier foods on our hospital menus and a greener catering and serving processes. In 2011, the hospital Food and Nutrition teams instituted several sustainable and healthier options such as: introducing a hormone free milk product; kitchen recycling of plastic; glass and aluminum cans; recycling grease from fryers, sponsoring on-site farmer’s markets; providing reusable and/or compostable take out containers; and eliminating bottled water in catering services.

In 2011, Advocate targeted the reduction of office paper, recognizing its ubiquitous nature. Recognizing the increasing usefulness and convenience of electronic communication, Advocate set out to reduce use of office paper by 10 percent in 2011. Several key initiatives are underway including conversion to electronic medical records--with the primary goals of reducing medical errors and increasing expediency of information exchange--and a byproduct of less paper waste. Although finding new ways to be a truly paperless work culture can be a challenge, Advocate is experiencing slight decreases in the volume of office paper used throughout the system with a 3 percent reduction in 2011 over 2010.
For Advocate Health Care, the values-driven commitment to conserve resources and prevent environmental harm has paved the way for a journey of cultural change and accountability for all that we do, have and are. From the modest beginnings of informal green team gatherings at a few hospitals to executive sponsorship for system teams dedicated to hard-wiring sustainable ways of delivering health care, Advocate has come a long way, in a few years, in growing a conservation-minded work force. To learn more about how this cultural change was taking hold, in the fall of 2011, Advocate measured the perception associates had of Advocate as an environmentally responsible organization via an associate satisfaction survey conducted by Morehead Associates. The results indicated strong agreement among associates that Advocate is an environmentally responsible organization.

Understanding that cultural change requires more than a management directive, Advocate celebrates and empowers its associates by recognizing associates and by removing barriers in order to accomplish its environmental goals. Advocate’s green teams are experiencing a surge in membership. Growing numbers of staff want to be part of crafting new ways to mitigate waste. With fourteen green teams representing each hospital, clinics, laboratories and physician offices, achieving rapid change requires coordination and careful assessment. Green team leaders comprise a system level council that promotes collaboration to drive standard practices for environmental improvement.

Advocate Health Care’s key strategies to cultivating a culture of conservation.
Earth Day 2011
To coincide with the 41st annual Earth Day anniversary on April 22, 2011, Advocate Health Care invited its entire work force to take its first-ever computer-based training about environmental stewardship. The interactive module helped associates draw connections between Advocate’s faith-based, values-driven commitment to protecting the environment and ways to make their workplace setting greener. While the training was not mandatory, a variety of incentives enticed nearly one-third of the system’s associates--over 9,000 individuals--to participate in the educational experience over the course of a month. Many Earth Day activities also took place across the sites all designed to be fun and educational as Advocate associates learned about their role in supporting the “greening” of health care. Many sites marked the occasion with the recruitment of green advocates, volunteers who commit to being departmental champions by encouraging and modeling green work habits for reduced waste and energy use to their peers and coworkers.

Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital celebrates Earth Day 2011
(pictured: Adam Kruse and Chuck Malik, Information Systems, Field Services)
awards and recognition

Second Annual Advocate Health Care Environmental Stewardship Awards

As a way of showing appreciation for its associates who are seen as being true stewards of the environment, Advocate Health Care recognized outstanding performance in Environmental Stewardship at its second annual awards event. Nominated via an online process, hundreds of associates were lifted up by coworkers as role models for behaviors involving waste and energy reduction. Awardees were selected by a system team that ranked the nominations in the categories of recycling, innovation, energy reduction, office paper reduction, commitment and sustainable food service. Twenty associates were honored at a ceremony on November 15, 2011, which was also America Recycles Day. (See photo above)
Practice Greenhealth 2011 Environmental Excellence Awards

Practice Greenhealth, the nation’s leading authority on sustainable health care operations has recognized several of Advocate Health Care’s hospitals for environmental excellence in health care operations since 2007. In 2011, all of Advocate’s hospitals received environmental excellence recognition spanning several categories (see table below). For the first time ever, two hospitals were inducted into the Environmental Leadership Circle, a highly competitive award for setting the highest standards for environmental practices and sustainability in health care. This honor is especially notable as it is only bestowed upon hospitals in the U.S. that are leading the health care sector in waste reduction and pollution prevention and are demonstrated innovators and leaders in their communities. Advocate Health Care is proud to earn the honor of a System for Change for the fourth consecutive year, being recognized for working cohesively to set system goals, track data, benchmark, and share successes in environmental performance.

