Sustainability Program 2017
Year End Report
The Sustainability Council continued its work building upon The University of Vermont Medical Center’s long tradition of environmental responsibility. The Council developed objectives and tactics around the focus areas identified on its Mission Statement. These focus areas guide efforts to improve health and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Leadership
Engage and educate our staff and community while implementing policies that promote sustainable practices and mitigate the health impacts of climate change.

1. **Objective:** Participate in Healthcare Climate Council activities and disseminate the information learned.
   **Tactic:** Attend all WebEx calls. Distribute the minutes from meeting to council members.
   **Status:** Achieved—Attended 62% of WebEx calls and information disseminated to council members.

2. **Objective:** Expand the engagement of sustainability activities and accomplishments.
   **Tactic:** Initiate a sustainability employee engagement method capitalizing on the past work of the Green Team.
   **Status:** Achieved—Decision made to establish an employee council in 2018 that will move this objective forward.

3. **Objective:** Engage the University of Vermont Health Network leaders in sustainability activities
   **Tactic:** Attendance at Sustainability Council meetings.
   **Status:** Achieved—University of Vermont Health Network leaders from Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital, Central Vermont Medical Center, Alice Hyde Medical Center and Elizabethtown Community Hospital attended the four Sustainability Council meetings held in 2017.

Green Buildings
Apply environmentally sustainable and health-focused planning, design and construction principles for building and renovation projects.

1. **Objective:** Design building projects (new construction and renovation projects exceeding $3M) to achieve energy star score of 75 and meet requirement for LEED Certification.
   **Tactic:** Use Target Finder prior to design.
   **Status:** Achieved—Specifications included in base performance specifications.

2. **Objective:** Initiate Level 1 Energy Audits prior to major renovations of spaces and buildings involving HVAC replacement or building envelope improvements.
   **Tactic:** Identify one project for 2017 and perform audit.
   **Status:** Achieved - 1 Timber Lane was audited in 2016 and data from that audit was used to inform the design of the project.

3. **Other activities:** On March 31, 2017 Dave Keelty, Director Facilities Planning and Development, co-presented the program, “University of Vermont Medical Center: Approach and Strategy for Sustainable Design and Construction” to the New England Healthcare Engineers’ Society (NEHES) meeting. This program was developed in conjunction with Principles from e4h Architecture who co-presented with Dave.
Healthier Food
Purchase and offer locally and/or sustainably produced food.

1. **Objective:** Prioritize organic food purchases.
   **Tactic:** Manage purchasing priorities through the annual food plan.
   **Status:** Not achieved—Organic purchases stayed flat at 18% (5% increase target not achieved).

2. **Objective:** Increase vegetable consumption on all campuses with a café onsite.
   **Tactic:** Menu management and promotion.
   **Status:** Not achieved—Increased consumption by 0.51% average over previous year for all cafes versus goal of combined increase of 10%. Garden Atrium consumption increased by 58%.

3. **Objective:** Increase healthier beverage option.
   **Tactic:** Menu management and promotion.
   **Status:** Achieved—Achieved 84.5% of 2017 sales, just short of goal of 85%.

4. **Other activities:** The following sustainable food presentations were given in 2017:
   - Virginia Farm-to-Plate Conference—Keynote address by Diane Imrie, December 2017
   - UVM Food Systems Class—Diane Imrie
   - UVM Nutrition Careers Class—Diane Imrie
   - Vermont Association Conservation District—Diane Imrie
   - FINE (Farm to Institution New England)—Daria Holcomb

Waste
Reduce toxicity and volume, conserve natural resources and lower costs through upstream purchasing practices, recycling and re-use.

1. **Objective:** Reduce total waste volume.
   **Tactic A:** Partner with Casella Resource Management to establish baseline and identify opportunities.
   **Status:** Not fully achieved—Casella study still underway; results and baseline to be completed early 2018.
   **Tactic B:** Establish a waste tracking system which will determine the amount of waste produced per patient per day, by clinical unit.
   **Status:** Achieved—Casella Resource Management’s analysis is in the last phase of completion. Recommendations forthcoming in 2018.

Chemicals
Reduce/limit the use of products that contain chemicals of concern.

1. **Objective:** Continue to identify and eliminate products containing chemicals of concern.
   **Tactic:** Prioritize list of chemicals of concern and target those to reduce, limit or eliminate.
   **Status:** Not fully achieved—List of chemicals of concern was developed. Next steps are to narrow down and prioritize this list with recommendations from the Sustainability Council. A sub-group will be formed to research and perform a feasibility analysis on those products targeted.

2. **Objective:** Research/review all new equipment purchases to align with the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy.
   **Tactic:** Review cleaning/disinfecting recommendations for new equipment and identify any areas of concern.
   **Status:** Not achieved
Greening the OR
Reduce environmental impact and cost and improve health and safety by focusing sustainability efforts in the operating room.

