

## 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 the Practice Greenhealth Website:

[www.hze-online.org](http://www.hze-online.org)



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

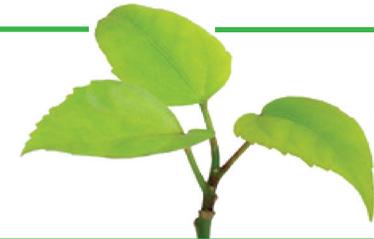
[www.sacredhearteauclaire.org](http://www.sacredhearteauclaire.org)



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

On May 20, Sacred Heart Hospital became one of only six hospitals in the nation to receive the **Practice Greenhealth Environmental Leadership Award (ELA)** for 2008. The ELA was designed to recognize hospitals at the forefront of environmental progress in healthcare.

The hospital earned the award for implementing innovative programs and setting industry standards for waste reduction and pollution prevention.



The Practice Greenhealth ELA, formerly known as Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E), was formed to 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.

Recipients of the award 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. Earning the ELA validates 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**
- **Waste volume and toxicity reductions**
- **Support to the global environment**

By earning this award, Sacred Heart is 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 "Buy Local" efforts:**

Hospital administration advocated a "Buy Local" effort to link the hospital's food needs with local agricultural producers by committing up to 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.

## **Protecting Green Space:**

The design, creation and maintenance of protected green spaces is a priority on the hospital's 31.63 acre campus. Healing Gardens and rooftop green spaces recognize the proven role of nature in healing.

## **Using Food Scraps for Animal Feed:**

In 2007, more than 9,000 pounds of scrap food waste was 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 donated 8,600 pounds of food in 2007 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. In 2007, the hospital donated thousands of pounds of medical equipment to Mongolia and the Ukraine.

## **Donating resources to support local needs:**

The local Free Clinic received donations of prescription drugs and microscopes that helped provide care to the homeless, uninsured and disadvantaged.

## **Launching a Ride Share program:**

Providing communication and a bulletin board to allow 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.

