The Sustainability Council continued its work building upon The University of Vermont Medical Center’s long tradition of environmental responsibility.

The Strategic Plan’s goals, objectives and tactics focused on the ten areas identified on its Mission Statement. These focus areas guided efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change on health and to enhance our role as stewards of the environment within the communities we serve.

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

Highlights
• Membership in the Healthcare Climate Council was renewed.
• An Employee Engagement Committee was formed to increase employee awareness and participation in sustainability activities. This committee sponsored the following events in 2018:
  ◊ Sustainability Awareness table at the May Knowledge Fair
  ◊ A HealthSource class, “Healthy Homes: The Connection Between Energy and a Healthy Home” was offered to employees in October
  ◊ Go Green, Save Green fair in October included participation in the Northwest Earth Institute Eco-Challenge. UVM Medical Center’s team of ~400 employees finished the challenge in ninth place out of 842 teams from 79 countries.
• Green Funds were used to provide scholarships for three employees to attend the CleanMed Conference in May.
• The University of Vermont Health Network leaders were invited to participate in bi-monthly meetings of the Sustainability Council.

CLIMATE
Mitigate the impact of climate change by reducing our carbon footprint.

Highlights
• UVM Medical Center became a member of Burlington 2030 District - an organization of community stakeholders who want to substantially reduce the environmental impact of building construction and operations while contributing to the growth of Burlington’s robust economy.
• UVM Medical Center's 2018 CO₂ avoidance equaled 2,346,046 pounds.
• Transportation Demand Management (TDM) activities found 1612 employees participated in a variety of alternative methods of transportation.
WATER
Reduce water consumption.

Highlights
- Water and energy efficient water heaters and pumps were replaced in Patrick.
- Pumps were replaced in Baird and McClure.

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

Highlights
- The District Energy Plan, an alternative energy opportunity for UVM Medical Center, was reviewed with the Burlington Electric Department and a financial feasibility study was completed.
- An analysis of the price impact of Vermont Gas’ Renewable Natural Gas was completed. Budget planning for FY’2019 was begun.
- Yearly steam trap evaluations and maintenance continued.

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

Highlights
- A plan was developed with NICU physician champions to compile a high risk chemical inventory.
- A process for reanalyzing NICU supplies that contain latex, bisphenol A (BPA) and bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) was established (see further details under Smarter Purchasing highlights).

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

Highlights
- While there was no change to the year-over-year diversion rate of solid waste, UVM Medical Center continued its partnership with Casella Waste Management in working to identify additional opportunities for solid waste recycling.

HEALTHIER FOOD
Purchase and offer locally and/or sustainably produced food.

Highlights
- Organic food purchases in 2018 totaled 17%.
- Meat purchases were reduced to 1.4 ounces/meal, slightly more than the reduction goal of 1.35 ounces.
- The goal of increasing healthy beverages on café menus to 85% was not met due to the limited options available through beverage vendors. Healthy beverages totaled 83%.
GREENING THE OR
Reduce environmental impact and cost and improve health and safety by focusing sustainability efforts in the operating room.

Highlights
- Combined, the Fanny Allen and Main Campuses reduced the number of desflurane vaporizers by 33.3% (from 9 to 6), exceeding the goal of a 22% reduction for the year.

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

Highlights
- Target Finder (a tool that enables architects/building owners to set energy targets during the design process and receive a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) energy performance score) and the LEED checklist were completed prior to the design of the Essex Primary Care replacement building project.
- A Level 1 Energy Audit helped determine if any potential energy saving measures could be incorporated into the design of the NICU renovation project.

SMARTER PURCHASING
Select products that provide efficacy in care delivery, economic and environmental performance.

Highlights
- A process was initiated to expand the scope of value analysis programs for any patient touching medical/surgical products. Prior to products being added to the procurement system, vendors are required to disclose environmental impacting attributes such as latex, DEHP, mercury.
- Nine contracts were accessed through Greenhealth Exchange – a cooperative committed to sustainability – up from seven in 2017.
- Trials of recyclable patient belonging bags and Naturepedic mattresses were initiated.
- A Patron Agreement and sponsorship for Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital was executed to provide access to Greenhealth Exchange’s contract with Reinhart/Black River Produce.
AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

PRACTICE GREENHEALTH AWARDS

- Top 25 Environmental Excellence Award: for the tenth consecutive year UVM Medical Center ranked in the top 25 hospitals nationwide for leading the industry with innovation in sustainability, demonstrating superior programs, and illustrating how sustainability is entrenched in our culture.

- Circles of Excellence Awards:
  - Less Waste Circle: for excelling in waste prevention and material handling, demonstrated through high recycling rates, low regulated medical waste generation and a focus on minimizing the total volume of waste generated by the facility.
  - Healthy Food Circle: for leaders in sustainable food services, capturing leadership in meat reduction, procurement of better meat, local and sustainable sourcing, improving access to tap water and healthy beverages, supporting healthy food access, and preventing food waste.

