

Translating Green Initiatives into Sustainable Practices at your Facility:

The Seattle Children's Story

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Seattle Children's Hospital



Seattle Children's Green Story: A Grass Roots Initiative

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- 2000 – Medical product recycling
 - 2002 – DEHP topic of interest, product prioritization for reduction and/or elimination
 - 2006 – Getting started...
 - CleanMed Conference in Seattle.
 - Obtaining a physician partner and sharing the vision.
 - Performing a baseline assessment.
 - Developing an Environmentally Preferred Purchasing P&P.
 - Obtaining a grant from a local foundation.
 - Creating a project plan and a Green Team.
 - Hiring a consultant to validate and expand project plan.
 - Implementing initiatives, including a Green Ambassador program.

Seattle Children's Green Initiatives

- Purchasing/Sourcing – Environmental Preferred Procurement policy and Demand Flow
- **PVC/DEHP in medical devices**
- PBDE and mattresses
- Cleaning products and soaps
- Food Services
- Laundry and Linen Services
- Landscaping, pesticides and composting
- New construction and renovation
- Electronics
- **Waste and Recycling**
- **Pharmaceutical waste**
- **Energy & water use**
- Transportation
- **Partnerships**



PVC/DEHP in Medical Devices



2004

- **Prioritization of products for reduction of DEHP**
- **Interdisciplinary committee**
nursing, respiratory, pharmacy, blood transfusion, dialysis, urology and purchasing

Currently

- **Intravenous and TPN tubing sets**
- **Enteral feeding tubing & accessories**
- **Catheters (umbilical, vascular, urinary)**
- **Breast pumps and accessories**
- **Hemodialysis catheters & tubing**

HCWH resource

<http://www.noharm.org/us/pvcDehp/pvcFree>



Recycling and waste



- **Single stream recycling program - 450 tons** of mixed recyclable materials in 2008 (90 more tons of recycled materials compared to 2007).
- **Recyclable sharps container system** – in 2008 diverted **9,000 pounds** of plastics from the landfill.
- **Yard and food composting.**
- **Hazardous waste - reduction of 3.5 more tons of hazardous waste in 2008 as compared to 2007.**
- **Recycling/reprocessing/donating medical products.**
- **OR waste management and reprocessing**
Separating regular waste from hazardous medical waste → \$20,000 savings in the first 6 months.
Instrument reprocessing changes → savings to increase to \$50,000 to \$100,000 in the first year.
Recycle bins in the anesthesia lounge reduced municipal garbage by 60%.
- **August 2008, won the *Governor's Award for Sustainable Practices* from the Washington State Department of Ecology.**



Pharmaceutical waste



Pharmaceutical waste includes partial medication vials, IV bags, tubing, syringes, partial/empty inhalers and un-administered or discontinued medications.

Pharmaceutical waste is categorized in a number of ways:

- P or U listed
- Toxic, corrosive, oxidizing, reactive or ignitable
- Compatible or non-compatible
- Hazardous or non-hazardous
- Trace or bulk

About 97% of the meds used at Seattle Children's are non-hazardous. Currently, about 200 medications are classified as hazardous. Pharmaceutical waste requires disposal in various "colored" bins based on the categories listed above.

Initiated in October 2008 – work in ongoing.

Energy & water use



Energy reduction

- Letdown turbine project
- Geothermal (new construction)
- Solar thermal
- Photovoltaic
- Green roofs



Water

- Cooling tower project
- Autoclave project
- Water retention for landscaping and auxiliary uses

Partnerships



National

- Health Care Without Harm
- Healthy Building Network
- Practice Greenhealth
- Global Health & Safety Initiative

Local

- Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility
- Sightlines Institute
- Seattle Climate Partnership
- Seattle City Light
- Puget Sound Energy
- EarthCorps



Ready, Set, Go ...

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- Think big, start small.
 - Create a **green team** / **green ambassador** program.
 - Find out your local resources and partner with them.
 - Share ideas.
 - Set goals – 1 year, 2 years, 5 years...
 - Communicate your successes.

Be the cleanest, greenest hospital ...