Gold Award Winner

Stryker Sustainability Solutions, a third party remanufacturer of medical devices, recognized Advocate Health Care for “outstanding performance in reducing environmental harm and improving overall hospital quality through medical device remanufacturing and reprocessing.”
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environmental Leadership Circle Award</strong></td>
<td>Recognizes through the most competitive award, for setting highest standards for environmental practices and sustainability in health care.</td>
<td>Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>System for Change Award</strong></td>
<td>Recognizes health systems that are working cohesively to set system goals, track data, benchmark, and share successes in environmental performance.</td>
<td>Advocate Health Care System</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Partner For Change Award – With Distinction</strong></td>
<td>Recognizes through a competitive award, health care facilities that have well established environmental programs and are the cream of the PFC crop.</td>
<td>Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital Advocate Lutheran General Hospital Advocate South Suburban Hospital Advocate Christ Medical Center Advocate Trinity Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partner For Change Award</strong></td>
<td>Recognizes health care facilities that have established environmental programs and continuously improve and expand upon these programs on the path to sustainability.</td>
<td>Advocate Condell Medical Center</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Partner Recognition Award</strong></td>
<td>Recognizes health care facilities that have begun to work on environmental improvements, have achieved progress in several areas, and have at least 10 percent recycling rate for their total waste stream.</td>
<td>Advocate BroMenn Medical Center Advocate Eureka Hospital</td>
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The American Society for Healthcare Engineering (ASHE) of the American Hospital Association awarded eight of Advocate Health Care’s hospitals the E2C award for demonstrating significant energy savings over a baseline within the past five years. ASHE acknowledges that increasing energy efficiency in healthcare buildings reduces energy waste, saves money, and helps protect public health by reducing air pollution associated with the production of energy.

The following hospitals will be recognized in 2012 by ASHE with the E2C award for taking a positive step toward improving energy efficiency and protecting the environment:

- Advocate BroMenn Medical Center
- Advocate Condell Medical Center
- Advocate Eureka Hospital
- Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital
- Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center
- Advocate Lutheran General Hospital
- Advocate Trinity Hospital
- Advocate Health Care – System

For excellence in energy efficiency and performance, Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center was awarded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Energy Star Award for the fourth consecutive year, ranked in the top five percent of best performing hospitals in the U.S. Two of Advocate’s support center buildings were also recognized with the Energy Star Award, one for the second consecutive year and the other for the first time ever.

Two of Advocate’s support center buildings were recognized for excellence in energy efficiency by the U.S. EPA in 2011. Pictured right: Advocate Kensington Road building and Advocate Touhy Avenue building.
Green Advocates
Recruitment of associates who serve as ambassadors to promote green work place habits throughout the health system has met with great success. Green Advocates are informal leaders who step up as representatives of their departments to be liaisons to the core green team at their site. The Green Advocates form a network of associates committed to working together to ensure recycling resources and practices are in place and energy and material waste is minimized. Plans for the future include development of tools and resources for Green Advocates including a sustainable work space checklist and a department certification program to recognize departments that demonstrate best practices in waste diversion and energy reduction.

Sustainable Operations Council and Environmental Stewardship Committee
In an effort to align the multiple entities within the health system, a new council made up of senior level representatives to serve as a decision-making body accountable for system-wide performance in key result area metrics related to sustainable operations. With the goal of integrating and hardwiring best practices for efficiency and resource savings, the new council will review and recommend related policies and procedures for implementation.