- Greenhealth Emerald Award – Fanny Allen Campus: recognizes outstanding hospitals from within the Partner for Change applicants. This competitive award recognizes the top 20 percent of applicants and is focused on advanced sustainability programs and exemplary scores in a range of categories.

- Greening the OR Recognition Award – Main Campus: honors facilities that have made substantial progress in reducing the impact of the surgical environment.

BECKER’S HEALTHCARE – 68 OF THE GREENEST HOSPITALS IN AMERICA

Hospitals featured on this list have made community stewardship at the environmental level a top priority and incorporated green building efforts into expansions as well as embraced projects to reduce waste and energy consumption.

ASHE ENERGY TO CARE 2018 AWARD – FANNY ALLEN CAMPUS

Energy to Care award winners are recognized for reducing their energy consumption by 10 percent or more over their baseline energy consumption.
OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Dawn LeBaron presented an overview of UVM Medical Center’s employee sustainability engagement efforts at the November Health Care Climate Council meeting. She highlighted participation in the Eco Challenge and Go Green, Save Green fair held in October.

- Jack Conry, Director Security/Safety/Parking, submitted an annual parking and transportation report to the City of Burlington through CATMA. This report outlines UVM Medical Center’s parking and transportation program, including our Transportation Demand Management (TDM) efforts.

- Monique Citro, OR Communications Specialist, mentored Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center’s Purchasing Manager, Tyler Takayama, on key sustainability projects at UVM Medical Center.

- Diane Imrie, Director, Nutrition Services, participated in the following activities related to sustainable food and culinary medicine:
  - Toured fourth year UVM medical students
  - Vermont Farm to Table speaker
  - Spoke at multiple UVM events for Nutrition students and others
  - Primary Care Grand Rounds speaker
  - Vermont Association of Diabetes Educators Annual Conference speaker
  - UVM Medical Center Foundation Board presenter
  - Accountable Blue (Blue Cross Blue Shield) Conference presenter
  - Mentor during a two day tour of UVM Medical Center by University of Arkansas Nutrition Department
  - Mentor for Student Community Rounds for “at risk” students
  - Mentor for tour of UVM Medical Center by Blue Cross Blue Shield for healthy food ideas and policies

- Jennifer Bergeron, Supervisor Environmental Services, participated in the Northern New England Recycling Summit held at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in August.
MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

EXTERNAL NEWS STORIES

- Becker’s Hospital Review: Practice Greenhealth’s “Top 25 Hospitals” Award article
- VT Digger: Practice Greenhealth’s “Top 25 Hospitals” Award article
- My Champlain Valley.com: Practice Greenhealth “Top 25 Hospitals” Award news clip
- WCAX TV: Practice Greenhealth’s “Top 25 Hospitals” Award news clip
- Seven Days: UVM Medical Center’s participation in the District Energy Plan article
- VT Digger: “From Food Scraps to Compost” sponsored content about UVM Medical Center's composting program.
- Milton Independent: “Food is Medicine” article about healthy food initiatives
- Burlington Free Press: “Bikeshare: Alternative commuting and exercise” sponsored content about local bike share program
- WCAX TV: “UVM Medical Center taking strides to become more energy-efficient” news clip about energy efficiency at the Fanny Allen Campus.
- Best of Burlington: “Operation Healthy Planet” magazine article about UVM Medical Center’s sustainability achievements.
- CNN: “Creating a Healthier World, One Medical Supply at a Time” feature story about Partners for World Health with UVM Medical Center’s donation efforts of opened, but unused medical supplies and equipment.
- Seven Days: “Dining on a Dime: UVMMC Garden Atrium” article by local food critic about sustainable meals offered at the Café.

INTERNAL NEWS STORIES

- Earth Day email: “Sustainability Successes” described our 2017 sustainability achievements
- ONE Newsletters:
  - May 2018: “Fanny Allen Facilities Staff Lead Energy Savings Initiatives”
  - July 2018: “Food Waste Comes Full Circle”
  - September 2018: “From Garbage to Green Energy”
  - December 2018: “Go Green!”
- Go Green, Save Green email: invitation to employees to participate in the Go Green, Save Green challenge.
- Blog: “Beat the Chill and Lower Your Bills: Three Steps to Save Energy this Winter”
SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL

Dawn LeBaron – Chair, Vice President Hospital Services
Carol Hamlin – Executive Assistant
Danielle Calaway – Facilities Ops and Sustainability Coordinator
Dave Keelty - Director, Facilities Planning and Development
Diane Imrie - Director, Nutrition Services
Jack Conry - Director, Security/Safety/Parking
John Berino – Occupational/Environmental Health Program Manager
Leo Gaudreau – Director, Facilities Management
Lori Ann Roy – Director, Radiation Oncology
Maria McClellan – Senior Community Relations Strategist
Matt Bushlow – Communications Specialist, Marketing and Communications
Monique Citro – OR Communications Specialist
Paul Rosenau, MD – Pediatrics
Sarah Gillespie – HR Business Partner
Sidney Hamilton – Manager Purchasing, Contract and Value Analysis
Yvonne Zietlow – Marketing and Brand Supervisor

UVMHealth.org/MedCenter/Sustainability