1. **Objective:** Reduce anesthetic gas waste.
   **Tactic:** Collaborate with Anesthesia leadership.
   **Status:** Achieved—2017 baseline of 17 desflurane vaporizers (primarily available for bariatric and robotic cases) reduced by 8.

2. **Objective:** Expand the Single Use Device (SUD) Reprocessing Program with network partners CVMC and CVPH.
   **Tactic:** Include all 44 applicable Stryker items.
   **Status:** Achieved—44 Stryker items reprocessed as well as network hospitals’ engagement in this program.

3. **Objective:** Increase instrument kits in reusable, rigid sterilization containers.
   **Tactic:** Collaborate with Central Sterile leadership (CSI)
   **Status:** Not achieved

Leaner Energy
Reduce overall Energy Use Intensity (EUI) and explore alternative energy sources, where feasible.

1. **Objective:** Achieve a 1% reduction in Energy Use Intensity (EUI) over 2016 of 277.
   **Tactic A:** Initiate HVAC setbacks.
   **Status:** Achieved—EUI rate of 269 is a 2.7% reduction.
   **Tactic B:** Upgrade OR overhead lighting to LED.
   **Status:** Achieved—7 of 21 (33.3%) of ORs upgraded to LED.
   **Tactic C:** Perform steam trap evaluation.
   **Status:** Achieved—Evaluation completed. Awaiting final report with action items for replacement/maintenance.

2. **Objective:** Evaluate alternative energy opportunities.
   **Tactic A:** Engage with alternative energy vendors.
   **Status:** Achieved—Performed high-level assessments of solar energy and determined that it would not be feasible for Main Campus. Evaluation of other sources such as methane continues.
   **Tactic B:** Participate in the district energy feasibility analysis.
   **Status:** Achieved—Reviewing the proposed District Energy System Letter of Intent to move forward to the next level. Analysis includes both financial and logistics.

Water
Reduce water consumption.

**Objective:** Achieve a 2% reduction in water consumption per square foot.
**Tactic:** Establish baseline by entering water consumption in portfolio manager.
**Status:** Achieved—Water consumption entered into Portfolio Manager. A review of the data continues and is being evaluated for improvement recommendations.
Climate
Mitigate the impact of climate change by reducing our carbon footprint.

1. **Objective:** Engage clinicians regarding the health impacts of climate change.
   **Tactic:** Schedule programs/events on climate change targeting clinicals.
   **Status:** Not achieved

2. **Objective:** Measure specific areas for impact on climate change.
   **Tactic:** Measure specific areas for impact on climate change.
   **Status:** Achieved—2017 carbon dioxide avoidance equaled 1,171,082 pounds (1440 employees enrolled in UVM Medical Center TDM programs avoided 1,568,200 driving miles).

3. **Other activities:**
   - On June 20, 2017, Governor Phil Scott held a press conference to announce his intention to establish a Vermont Climate Change Commission with the commitment to achieving the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. Dawn LeBaron, Vice President of Hospital Services, and Diane Imrie, Director of Nutrition Services, were invited to the press conference by Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger, who was also announcing the formation of a Vermont Climate Pledge Coalition to track Vermont’s contributions to meeting the Paris Agreement goals.
   - Regional Bike Share Pilot: The UVM Medical Center will utilize Green Funds to sponsor a three year pilot of the first bike share system in Vermont. This project will provide an affordable, healthy and additional transportation option for staff, patients and visitors while helping reduce the overall carbon footprint of the UVM Medical Center.

Smarter Purchasing
Select products that provide efficacy in care delivery, economic and environmental performance.

1. **Objective:** Finalize and implement an Environmental Purchasing Policy with infrastructure to enforce policy.
   **Tactic:** Finalize policy, structure and processes in place to review environmental procurement.
   **Status:** Not achieved

2. **Objective:** Increase contracts for products with green organizations to enforce policy.
   **Tactic:** Maximize use of contracts through Green Health Exchange.
   **Status:** Achieved—The University of Vermont Medical Center has accessed seven contracts, the maximum number available through Green Health Exchange.
Other Activities

The University of Vermont Sustainability Faculty Fellows Program—March 31, 2017

- To foster sustainability education across all disciplines, the University of Vermont brought together a cohort to exchange ideas and explore the concept of sustainability. The 2017 cohort was interested in learning about the UVM Medical Center’s Sustainability Program and engaging in a discussion about the ecosystem and human health. Dawn LeBaron, Vice President of Hospital Services, provided an overview of the Sustainability Program and Daria Holcolm, Nutrition Services, John Berino, Environmental Health and Safety, Amy Odefey, MD and Paul Rosenau, MD participated in the table discussions.

