CREATING A GREEN TEAM: One Hospital’s Approach

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Green Team

- T. C. F. K. A. the Haz Mat Committee
- Representation from several departments - meets quarterly - subcommittee of EOC
- Review of Hazardous Materials
- Future initiatives
  - Plastics recycling
  - Green cleaning
  - Green building
Agenda

• Meetings are scheduled at least quarterly or as needed
• Review of recycling rates- tracking percentages
  – Solid waste
  – Medical waste
  – Recycled materials (mixed paper, bottles and cans, etc…)
  – Universal waste (batteries, ballasts, electronics, bulbs)
  – RCRA waste (Pharmaceuticals)
  – Grease
• Hazardous materials review
  – Chemical monitoring
• Environmental Initiatives, waste minimization
CCMC Green Team

- EMT representative
- Environmental, Health & Safety Officer - Chair
- Nursing - frontline, generators of waste
- Facilities - building, electrical
- EVS - cleaning, waste management, recycling
- Pharmacy - RCRA drugs
- Other interested parties
• Required by law.
• Going above and beyond compliance.
• CCMC’s efforts have been recognized nationally.
  – 2007 Partners for Change Award
• CCMC strives to be a national leader in environmental management.
• A number of hospitals are being recognized.
Hospitals for a Healthy Environment

• H2E = Hospitals for a Healthy Environment.

• Joint project between (MOU)
  – USEPA
  – American Hospital Association
  – American Nursing Association
  – Healthcare Without Harm
CCMC Recycling Program

- Universal waste
- Paper
- Bottles and Cans
- Specialized Medical Equipment
CCMC Recycling

• Universal waste
  – Batteries- 988 lbs.
  – Bulbs- 1382 lbs.
  – Electronics- 7026 lbs.

• Cooking Grease- 3325 lbs.

• Total Recycling rate of 24%
CCMC Recycling

- **Paper**
  - Cardboard- 24000 lbs.
  - Confidential- 153,350 lbs.
  - Mixed paper- New in 2007
Cost Benefits

• Regular recycling
  – Cardboard dumpster
  – Confidential paper
  – 14% overall recycling rate

• Mixed paper- one dumpster
  – 36 tons / year recycled
  – Savings of $3200 / year
  – 22% overall recycling rate
Other Benefits

• More cardboard is getting recycled
• Before one FTE was dedicated to folding boxes
• Construction dumpster is filled and emptied less often- 2-day cycle to 10-day cycle
CCMC Recycling

• Specialized medical equipment
  – 2006 disposed of 20 tons of medical equipment:
    • C-Arms
    • Multiple X-Ray viewers
    • Stretchers
    • IV Poles
    • Ultrasound machines
    • X-Ray developing equipment
Cost Benefits

- Regular Disposal in Dumpster
  - Labor
  - Transit
  - Disposal
  - Total > $8500

- Recycled through IRN
  - Labor included
  - Transit arranged
  - Many materials go to the greater good
  - Total = $7679
The Greater Good

- Our materials helped out several programs that place used equipment in hospitals and clinics in impoverished areas
  - The majority of items went to a clinic/hospital program in Haiti
Energy Savings

- Light sensors
- Saves 980kW per year
- Cost savings of $84,000 annually
- Payback is 1.3 years
- Project completed with grant from CL&P and loan from CHA
CT H2E- CHER

- State (DEP) recognition
- National recognition
- