

June - August 2010

MichiganGreen

HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE

Hospitals using a sustainability **lens**



Two old axioms state “you are what you measure” and “what gets measured gets managed.” Michigan hospitals are beginning to understand the importance of sustainability metrics tracking.

In today's healthcare environment, Joint Commission and Medicare benchmark data is available for accreditation and patient population, respectively. However, most hospitals do not measure sustainability. It is, therefore, impossible to benchmark like facilities within an organization, much less within the healthcare industry. “Sustainability Metrics are tools that measure the benefits achieved through the implementation of sustainability,” states the Center for Sustainability at Aquinas College. Sustainability Metrics Tracking can tell you *what you should do* and as a result you will be measuring your successes.

How to Accomplish Great places for hospitals to start with are energy, water and waste. Let's assume that a hospital pays their electricity, natural gas, water and waste bills just like we do at our homes... they simply write the check. There is little or no review done on the bill, therefore, hospitals are putting their faith and trust in the utility vendor to report and invoice correctly.

Now, if a hospital is regularly reviewing the utility bills, that is a good first step, but as any energy or environmental manager will tell you, there is a

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Help us fill these seats!

Registration is now open for the 2010 Annual Michigan Green Health Care Conference. Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids, Michigan will host this year's conference.

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Guest speakers offer best management principles.

Guest speakers attend the MGHC Committee meetings to educate members about the current best practices or transitional steps to reduce environmental impacts of various hospital procedures.



MGHC visits Michigan apple packaging and storage facility.

As the Michigan Apple Campaign began, committee members had the opportunity to visit Ridgeking Apple Packing & Storage in Belding, MI to understand how apples move from orchards to hospitals. This pilot campaign was thought to foreshadow the success of future procurement campaigns. A short report of the findings will be shared later this year.

A portal to sustainability initiative assistance

The Michigan Green Health Care Committee (MGHC) will soon be entering its third year since its reincarnation in 2008. The committee's mission states "[we] recognize the interconnection between health and the environment. We support and encourage sustainability initiatives that improve human and environmental health, protect the unique resources of the state and strengthen Michigan's health care sector."

The committee's meetings have a structured format but offer a chance to network and get to know participants with the same interests. Many meetings begin with a speaker to offer committee members a chance to expand their knowledge in a particular area of interest. Ongoing education has become very important to this field that continuously has so many new strategies. The [MGHC quarterly newsletter](#) is also produced to share information about new and existing hospital initiatives, webinars and tools while also providing a place to give updates on the MGHC subcommittees the Pharmaceutical Waste and Michigan Healthy Food Work Group. Finally, the committee plans an annual conference – the 3rd [Michigan Green Health Care Committee Conference](#) will be taking place October 22nd thanks to the Spectrum Health System offering to host the event in Grand Rapids.

The committee also provides guidance to hospitals focused on innovative pilot programs. Hospital committee participants have the opportunity to pilot initiatives, tools and/or campaigns in order to share models (both successful a failed learning experience) with the rest of the Michigan health care community. Feedback from the pilot hospitals offers an opportunity to refine the program, create an economical model and extend the results to other hospitals. Currently, the committee is focus on three areas, two of which became the subcommittees to carry out the work, pharmaceutical waste, healthy food, and energy conservation and renewable technologies.

The Pharmaceutical Waste Advisory Committee has been formed in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources & Environment (DNRE). They currently meet monthly to create guidance documents to ensure hospitals are in compliance with regulations. Once those are finalized, a Pharmacy Waste Stream Work Shop will be held. The Michigan Healthy Food Work Group began by exploring a purchasing campaign to understand how the procurement of local, organic foods supports a sustainable food system whereby improving public and environmental health. This campaign became known as the Michigan Apples in Michigan Hospitals Campaign – hospitals were invited to support Michigan's economy by purchasing Michigan apples. As the final results of this 7-month campaign are being documented, the committee has begun to brainstorm other products to focus on while starting a collection of seasonal recipes that feature Michigan produce and storage tips. The database is [online](#) and open to the public.

