



AN AFFILIATE OF HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM



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ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL RECOGNIZED WITH NATIONAL PARTNER FOR CHANGE AWARD

SPRINGFIELD, IL -- St. John's Hospital was awarded the 2013 "Partner for Change" Award by Practice Greenhealth, the nation's leading health care membership community that empowers its members to increase their efficiencies and environmental stewardship while improving patient safety and care. The Award is one of the organization's Environmental Excellence Awards given each year to honor outstanding environmental achievements in the health care sector.

The Partner for Change Award recognizes health care facilities that continuously improve and expand upon their mercury elimination, waste reduction, recycling and source reduction programs. At a minimum, facilities applying for this Award must be recycling 15 percent of their total waste, have reduced regulated medical waste, are well along the way to mercury elimination, and have developed other successful pollution prevention programs in many different areas.

"This award proves St. John's Hospital is committed to eliminating mercury, reducing waste, recycling and preventing pollution, among other environmentally preferable practices," said Laura Wenger, RN, Executive Director, Practice Greenhealth. "Practice Greenhealth is pleased to recognize them for these efforts."

As evidenced in a recent Health Care Research Collaborative study, "*Can Sustainable Hospitals Help Bend the Health Care Cost Curve?*" introducing environmental sustainability measures in hospitals not only results in significant savings, it won't increase operating costs. The implications are clear — given the return on investment, all hospitals should adopt and expand their sustainability programs.

The Practice Greenhealth Environmental Excellence Awards were presented in Boston, MA, at CleanMed, THE premier national environmental conference for leaders in health care sustainability.

ABOUT HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM

Hospital Sisters Health System is a Roman Catholic health care mission founded to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Sponsored by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, HSHS provides state-of-the-art health care framed in traditional values taught by St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. It is dedicated to serving all people, including the poor and the needy, at each of its 13 Local Systems in Illinois (Belleville, Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Highland, Litchfield, Springfield and Streator) and in Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Sheboygan and two in Green Bay). For more information about HSHS, visit www.hshs.org.

ABOUT PRACTICE GREENHEALTH

Practice Greenhealth is the nation's leading membership and networking organization for institutions in the health care community that have made a commitment to sustainable, eco-friendly practices. For more information on Practice Greenhealth, visit www.practicegreenhealth.org.

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