

The Sustainability in Health Sciences Task Force was established in September 2009 to develop a set of recommendations to guide senior administrators in setting goals and year-to-year strategies that will improve current practices or implement new best practices in sustainability for the Woodruff Health Sciences Center (WHSC). The Task Force focused on sustainability in healthcare and health sciences as it relates to:

- Food
- Energy/Greenhouse Gas Emissions/IT
- Recycling/Composting/Waste Minimization
- Purchasing/Consumables/Paper
- Building Design/Healthy Healing Spaces
- Transportation
- Water Conservation
- Green Chemistry/Green Laboratories

The Task Force is charged with addressing the following:

- Recommend steps to assess possible savings in resource use throughout Emory Healthcare, focusing particularly on energy and paper use. (Emory's goal is to reduce energy use in university buildings by 50% per square foot and healthcare buildings by 25% by 2025).
- Recommend steps to expand the recycling program and integrate it further into institutional practices. (Emory's goal is 95% landfill waste diversion at the university and 37% in healthcare by 2025.)
- Recommend steps to further sustainable food goals. (Emory's goal is 75% of university food and 25% of healthcare food either locally grown or sustainably grown by 2025).
- Assess current research on sustainable healthcare issues and consider the establishment of a research collaborative to provide justification for health-related sustainability practices.
- Monitor the use of sustainable design recommendations for new healthcare buildings.
- Assess whether healthcare purchasing guidelines are congruent with sustainability goals.
- Recommend improved transportation policies to reduce the greenhouse gas impact of healthcare activities.
- Assess the use of healing spaces as a part of Emory's green space programs, and make recommendations for further additions.
- Assess the current status of understanding of sustainability goals, as well as the commitment to these goals, and recommend steps for culture change and education.
- Assess Emory Healthcare's overall progress on meeting the sustainability goals, and make recommendations for future priorities.

Task Force co-chairs are responsible for setting quarterly meeting agendas, recruiting new membership, and providing direction and guidance on carrying out the charge of the task force as it relates to Emory's new Sustainability Vision 2015-2025.