

Green Hospital Pilot of Greater Philadelphia



**Regional Partnerships for Guiding
Health Care Greening**

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**Women's Health & Environmental
Network**

About WHEN

Mission

Championing health by reducing exposures from harmful chemicals, pesticides and toxic waste through education, research and direct action.



WHEN & Health Care

Since 1997

- **Train-the-trainer model with key sectors.**
- **HC is leading employer in region.**
- **Member organization of HCWH.**
- **Working with hospitals:**
 - **Mercury-free Philly (thermometer exchanges at hospitals)**
 - **DEHP-free Pledge**
 - **Healthy Food in Health Care Pledge**
 - **Regional Roundtables & Educational Programs**
 - **Champion for Change Awards from H2E**



Partnership Development

- **Grant proposal written by DEP and WHEN with involvement of local hospital council.**
- **EPA Resource Conservation Challenge Grant**
- **Awarded to the Regional Office of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection**
- **Contract awarded in July 2006 to HCIF and Women's Health & Environmental Network (WHEN) -- extended through June 2009.**



Original Intent of Grant

- **Bring hospital council to the table to attract hospitals.**
- **Engage 8 hospitals to receive technical assistance on one of four issues.**
- **Have hospitals serve as regional leaders on key issues of reducing priority chemicals, purchasing greener products and establishing EPP, introducing green into construction and facilities.**
- **Develop best practices manual for others to emulate.**

Pilot Program Goals

- **Recruit “early adopters” to work together on improving environmental practices**
- **Develop regional assessment survey of baseline status**
- **Establish metrics for improved performance**
- **Facilitate collaborative workgroups to consider common approaches and national recommendations**
- **Complete on site audits/training**
- **Prepare final compendium of environmental best practices and case studies, to share regionally and nationally**

Green Pilot Hospital Locations

20 Southeastern Pennsylvania hospitals signed up to participate



Focus Areas / 4 Workgroups

- **Red Bag Waste Reduction and Recycling**
- **Toxins Reduction**
- **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing**
- **Green Construction and High Performance Environmental Buildings**

Workgroup Progress

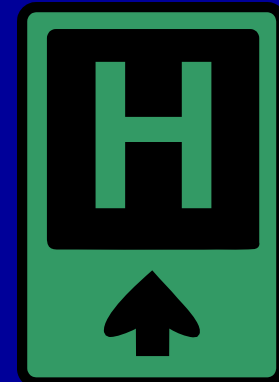
Red Bag/Waste Reduction and Recycling

- **Sharing effective practices in starting and engaging an employee green team**
- **Staff training for reducing red bag waste**
- **Tracking monthly reduction of medical waste**