Comprised of green team leaders from around the system, the environmental stewardship committee functions as a work group whose role is to share and assess opportunities for improvement with the greatest impact on resource conservation. Both groups are responsible for establishing annual goals that are reported via an operational dashboard. Both the sustainable operations council and the environmental stewardship committee are sponsored by senior executives and chaired by the system environmental stewardship manager.

Volunteering their time on a weekend, family members of Advocate associates joined in on the fun of planting a new healing garden at Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital.

Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital
Healing Garden planting team, October 22, 2011 (Pictured left, photo Courtesy of David Kasnick)
Green Building Advocate takes great care to minimize its environmental impact through all phases of new construction and in day-to-day management of its buildings’ operating systems. All new major construction projects within the Advocate Health Care system follow LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards, with Gold certification as our target. Integrating sustainable building features into the design and planning phases of all projects, Advocate aims to create and maintain healthy spaces to increase energy efficiency, reduce waste of resources, and select safer materials and finishes for improved indoor air quality. Sustainable building features also include consideration of increased natural day lighting to enhance the patient healing process and staff satisfaction, decreased storm water run-off, and increased green space on campus where possible. Advocate excels at partnering with contractors and sub contractors to send as much of the construction debris as possible to be recycled. The goal is to continue to achieve recycling rates greater than 90 percent in the future.

corporate partners and sponsors

Advocate Health Care’s mission-driven environmental change efforts also have become the work of Advocate Charitable Foundation. Advocate’s environmental improvement efforts have advanced with the generous support of corporate donors. In 2011, Advocate Charitable Foundation helped to secure generous contributions for the system’s green initiatives from two local and national companies. The Foundation also has identified and pursued public and private grants for environmental projects. Recently, those efforts resulted in a $150,000 grant award from the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation to support the design and commissioning of a LEED gold building now under construction on the Advocate Christ Medical center campus. The Foundation will continue to review grant opportunities and prepare funding proposals for other projects within the Advocate system. In addition, the Foundation has secured support from individual contributors. In 2011, Advocate Health Care’s employee giving program named the Advocate Green Council as a campaign beneficiary. Advocate employees contributed nearly $5,000, through payroll deduction and gifts, to directly support system-wide sustainability efforts.

Advocate Health Care thanks the following corporate donors for their philanthropic support of our environmental improvement efforts:

Aramark
Owens & Minor Distribution, Inc.
True stewardship of the environment can be measured any day of the year in the actions of Advocate Health Care associates as they live out a synchrony of their own values with that of the organization for protecting the environment. From the innovative and creative to the practical and essential, Advocate associates, empowered by system and site executive management teams, are helping to improve the health of the environment by reducing waste and supporting communities.

**System Initiatives:**
- Saved 4 tons of waste from landfill and saved $1.9 million by medical device reprocessing
- Added a hormone-free line of milk in all hospital cafeterias
- Endorsed system-wide Chemicals Management Guidelines to minimize exposure of people and the environment to dangers associated with chemicals in products used
- Recognized 20 associates at the second annual Environmental Stewardship awards event for their demonstrating what it means to be “true stewards” of the environment
- Trained more than 9,000 associates on daily work habits to reduce energy and waste in the first annual Environmental Stewardship computer-based training module
- Introduced the Green Advocate recruitment program to enlist the leadership of green-minded representatives representing departments at each of Advocate’s facilities
**Advocate Christ Medical Center**

- Held five Farmer’s Markets throughout the year for staff and visitors to enjoy
- Launched a partnership with Growing Power, a local Community Supported Agriculture organization, to provide associates the opportunity to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables delivered to the work site
- Celebrated National Food Day and the importance of healthy eating in several ways, including collection of more than 400 pounds of non-perishable food items donated to Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ’s food pantry in Oak Lawn
- Discouraged bottled water use by promoting free water available at cafeteria soda fountains
- Implemented a single stream recycling program house-wide to increase our recycling and reduce waste

**Advocate BroMenn Medical Center**

- Achieved a 27 percent recycling rate overall for paper, plastic, glass and aluminum cans
- Converted parking garage lighting from 175-watt bulbs to 40-watt LED fixtures, saving over $45,000 annually in energy and maintenance costs
- Reused and donated over 19,000 pounds of clean, used linens to local organizations, including animal and homeless shelters and ambulance service company, or reused as cleaning cloths within the hospital.