For more information, contact Paige Hathaway (pahathaway@mha.org) at the MHA.



Free webinar series Food Systems, Health & Agriculture Policy

Hosted by: American Medical Association, Kaiser Permanente Institute for Health Policy and Health Care Without Harm

September - December, CME will be offered

For more information or to register for this webinar series, please visit:

http://www.noharm.org/us_ca_nada/events/webinars/

Health care clinicians play a vital role in educating their patients, community and institutions. They are recognized as trusted experts on health-related issues, not only in the clinic, but in society as well. This webinar series has been developed as a key education and policy portal for the clinical community, in support of the following goals:

- To educate the health care community & the public about the importance of healthy & ecologically sustainable food systems.
- To support practices & policies in medical schools, hospitals, and other health care facilities that support and model a healthy and ecologically sustainable food system, which provides food and beverages of naturally high nutritional quality.
- To encourage the development of healthier food system through the local, regional, & federal policy interventions.
- To provide patient & community oriented tools on food systems, health & nutrition.

Each one-hour webinar will take place at 5:00 PM EST featuring national experts working at the intersection of the medical, public health and agriculture issues. Each presentation will provide an overview of the current science, examples of medical organizations advancing policy and practice and relevant policy opportunities for health professionals.

- **September 9th:** Healthy Food in Health Care - The Role for Healthcare in Food & Agriculture Policy
- **October 7th:** Antibiotic Overuse: Why Healthcare Should Care about Agriculture Use
- **November 4th:** Organic Foods, Pesticides and Sustainable Food Production
- **December 9th:** Obesity & Food Environments

MI Healthy Food Work Group update

Committee members joined a call to hear guest speaker Diane Imrie, Director of Nutrition Services at Fletcher Allen Health Care, discuss how to utilize fresh, local, seasonal products. [Diane's presentation](#) and leadership doesn't stop at using local ingredients. Fletcher Allen was one of the first hospitals to sign HCWH's Healthy Food Pledge, and Diane regularly communicates to GPOs and distributors asking them to supply more local, sustainably-produced foods. She has also voiced her opposition to antibiotic use in agriculture, through her support of PAMTA - the crucial federal legislation prohibiting the use of critical human antibiotics in the feed and water of animals that are not sick.

You can also listen to Diane and Fletcher Allen's executive chef, Richard, explain why their hospital is working to ensure that all chicken they serve does not contain antibiotic or arsenic compounds through a

short video [on Healthy Food Action's](#) website. The site is a place where health professionals can have their voice heard about food and farm policy.

The committee also continues to collect seasonal recipes and storage tips specific to Michigan. Use this [template](#) to

submit a recipe today! Additionally, since Michigan is the 2nd most agriculturally diverse state in the nation and local foods can be harvested and served at the peak of freshness and nutritional value, the committee is working to share best practices of how to source the freshest foods directly from local farmers.



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lot of data that must be analyzed. Most energy and water bills are invoiced on a monthly basis, but various waste streams (Solid Waste, Hazardous, Regulated Medical, Recycling) are invoiced very differently. Therefore, it is critical to analyze data accurately and consistently or your results won't be useful, simply a mass of collected data. Better performance may result from maintenance of complex spreadsheets; however, systems are now utilizing advanced tools such as Key Green Solution's web-based tools.

Collecting data on energy, water and waste is just as important as developing internal measurements based on facility's performance by comparing utilization of energy by square footage, patient days, discharges, licensed beds, available beds, and FTE's.

Also, there are many tangible and intangible cost savings opportunities when vendor data and metric data are correctly measured and managed. One such example is seen at Spectrum Health; this health system has been measuring and managing sustainability metric data and has experienced many savings. Another hospital identified a \$600,000 pricing error due to an erroneous electric meter setting, while a different hospital has been able to conduct regular reviews of the facility's contracted utility rate. Unique to the Key Green Solutions software, all the hospitals and off-site facilities take advantage of their current vendors who offer electronic invoicing (such as Consumer's Energy and Stericycle). The electronic invoice is automatically loaded into the software when the

invoice is ready from the vendor.