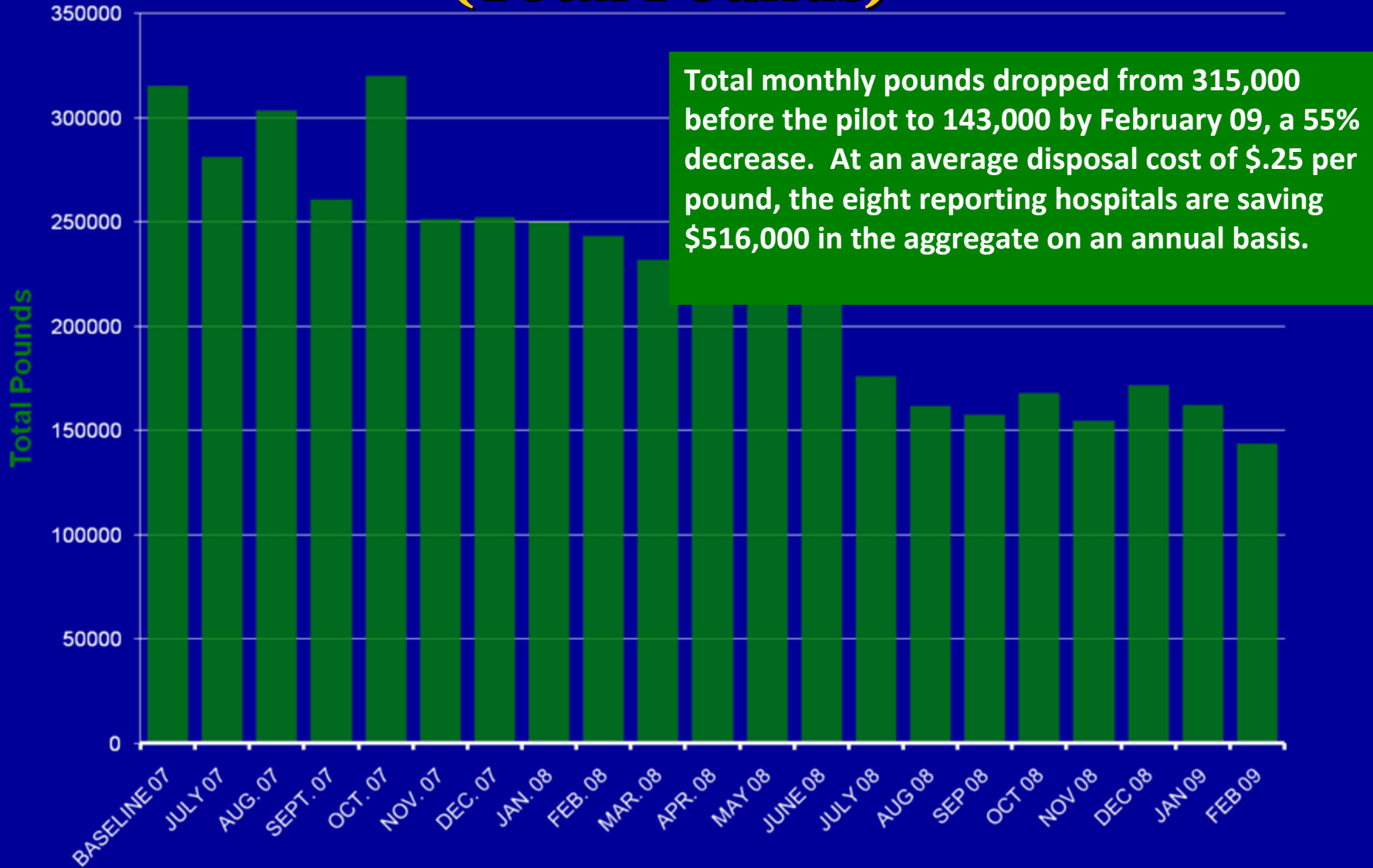
Waste Reduction Workgroup

Participating Members:

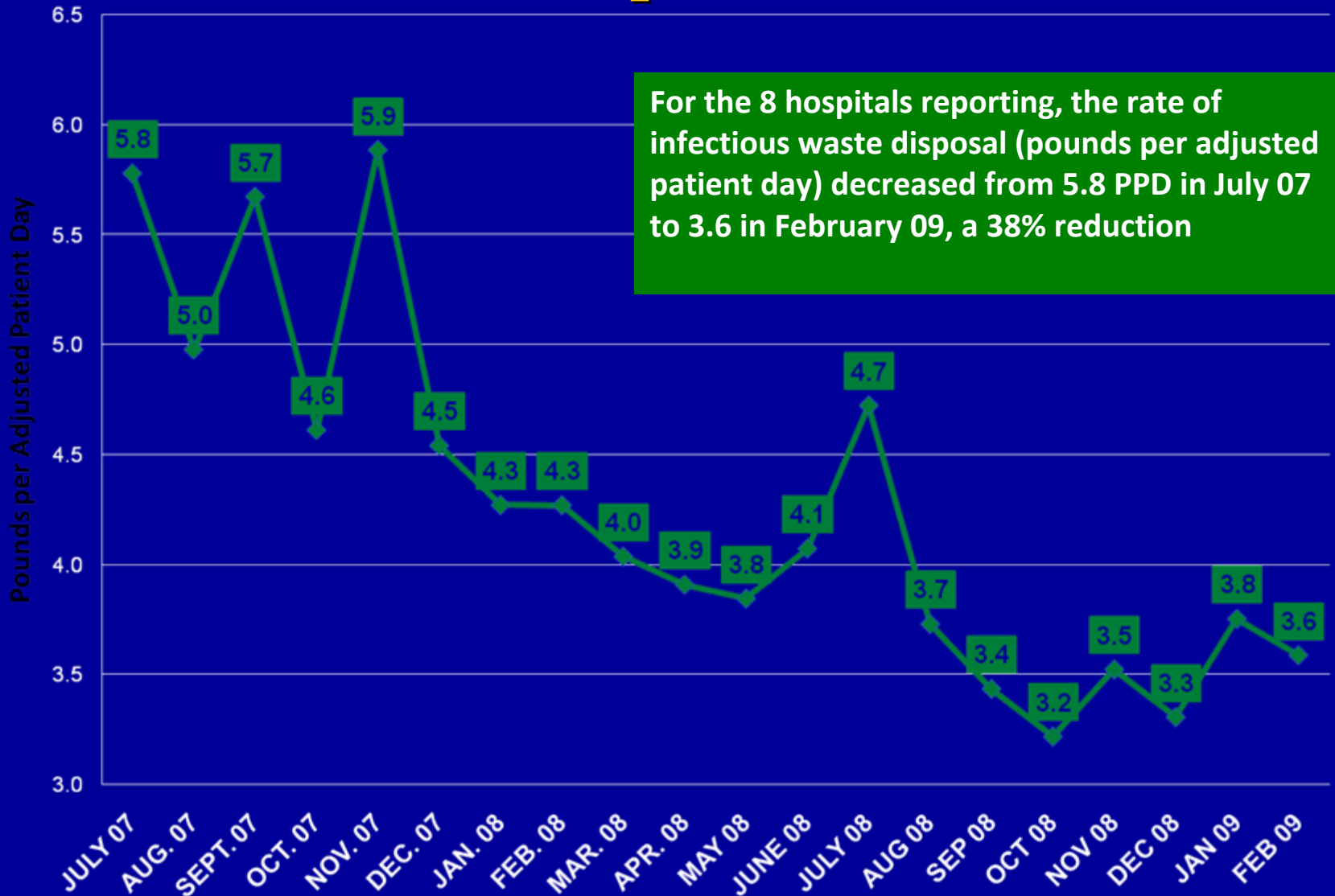
- ***CANCER CENTERS OF AMERICA***
- ***CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA***
- ***LOWER BUCKS HOSPITAL***
- ***ST. MARY HOSPITAL***
- ***DOYLESTOWN HOSPITAL***
- ***TJU METHODIST HOSPITAL***
- ***MONTGOMERY HOSPITAL***
- ***PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL***