**Advocate Condell Medical Center**

- Launched a Green Advocate network of department representatives driving green work place habits and serving as liaisons to the site green team
- Started recycling in the surgery and emergency departments
- Launched a *Green News and Tips* online publication to engage and promote associate participation
Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital

- Installed a new light reflective and insulated roof to save energy
- Converted 90 light fixtures to LED lighting to save energy
- Held our first electronic recycling event for the community
- Decreased office paper usage by 5 percent
- Implemented a change in practice that eliminates approximately 30,000 isolation gowns and gloves from entering the landfill each year

Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital

- Planted a new healing garden
- Achieved a 27 percent recycling rate overall for paper, plastic, glass and aluminum cans
- Eliminated bottled water from catering services
- Converted to reusable patient menus and catering trays
- Co-developed, with nurses from Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, a guide for clinicians system-wide to recycle non-soiled patient care items

Advocate Eureka Hospital

- Recycled printer cartridges and cell phones with proceeds benefitting the Special Olympics

Advocate Dreyer Surgical Center

- Started a single-stream recycling program in the lab and ambulatory surgery center, making it more convenient to recycle all materials in the same collection bins
**Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center**

- Led the system with highest level of savings – more than $600,000 - from utilization of medical device reprocessing
- Achieved a 25 percent recycling rate overall for paper, plastic, glass and aluminum cans
- Co-developed, with nurses from Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital, a guide for clinicians system-wide to recycle non-soiled patient care items
- Earned the U.S. EPA Energy Star award for excellent energy performance for the fourth year in a row, an honor only the top five percent of U.S. hospitals have earned

**Advocate Lutheran General Hospital**

- Implemented a single stream recycling program house-wide to increase recycling and reduce waste
- Increased focus on purchasing food from local sources
- Offered weekly organic fruit and vegetable boxes for purchase to encourage healthy eating habits and good health

**Advocate South Suburban Hospital**

- Implemented a single stream recycling program house-wide to increase our recycling and reduce waste
- Achieved a 25 percent recycling rate overall for paper, plastic, glass and aluminum cans
- Reduced regulated medical waste by 35 percent through installing a fluid management system in the operating rooms
Advocate Trinity Hospital

• Reduced water consumption by more than 365,000 gallons per year by replacing vacuum pumps with high efficiency pumps
• Reduced energy consumption by converting from pneumatic to digital controls for heating, ventilation, air conditioning systems, and installing motors with variable frequency drives
• Implemented recycling of glass, plastic and aluminum cans in the hospital kitchen
• Hosted farmer’s markets on the hospital campus during the summer months

Advocate Medical Group

• Launched a Green Advocate network of volunteers from more than 100 sites of our create greener offices and act as liaisons to the Advocate Medical Group green team

ACL Laboratories

• Recycled, reused or recaptured all reagents used in the laboratory
• Received certification from a third party that all laboratory waste disposal processes meet requirements for safety and regulatory compliance

Advocate Support Centers

• Eliminated Styrofoam cups
• Held a shredding event for associates
• Managed a ‘Recycling Closet’ with regular contributions made to Lions Clubs (eye glasses and cell phones) and batteries for recycling to a local vendor
• Reduced waste by collecting used writing instruments to be up-cycled into new products
Sustainable Health Care means delivering health care to meet today’s needs without compromising the health needs of future generations.