Sharing the Information

One of the biggest challenges hospitals face is encouraging a bottom up or "grass roots" approach to a system-wide campaign around sustainability. In many cases those leading the effort do not have effective communication tools.

Many successful facilities utilize dashboards and sustainability scorecards to share information throughout their organization. Additionally, if the scorecards are integrated with a project management tracking system, real time reporting is established and best practices can be shared. Spectrum Health has chose to use Key Green Solutions software, which contains dashboards, scorecards, project management

increase. Therefore, setting measurable and attainable sustainability goals is essential. When vendor data and metric data tracking is a priority, a hospital can effectively set the goals around the evaluation of energy, GHG emissions, solid waste and water use, to name a few. At the next level, some hospitals are evaluating each indicator on a relative basis, like assessing the GHG emissions per unit of product, or water used in a specific process. This level of granularity is critical to understand where areas of opportunity may be and measuring the performance of specific initiatives. Leading hospitals are using this type of thinking to understand where the greatest opportunities and potential risks exist in their operations.



tools and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions calculation so all of their data is collected and managed in one database. Scorecards from the software are valuable to instantly demonstrate how a facility, division or enterprise is performing.

Goal Setting It is almost inevitable that expectations and requirements for disclosure around sustainability for hospitals will

In today's health care industry, success depends on having the correct set of metrics in place to measure progress in meeting short and long-term objectives. Measuring progress with a sustainability lens is just one of the new responsibilities that leading hospitals have begun to embrace.

To learn about Key Green Solutions, visit www.keygreensolutions.com or call 877-777-0862. Key Green Solutions is based in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Steps to Join



Is this the right committee for you?

We are looking for passionate individuals who are committed to reducing the health care industry's ecological footprint.

Visit our web page.

www.migreenhealthcarecommittee.org. You will find current projects, past minutes, additional resources and may sign up for the Michigan Green Information Exchange.

Drop in on a meeting.

Currently, we meet the first Tuesday of every month in Lansing. Come network with members and experience a meeting.

Join us.

E-mail your name and affiliation information to Paige Hathaway via phathaway@mha.org at the Michigan Health & Hospital Association.



Call for hospitals to join the

Michigan HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE

Registration now open: 2010 Annual Conference

The Michigan Green Healthcare Committee is proud to plan and sponsor the [2010 Michigan Green Health Care Conference](#) being held on Friday, October 22 at [Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital](#). This conference is intended for individuals that work in the health care field. Specifically, it is for those working with or within engineering, environmental services and quality departments. This conference is designed to teach individuals tactics to reduce their ecological footprint. The conference includes a tour of Spectrum Health's LEED Certified Lemmon-Holton Cancer Pavilion and continuous sustainability initiatives at Butterworth Hospital. The conference will also include updates from the committee's Pharmaceutical Waste and Michigan Healthy Food subcommittees.

You may register online at:

<http://www.deq.state.mi.us/eforms/greenhealthcareregistration.html>. You may contact Mary Goodhall (goodhallm@michigan.gov) at the DNRE or Paige Hathaway (phathaway@mha.org) at the MHA with any questions.

Topics this year include:

Building Your Green Team • Recycling: What's In It for You? • EPA's Waste Wise Program • Alternative Energy Ideas: Geothermal • Smart Storm Water Design • All You Need to Know About the Green Guide for Health Care

Presenting Sponsors



There is also a poster display option! Continuing on the success of the 2009 Conference poster session

Demonstrations of green practices and projects will be put on display through a poster session. We will not be accepting vendor displays. Poster displays should be no larger than 3 ft. x 2 ft. Gator Foam (or material like it) is recommended because displays will be showcased on an easel. Limited space is available so requests for space will be granted on a first come, first serve basis.



Attendees will be encouraged to ask questions of the authors during lunch. Topics in 2009 ranged from recycling programs to green building strategies to healthy food procurement.