Sustaining a healthy environment is essential to maintaining both personal and public health. The University of Maryland Medical Center is committed to healing patients and supporting the community by providing health care in a safe and healthy manner. The University of Maryland Medical Center seeks innovative ways to conserve, reduce, reuse and recycle to protect and preserve the earth’s resources. The following pages demonstrate UMMC’s commitment to sustainability.
Hospitals require enormous amounts of energy to run round-the-clock diagnostic, surgical and medical equipment as well as to heat and cool large spaces. The University of Maryland Medical Center currently uses enough energy in a year to supply over 7,500 homes. Still, the hospital is dedicated to reducing its energy consumption. It is reducing both its consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Part of UMMC’s Leaner energy strategies include:

- A partnership with BITHENERGY and Constellation Energy, the University of Maryland Medical System to build a 3.66 megawatt solar generation project. The solar farm produces clean, renewable energy for the state of Maryland. This power purchase agreement is for the next 20 years.

- Heat recovery chillers are installed that capture heat typically wasted as part of air conditioning. Instead the heat is used to heat the hospital. This reduces the amount of steam the Medical Center purchases.

- Multiple LED lighting retrofits and occupancy sensors are installed throughout the Medical Center. Energy efficient LEDs are part of all new building project standards. In the Weinberg and Gudelsky buildings, where a large glass roof atrium allows natural sunlight in during the day, daylight harvesting sensors are installed. They turn the lights off when the sun is out and on when there is no sun.

- The Medical Center used over 2.5 kBTU per square foot less energy in FY 2015 than in FY 2014 representing a 1.1% decrease. Despite increasing total square footage since 2011, UMMC has reduced its energy consumption by 13.9% over that period.
Hospitals, as they provide quality patient care, generate large amounts of waste. UMMC is reducing and handling waste in an environmentally friendly way.

**RECYCLING**
Recycling within the Medical Center increased from 15.3% in FY 2013 to 18.3% in FY 2015. The robust recycling program includes typical single stream items such as paper, plastic, aluminum and glass as well as electronics, cardboard, batteries, toner and ink cartridges, kitchen grease and organic waste composting. UMMC even recycles from patient rooms.

**COMPOSTING**
In FY 2015, UMMC implemented a food waste composting program. By partnering with a locally owned company, UMMC diverted 90,000 pounds of food trimmings in just the first two months of the program. The compost created from this food waste provides a natural and sustainable product that is used on local farms and gardens. The hospital actually uses some of the compost in its own herb garden, which provides fresh herbs for the cafeteria.

**REGULATED MEDICAL WASTE REDUCTION**
UMMC implemented a comprehensive waste segregation program that includes waste audits, education and the reduction/removal of unnecessary regulated medical waste (RMW) receptacles in patient areas. By doing this, UMMC reduced RMW from 21% in FY 2013 to 11.9% in FY 2015. The national benchmark for overall RMW is less than 10%.

**SINGLE-USE DEVICE REPROCESSING**
UMMC diverts over 180,000 pounds from its waste stream with reusable sharps containers, totes for shipping materials, and gowns/textiles in procedural areas. Additionally the Medical Center saw significant savings in both waste disposal costs and purchasing savings through single-use device reprocessing. Items such as pulse oximeters, blood pressure cuffs, compression sleeves, and various surgical devices are collected and reprocessed by a FDA-approved third party reprocessor. They are then used again. In FY 2015 the use of reprocessing meant 44,600 pounds of material were diverted. The hospital saved over a million dollars in combined waste disposal and purchasing costs.
ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING & SAFER CHEMICALS
Through Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP), the Medical Center emphasizes purchasing safer and more environmentally responsible products. UMMC has either eliminated or greatly reduced specific chemicals of concern, including: Mercury, Bisphenol-A, Phthalates, Polyvinyl Chlorate (PVC) and California’s Proposition 65 chemicals list.

In FY 2015, UMMC was designated as Top 10 performing hospitals by Practice Green Health for its EPP efforts, which include:

- Green Cleaning Policy
- Integrative Pest Management (IPM) Program
- Reduction of Material Packaging
- Building Standards Eliminating PVC and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) in Paints and Wall Hardenings
- Natural Rubber flooring
- Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) registered electronics

Greener COMMUTING
With thousands of people coming to the Medical Center each day, the hospital encourages biking, public transportation and carpooling as a way to minimize pollution.

Sustainable commuting incentives that are offered to employees include:

- Convenient bike parking spaces
- Carpool matching program with the University of Maryland Baltimore
- Free access to UMB shuttle
- Priority parking for fuel efficient vehicles in the Medical Center Garage
- Charging stations for electric vehicles
- Discounted monthly public transit passes for all employees.
GREEENER OR’S
UMMC was the sole recipient of the Practice Greenhealth Greening the OR Award in 2013 and was recognized again as a Top 10 hospital in this category in 2014. These awards acknowledge its comprehensive sustainability program inside the operating rooms. Many strategies are used to decrease waste and increase reuse and recycling, including recycling bins in every OR, a single-use medical device program and a donation program of open and unused supplies. UMMC also is committed to the use of reusable surgical textiles, basins, and bowls, and instrument trays.

GREEENER BUILDINGS
UMMC’s commitment to environmental sustainability is prominently displayed in its newest building, The R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Critical Care Tower. The US Green Building Council (USGBC) recently designated this building as a LEED Gold facility. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a nationally recognized green building certification program that recognizes best in class environmental building strategies and practices.

Many of the building design features used in the new Critical Care Tower are also incorporated into the hospital during upgrades and renovations, including:

• Rainwater harvesting off roof
• LED lighting
• Occupancy sensors
• Low-flow faucets and other fixtures
• Natural rubber flooring that does not requiring chemical stripping
• VOC-Free paints
• PVC-Free wall hardening
UMMC understands the importance of a healthy diet to improving health. UMMC also understands that where food comes from and how it was raised has significant environmental and health implications. UMMC strives to increase healthier beverage consumption, decrease overall meat consumption, and increase local and sustainable meat purchasing.

Initiatives in the cafeteria include:

- Offering fruit and herb infused waters
- Sustainable coffee program
- Meatless Mondays
- ‘Rethink your Drink’ healthy beverage campaign
- Using fresh herbs from its on-site garden
- Serving cage-free eggs
- Serving antibiotic-free rotisserie chickens
- Sourcing as much in season and local produce as possible
- Price incentives to encourage healthier eating

**FARMERS’ MARKET**

The University Farmers’ Market is one of the Medical Center’s key community outreach programs to expand access to fresh fruits and vegetables for those in its community. The Farmers’ Market continues to grow from its inception in 2009. Located across the street from the hospital’s main entrance, the Farmers’ Market runs weekly May through November and accepts supplemental nutritional assistance benefits (SNAP), WIC Fruit & Vegetable Checks and Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program Benefits.