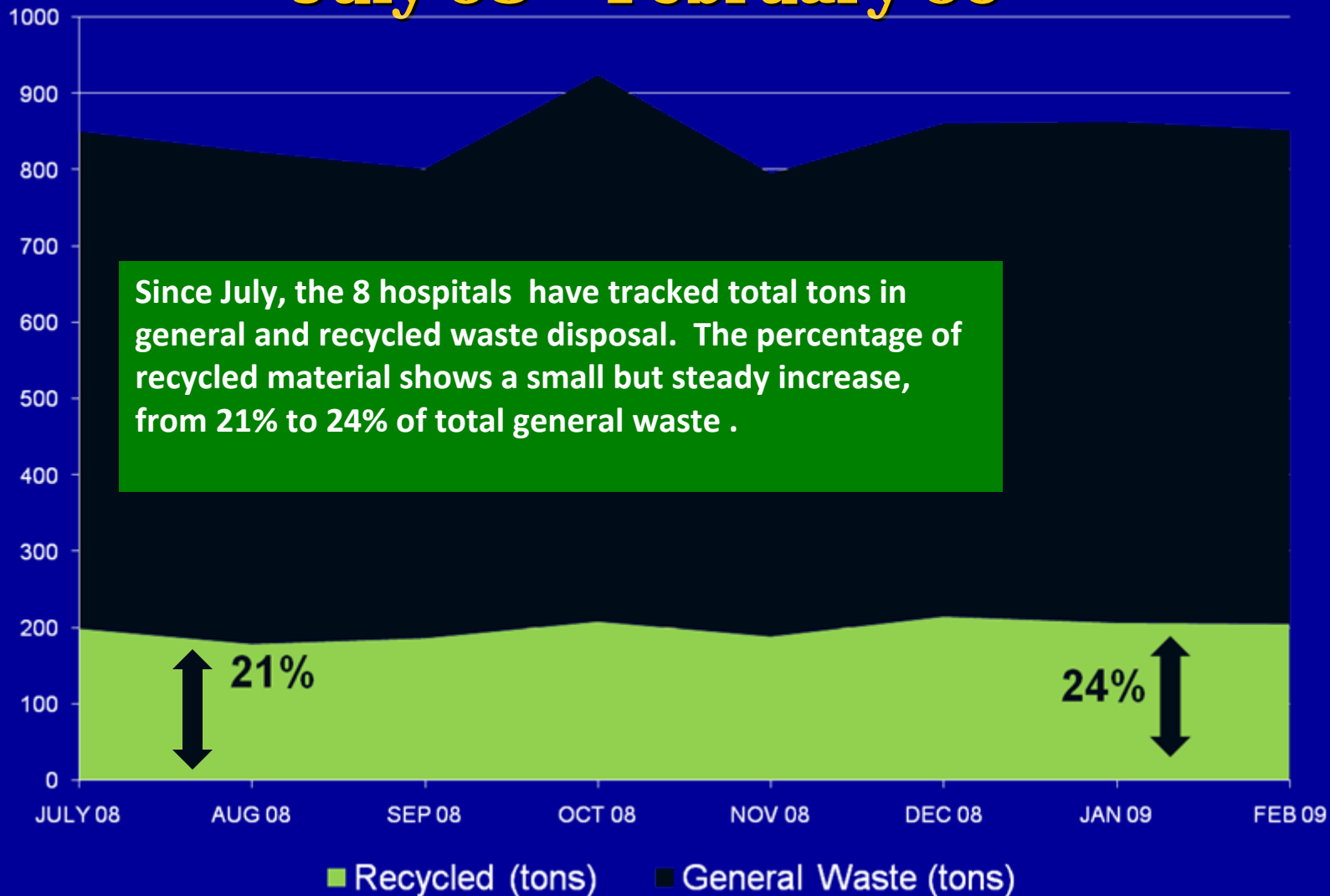
Trend in Infectious Waste Volume (Total Pounds)