Practice Greenhealth CleanMed Conference & Exposition—May 16 to May 18, 2017

- CleanMed is a national environmental conference for leaders in health care sustainability who are on the leading edge of greening the health care sector. Some members of the Sustainability Council attended the conference and Green Team funds were used to provide scholarships to three medical center staff. These scholarship recipients are leaders of sustainability in their departments/sites.

UVM Medical Center Knowledge Fair

- The Green Tem had a table at the Knowledge Fair held May 3, 2017. Nursing’s Recycling Champion Gina Helias and representatives from Casella Waste Management were on hand to educate people on how to recycle. In addition, Matt Bushlow, Communications Specialist and a member of the Sustainability Council developed materials for the display.

Other

- Danielle Calaway, Office Coordinator—Facilities Management, and Monique Citro, OR Communications Specialist, collaborated on efforts to publicize the UVM Medical Center’s blue wrap recycling program. These efforts included submission of the 2017 Vizient Sustainability Excellence Award proposal “Expanding Blue Wrap Recycling at the UVM Medical Center.” Danielle also wrote articles on blue wrap recycling for the Burlington Free Press website (published in November 2017) and on energy savings accomplishments for the August issue of the ONE newsletter. She wrote the blue wrap presentation proposal for CleanMed 2018 in collaboration with Monique Citro. This proposal was accepted and Monique and Jennifer Bergeron, Supervisor, Environmental Services, will give the presentation at CleanMed in May 2018.

- Monique Citro and Jennifer Bergeron were interviewed by WCAX for a story on blue wrap recycling, which was broadcast in October 2017.

- Monique Citro mentored the following hospitals on blue wrap recycling at their request:
  - York Hospital, York, ME
  - Alice Hyde Medical Center
  - Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
  - University of Kentucky Medical Center, Lexington, KY
Awards and Achievements

Practice Greenhealth Awards

- **Top 25 Environmental Excellence Award:** For the ninth consecutive year, the University of Vermont Medical Center was awarded Practice Greenhealth’s highest honor for hospitals. This award comes with the special recognition for recycling initiatives, greening the OR, healthy food program and sustainability efforts beyond facility walls.

- **Circles of Excellence Awards:** The Circles of Excellence Awards celebrate sustainability programs that excel in a given category. The UVM Medical Center received two awards in the following category: Healthy Food Circle—Main Campus and Fanny Allen Campus. The Food Circle highlights leaders in sustainable food services, capturing leadership in meat and sugar-sweetened beverage reduction, healthier meat procurement, local sourcing, food waste prevention and management.

- **Greenhealth Emerald Award:** Fanny Allen Campus—This award recognizes the cream of the crop of the Greenhealth Partner for Change awards applicants, presented to applicants that have more advanced programs and exemplary scores in a range of categories.

- **Greening the OR Recognition Award:** Main Campus—This award recognizes facilities that have made substantial progress in reducing the impact of the surgical environment. UVM Medical Center’s robust blue wrap recycling and single-use device reprocessing programs were highlighted.

Becker’s Healthcare—60 of the Greenest Hospitals in America

- Hospitals featured on this list have made community stewardship at the environmental level a top priority. The University of Vermont Medical Center was recognized for its LEED Gold-certified Radiation Oncology Center and regularly engaging in initiatives such as collecting single-use medical devices and utilizing energy-efficient technology, such as LED lights, across all facilities.

Vizient, Inc. Sustainability Excellence Award

- This award recognizes members that demonstrate a focus and commitment to sustainability practices through the implementation of a new program with measurable success.
Appendix

Sustainability Council—Dawn LeBaron, Vice President of Hospital Services, Leader

Brooke Stahle – Director, Perioperative Services
Colleen Gallagher – HR Business Partner
Dave Keelty – Director, Facilities Planning & Development
Diane Imrie – Director, Nutrition Services
Jack Conry – Director, Security/Safety/Parking
John Berino – Occupational/Environmental Program Coordinator
Leo Gaudreau – Director, Facilities Management
Lori Ann Roy – Manager, Radiation Oncology
Maria McClellan – Sr. Community Relations Strategist
Matt Bushlow – Communications Specialist, Marketing & Communications
Paul Rosenau, MD – Pediatrics
Sidney Hamilton – Manager Purchasing, Contract & Value Analysis

Green Team

Brooke Stahle – Perioperative Services
Charles Krumholz – Operating Room
Chris Lang – Facilities Management
Danielle Calaway – Facilities Management
Elizabeth Schneider – Milton Family Medicine
Evelyn Sikorski – Employee & Family Assistance Program
Jennifer Bergeron – Environmental Services
John Berino – Safety & Industrial Hygiene
Jon Wilkinson – Safety & Industrial Hygiene
Lisa Hoare – Facilities Management
Matt Bushlow – Communications and Community Relations
Monique Citro – Operating Room
Real Pothier – Nutrition Services
Regina Helias – Medical Intensive Care Unit