

Summary of Christ Hospital's Environmental Initiatives

The Christ Hospital, voted Most Preferred Hospital for 12 years, developed an *Environmental Mission Statement* in 2004, which has guided the institution to become a leader in preserving the environment.

Environmental Impact Summary

Since 2004, some of the recycling programs the hospital has initiated include:

- Co-mingled waste recycling of paper, aluminum, and glass
- Cardboard recycling
- Florescent lamp recycling
- Scrap metal recycling
- Recycling batteries
- Recycling toner and printer cartridges
- Recycling of cooking and motor oils
- Recycling of construction materials such as carpet, paints, metals, and ceiling tiles

Christ Hospital at a Glance

- Established in 1889
- Full-service, not-for-profit acute care facility with 555 licensed beds
- Mission: to provide Greater Cincinnati with access to high quality, affordable health care
- Annual Admissions = approx. 24,900
- Employees = 3,120

Christ Hospital has also made an effort to reuse certain medical devices in lieu of discarding them and reuse within the facility or donate to various institutions used building materials and furniture. They utilize locally grown produce so less produce is shipped from out of state. Green construction techniques are also applied to hospital construction projects.

Lessening Environmental Impact

Christ Hospital is very much aware of the need to conserve natural resources. Their *Environmental Mission Statement* guides them to conserve natural resources using techniques such as, utilizing waterless urinals, planting drought tolerant landscaping, implementing peak shaving techniques during high electrical demand periods, and using energy efficient lamps.

The hospital recognizes the issues with the generation of medical infectious waste and the impact it has on the environment after disposal. To offset these issues, infectious waste and sharps are treated on site and rendered non infectious before leaving our campus. Less than 0.5% of their total waste volume is shipped out as infectious waste.

Decreasing Air and Noise Pollution

Air quality is monitored at the facility and efforts are made to keep VOC contents low by using only no VOC paints, air containment systems around all open ceiling tiles, and the use of non vinyl-no finish flooring.

Christ Hospital Environmental Awards

- Energy Star recognition for the years 2003, 2004, and 2006
- John Chapman Award for environmental leadership
- Making Medicine Mercury Free Award for becoming a mercury free facility

Noise pollution is an ever-increasing factor within a hospital, mostly due to equipment and carts with squeaky casters, or hospital personnel speaking loudly at night outside patient rooms. The Christ Hospital has instituted a SHH campaign to decrease noise in patient care areas by spot monitoring sound levels and the use of no overhead paging.

Looking to the Future

Christ Hospital believes that opportunities continue to exist in helping to preserve the environment and reducing their carbon footprint. Initiatives currently being worked on include:

- Integrated pest management program- to reduce the use of chemicals
- Bio-diesel fuels- looking at the conversion of their fleet and emergency generators to bio-diesel fuels
- Converting to green chemicals for housekeeping, maintenance and lawn care products
- Elimination of Styrofoam products within the facility