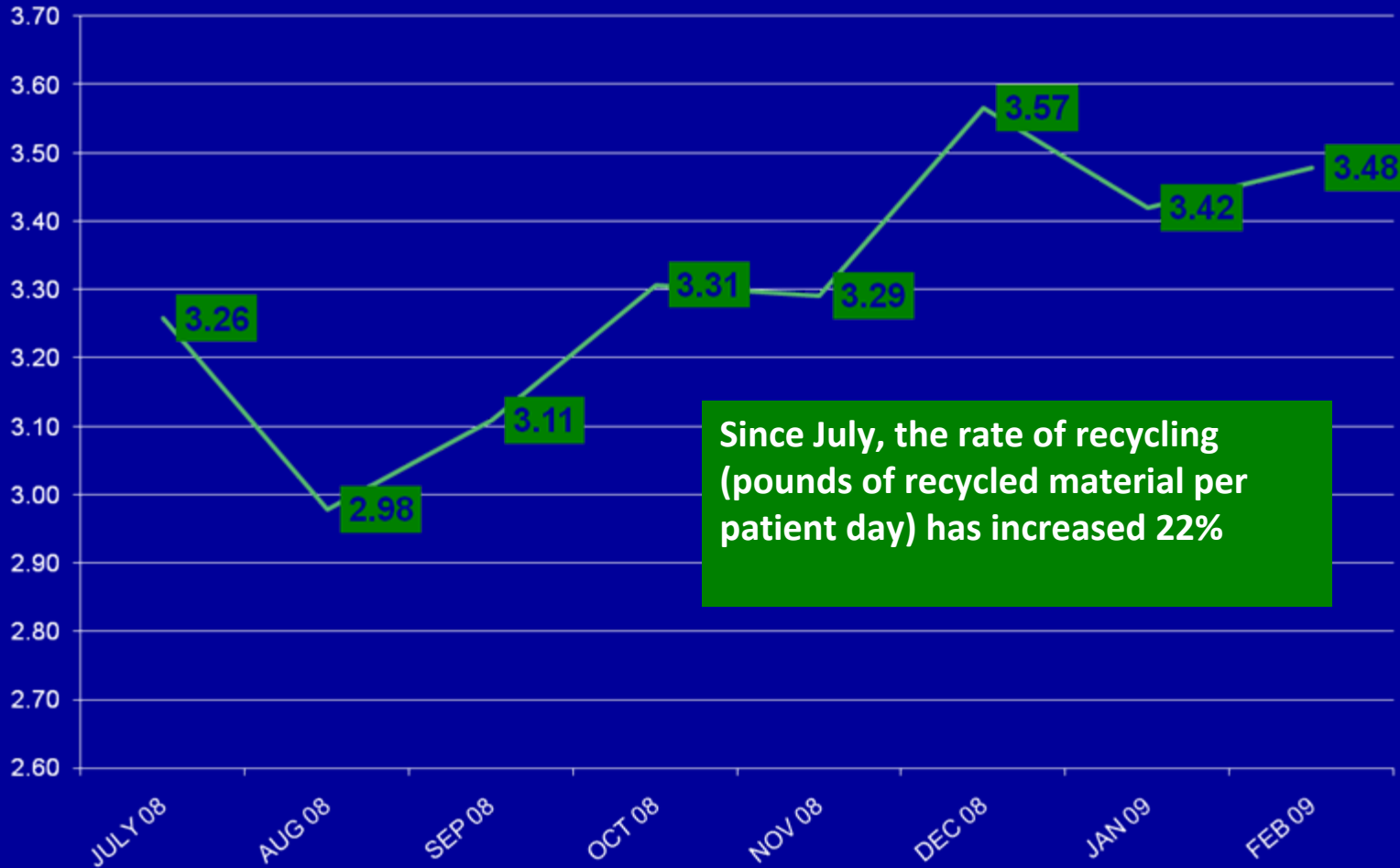
Trend in Infectious Waste Volume (Pounds per APD)



