



*We are all responsible for the protection
and care of the environment.*

This responsibility knows no boundaries.

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XVI
FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE
WORLD DAY OF PEACE, JANUARY 1, 2010.

Environmental Sustainability and Catholic Health Care

WHY IS ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AN ISSUE FOR CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE?

The Mission Imperative: God's creation is a gift to us and deserves our reverence and protection.

The Public Health Imperative: A degraded environment has a negative impact on the health of our communities.

The Stewardship Imperative: Reducing waste and energy use can translate into reduced costs.

WHAT CAN A CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATION DO TO PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY?

Embrace environmental health as a matter of mission.

- Include environmental sustainability as part of mission and values statements.
- Educate leaders and associates about the connection between mission environmental sustainability.

Commit to a culture of environmental sustainability.

- Identify and engage multidisciplinary staff who are interested in these issues.
- Form a "green team" to guide the process and also track and celebrate progress.
- Adopt policies to promote responsible use of resources: waste management, energy management, recycling, use of toxic materials, food purchasing.

Partner with others to advocate and implement environmental sustainability.

- Join Practice Greenhealth and ENERGY STAR, sign the Catholic Climate Covenant and Healthy Food in Health Care Pledge.
- Engage in community efforts and be a community leader.

"By using excess energy, polluting the environment with phthalates, mercury and other toxic chemicals, and producing waste which is burned instead of recycled, healthcare is ultimately compromising public health and damaging the ability of future generations to meet their needs."

—Health Care Without Harm website

For more information on Catholic health care and environmental health and sustainability, see CHA's website at www.chausa.org/environmental_responsibility