



Franklin Square
Hospital Center

Centered on You
MedStar Health

Waste Reduction and Recycling

Be Square Be Green Program Franklin Square Hospital Center



About the Be Square, Be Green Program

In addition to the new patient care tower, Franklin Square's expansion projects included the construction of a new waste management building that opened in August 2008. The new building and the **"Be Square, Be Green" program** allowed us to separate non-infectious and infectious waste streams and implement an on-site recycling program at Franklin Square.

Since its launch:

- More than 180 recycling collection containers have been deployed throughout the hospital for bottles, cans and paper recycling.
- The solar powered recycle compactor processed more than 48,000 pounds of recyclable's in it's first month alone.
- In total, staff participation has allowed the hospital to recycle more than 97,000 pounds of waste and reduce its infectious waste by more than 50,000 pounds during the first three months of the program.



Awards

In June 2009, we received a **2009 Practice Greenhealth Partner Recognition Award** in acknowledgement of the hospital's commitment to environmental excellence and our progress in the areas of waste reduction and pollution prevention.

And in November 2009, we received the **EPA's Trailblazer Award** for developing holistic sustainable policies that will be adopted throughout the MedStar Health system.



Waste Reduction

As a result of our **"Be Square, Be Green"** waste separation and reduction program, we have reduced our infectious waste by 95,275 pounds per month on average from the previous year. We have also increased our commingled recyclables to an average of around 19,000 pounds each month. These changes have drastically changed the profile of our waste stream. Whereas our old waste stream was 38% infectious materials, 55% non-infectious materials, and 7% recyclables in the last quarter of FY 08, our waste stream in the same period of FY 09 was just 20% infectious materials, 65% non-infectious materials, and 15% recyclables. The recycling percentage includes over 700 pounds of batteries.



Disposable to Reusable

Franklin Square switched from disposable products to reusable items and those with longer life spans. Environmental Services switched from string mops to microfiber mops which has reduced water and chemical use by approximately 90% by decreasing the need to refill mop buckets due to infection control standards. Now, Environmental Services employees can clean 20 rooms using the same amount of resources that were previously required for just 3 rooms (according to CDC standards). The new mops can also withstand up to 500 laundry cycles, whereas the old product lasted just 70 cycles.



Food and Nutrition

Food and Nutrition is also taking steps to limit the amount of Styrofoam and other packaging used for food service and increase recyclable or compostable take-out packaging. Franklin Square has agreed to subsidize the \$9,000 annual surcharge on these environmentally superior products out of pocket.



Reusable Sharps and Pharmaceutical Waste

Reusable sharps: Our hospital has switched from disposable to reusable sharps containers, which eliminates 43,000 pounds of plastic from entering our waste stream annually.

Franklin Square is one of the only hospitals in the region to have an EMS plan.

Pharmaceutical waste reduction: RCRA separation plan- we drafted the first plan in MedStar and have shared it with the other hospitals in the MedStar system.



Lessons Learned

Two lessons we continue to revisit are that sustainability is a collaborative process, and that it is a marathon, not a sprint! Whatever challenges or setbacks we may face, it's important that we get buy-in and support from participants all across our organization and our programs only work if *everyone* does their share.



Contact Information

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Taking the LEED

be square be green

Since August 2006, Franklin Square:

- Opened a new waste management building.
- Installed the "Be Square, Be Green" program that allowed us to separate infectious, non-infectious and commingled recyclables.
- Implemented an on-site recycling program.
- Reduced staff members' carbon footprint of infectious, non-infectious and recyclable waste.
- Installed a solar powered recycle compactor.

Taking the LEED

In developing our new seven story Patient Care Tower and Emergency Department, we challenged our designers and contractors to make every effort to use sustainable building products and to design green buildings and The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. Some of these efforts include:

- Flooring, wall coverings, adhesives and paints were selected to improve indoor air quality and reduce volatile organic compounds emissions to ensure health of building occupants.
- We committed to the building green environmental seal of approval.
- Mechanical systems, waterfalls, premium finishes and all other components used in the project are reusable.
- Lowed the energy, carbon, and toxic loads and other we can throughout the project.
- We light an LED Energy Star qualified devices.
- The building is designed to maximize the opportunity for clean and natural daylight in classrooms and treatment areas.
- Site improvements include natural habitats and a walking trail for the public.
- The multi-story garden provides a healing environment with a connection to the natural world.
- Radio stations will be used for broadcasting telecasts broadcast for medical staff meetings.



Franklin Square Hospital Center was a 2008 recipient of the Practice Greenhealth Partner Recognition Award and the Environmental Protection Agency Trailblazer Award. These awards are an acknowledgment of the hospital's commitment to environmental excellence and our progress in the areas of waste reduction and pollution prevention.

Learn more at www.franklinsquare.org/beinggreenprogram

Franklin Square is eager to green the "Be Square, Be Green" program and expand its efforts to limit pollution and further advance employee, community and environmental health.

Green Team

