

## Environmental Leadership Award

Comments from Sacred Heart's Green Team members:



*"Through an overall policy of reducing, recycling and reusing, Sacred Heart Hospital's Green Team initiative seeks to protect the environment, preserve our natural resources and reduce energy consumption in concert with our Franciscan tradition to respect creation, safeguard its people and practice good stewardship."... "We are proud to be leading the trend toward environmentally responsible healthcare, and we are committed to continually making our hospital safer and healthier for everyone."*

 **Rick Beckler, Director of Hospitality Services and Chairman of the hospital's Green Team**

*"Sacred Heart Hospital has a deep Franciscan commitment to environmental stewardship that consistently goes beyond basic state and federal regulatory waste management requirements."*

 **Marge McFarlane, Safety Coordinator and Green Team member**

*"It's a win-win-win: Our application also demonstrated that being 'green' saves green dollars and helps others in need."*

 **David Mortimer, Green Team member**



To find out more about the ELA visit:

[www.practicegreenhealth.org](http://www.practicegreenhealth.org)



To find out more about how Sacred Heart benefits the global environment visit:

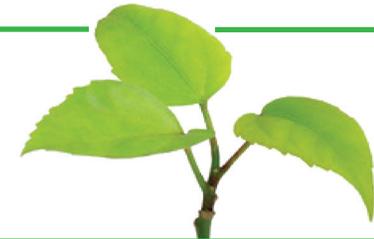
[www.sacredhearteauclaire.org](http://www.sacredhearteauclaire.org)



there is hope here.

# Sacred Heart Hospital: A national leader in being...

# Green



creating a healthy environment

for patients, employees, physicians and the community as a whole.

# Thinking Green

In 2008 and 2009, Sacred Heart Hospital received the prestigious **Practice Greenhealth Environmental Leadership Award (ELA)**. The ELA was designed to recognize hospitals at the forefront of environmental progress in healthcare. Sacred Heart earned the award for implementing innovative programs and setting industry standards for waste reduction and pollution prevention.



Practice Greenhealth, formerly Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E), was formed to help create a national movement for environmental sustainability in healthcare. It was jointly founded by the American Hospital Association, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Health Care Without Harm, and the American Nurses Association.

ELA recipients are distinguished by their pioneering efforts to reduce the healthcare industry's environmental impact. The award is the nation's most prestigious recognition of innovation in environmentally responsible healthcare. The ELA demonstrates that Sacred Heart is considered to be among the very best in the country at creating a healthy environment for patients, employees, physicians and the community as a whole. The award also demonstrates the hospital's commitment to providing:



- **Cleaner air**
- **More efficient energy and water usage**
- **Safer practices**
- **Safer buildings**
- **Reductions in waste stream volumes**
- **Support to the global environment**

By earning this award, Sacred Heart has been inducted into **Practice Greenhealth's Environmental Leadership Circle**, an elite group of facilities that have integrated sustainable environmental programs into their values. As part of this award, and in honor of the hospital's 'green' efforts, 100 trees will be planted in Tiruvannamalai, India, a country devastated by deforestation and climate change.



The hospital's award-winning innovations for environmentally responsible conservation, purchasing and disposal include:

- **Supporting "Local Food" efforts:** Hospital administration advocated a Local Food effort to link the hospital's food needs with local farmers by committing 10% of the \$2 million annual food budget to purchasing local food. The program provides patients and cafeteria patrons a fresher product, while reducing fuel consumption and supporting local farm production and jobs. It also paves the way for other local institutions to purchase local food.
- **Protecting Green Space:** The design, creation and maintenance of protected green spaces is a priority on the hospital's 31-acre campus. Healing Gardens and rooftop green spaces recognize the proven role

- **Using Food Scraps for Animal Feed:** Each year, more than five tons of scrap food waste is donated to a local farm to feed chickens, horses, calves, ducks & rabbits. Donations reduced the hospital's sewage solids, sewer assessments, and solid disposal/waste removal costs, while supporting sustainable agriculture.

- **Donating Food to Feed the Poor:** The hospital donates more than four tons of food each year to the St. Francis Food Pantry, a ministry started in 1979 by Sr. Joel Jacobi, OSF and Sr. Francis Regis, OSF.

- **Donating Used Equipment to Hospitals & Clinics in Third World Countries:** The hospital's Mission Outreach, a nonprofit Hospital Sister's Health System organization, hosts an extensive medical equipment/supply distribution and recycling program. Last year, the hospital donated 11 tons of medical equipment to countries like Haiti, Jamaica, Mongolia and the Ukraine.

- **Launching a Ride Share program:** Providing communication and a bulletin board allows employees to post ride requests and ride offers to encourage carpooling and save gasoline.

- **Receiving the Making Medicine Mercury Free Award:** The hospital received the award from Hospitals for a Healthy Environment in 2002, the first year the award was given.

- **Sharing Innovations:** Hospital representatives have shared our sustainability innovations with others at national conferences such as the Catholic Health Association Assembly and the global CleanMed conference.