Volume of Recycling July 08 – February 09



Trend in Recycling July 08 – February 09



Toxins Reduction

- **Aim was to significantly reduce or eliminate EPA priority chemicals from healthcare.**
- **Included heavy metals and compounds used in pesticides.**
- **Did not get addressed.**

Workgroup Restructured

Rx Management

- **Key members brought their need to address pharmaceuticals.**
- **“Toxic Pharmaceuticals”**
- **Research of innovative vendor approaches to collecting & disposing of toxic waste**
- **Consideration of regional adoption of automated pharmacy waste collection system employing bar code technology**

Workgroup Progress

Green Purchasing

- **Dialogue with major vendors and group purchasing organizations on improving products & packaging**
- **Sustainable Supply - Chain Scorecard**
- **Development of suggested “green” language for vendor proposals**
- **Collaborative meeting with recycling vendors**

Workgroup Progress

Green Buildings

- **Tour and lessons learned from green facilities: Mercy Suburban Hospital, DEP offices**
- **Understanding LEED certification and construction requirements**

WHEN's Role

- **Coordinate Four all-day Workshops (open to all healthcare facilities)**
 - **Waste Minimization, Redbag Reduction & Recycling**
 - **Priority Chemicals & Toxins Reduction: What Every Hospital Needs to Know**
 - **Green Building for Healthcare - High Efficiency & Sustainability of Hospital Design, Construction & Operations**
 - **Sustainable Healthcare: Forging a Healthier Future**
- **Prepare Case Studies**
- **Offer Resources & Guidance on key issues**
- **Provide national perspectives**



HCIF's Role

Health Care Improvement Foundation

- **Invite hospitals via CEOs to join**
- **Convened the four workgroups**
- **Completed baseline survey**
- **Developing Best Practices manual**



PA DEP's Role

- **Convened all parties and partnered with ASHES & DVGBC**
- **Obtained EPA grant and issued contracts to WHEN & HCIF**
- **Provided guidance on key regs.**

Partnership Successes

- **Hospitals sharing resources and tools with each other.**
- **Stimulating enthusiasm for the work.**
- **Minimizing isolation by creating support network.**
- **Introducing other issue areas at workshops - climate change, HC energy exchange, sustainable food, priority chemicals, integrated pest management.**

Partnership Challenges

- **Changing Practices**
- **Communications**
- **Staff changes**
- **Lack of branding**
- **Switch of Intent: (away from addressing EPA's priority chemicals to pharmaceuticals)**
- **Contracts and Grants restrict**

What's Next?

- **Continued workgroup progress**
 - **Waste workgroup wants to continue meeting**
- **Spread and sustain**
 - **Identify additional funding**
- **Continue to raise the bar for those hospitals that are engaged**
- **Bring other hospitals to the table**

Lessons Learned

- **Partnerships take a lot of work & trust**
- **People get recycled**
- **Plans don't always work out**
- **Patience & perseverance required**
- **Protect & reject**

Opportunities

- **Identify biggest health, environmental & economic impacts**
 - **Toxics, Food, Energy, Buildings**
- **Provide guidelines for Green Teams**
 - **Selective & Effective**
 - **Define Champions & Leaders**
 - **Align with Management's Goals**
 - **Democracy vs. Dictatorship**
- **Partnership Agreement vs. Contract**
- **Create region-wide **Green Belt****

Thanks

- **Virginia Thompson, US EPA**
- **Heather Cowley, PA DEP**
- **Kate Flynn, HCIF**
- **ASHES of Greater Philadelphia**
- **DVGBC Healthcare Circle**
- **Hospital Leaders**

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