

## **Summary: Sustainability and Emory Healthcare—goals and accomplishments as of January, 2018.**

Prepared by the Emory Office of Sustainability Initiatives

The Sustainability in Health Sciences Task Force was established in September 2009 by Executive Vice President Michael Johns, in coordination with the Office of Sustainability Initiatives, to develop a set of recommendations to guide senior administrators in setting goals and year-to-year strategies that will improve or implement best practices in sustainability for the Woodruff Health Sciences Center. Currently renamed the Emory Healthcare Sustainability Council, this group includes clinicians, faculty, and administrators and meets quarterly with a charge to:

### **A. Food: Recommend steps to further sustainable food goals.**

EMORY'S GOALS: 75% of University food served on campus and 25% of Healthcare food in cafeterias and hospitals will be either locally grown or sustainably grown by 2025.

Establish a tracking system for Healthcare food purchases to document future gains, building on University best practices.

EHC ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Purchasing local grass-fed beef and local antibiotic-free chicken, and signing Healthcare Without Harm's Healthy Food in Healthcare Pledge to "demonstrate commitment to 'first, do no harm' and treat food and its production and distribution as preventive medicine."

Several produce gardens are cultivated for use in patient meals, including a ¼-acre garden at EUOSH, muscadine vines at EUH, and a rooftop garden at EUHM.

### **B. Climate, Energy & Water: Recommend steps to assess savings in energy and water use throughout Emory Healthcare, and foster ecological citizenship and intergenerational equity through climate change education and action.**

EMORY'S GOALS: By 2025, reduce energy use in University buildings by 50% per square foot and Healthcare buildings by 25% from a 2015 baseline, and use half the amount of water used in 2015.

Implement Emory's Climate Action Plan to meet goals to reduce 20% of total greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, 36% by 2036, and 50% by 2050.

Improve air quality through enforcement of No Idling policy and other pollution prevention actions.

Shift Emory University and Emory Healthcare vehicle fleets to meet national sustainable fleet certification standards.

Increase awareness of alternative transportation options among Emory healthcare patients and university visitors.

EHC ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Emory joined the Atlanta Better Buildings Challenge (ABBC) with EUHM as the inaugural building in 2012, and all University and Healthcare buildings on Clifton Road joined in 2016. The goal of the ABBC is to reduce energy and water consumption 20% by 2020 from a 2009 baseline. EUHM enjoys an annual savings of approx. \$345,000 from projects like re-commissioning mechanical equipment, retrofitting parking deck lighting with LED fixtures, and installing water-saving fixtures. EUH has followed suit with many similar projects, and implemented a linen reduction initiative along with other EHC facilities. The EUH Tower is designed to use 30% less water than a typical hospital through water-saving fixtures, and will recover approx. 2.5 million gallons of water annually through condensate recovery.

### **C. Building Design/Healthy Healing Spaces: Monitor the use of sustainable design recommendations for new Healthcare buildings and renovations.**

EMORY'S GOALS: Certify all new buildings and all major building renovations as LEED Silver or higher.

EHC ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The EUH Tower is slated to be the first Emory Healthcare LEED certified building, and utilized clean construction practices.

**D. Waste: Recommend steps to expand recycling and composting and integrate them further into institutional practices.**

EMORY'S GOALS: Divert 95% of University waste and 37% of Healthcare waste from landfills by 2025.

EHC ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Emory Healthcare began contracting with Stericycle in 2014 to manage recycling programs in EUH and EUHM, which together currently divert approximately 20% of non-regulated waste from landfills.

A Winship Cancer Institute recycling program, modeled after the University's new zero landfill waste policy, is awaiting launch by new TEC operations leadership.

**E. Purchasing: Assess whether Healthcare purchasing guidelines are congruent with sustainability goals.**

EMORY'S GOALS: Identify priority areas for supply chain improvement and work with academic researchers, students, and vendors to identify best practices for sustainability.

Develop scorecards for "Emory preferred" practices and decisions which encourage full-cost accounting among vendors and contractors and integrate sustainability into selection criteria when awarding contracts.

EHC ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Healthcare has worked with suppliers and contractors to: standardize coffee provisions to bulk coffee in staff areas and to recycle single-use coffee dispensers in patient areas; reuse sharps containers; use reusable instrument cases in sterile processing units; provide reusable gowns; and ensure its new blue wrap vendor offers collection and recycling of pre-case blue wrap.

**F. Culture and Behavior Change: 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.**

EMORY'S GOALS: Create a program of sustainability champions throughout Emory Healthcare by 2025.

Incorporate sustainability into first impressions of Emory's clinics and hospitals, through websites, signage, and publications.

Ensure all new Healthcare professionals, are welcomed into—and feel a personal stake in—Emory's sustainability commitments.

EHC ACCOMPLISHMENTS: EUHM established an OR Green Team to enhance recycling in operating rooms. The Department of Physical Therapy integrates sustainability into the curriculum, aspires to paperless coursework, and developed a website to offer resources and a community of practice for DPT students, faculty, and staff.

**G. Community Benefit: Create strategic partnerships with local, national, and international institutions to build flourishing and resilient communities.**

EMORY'S GOALS: Expand awareness of healthy, sustainable behaviors among the populations served by Emory Healthcare through education and outreach (such as pharmaceutical take-back events, thermometer swaps, and information on proper medication disposal with prescriptions).

EHC ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Emory Healthcare has partnered with MedShare since 1998 when it was established by former Emory employees to donate unused and unexpired medical supplies and equipment, supporting clinics and hospitals in over 100 countries.

During the construction of the EUH Tower, 78,000 cubic feet of soil removed to accommodate the underground parking deck was donated to the Fugees Academy in Clarkston, Georgia, and used to construct a soccer field. The Fugees Family, Inc. is a non-profit dedicated to working with child survivors of war.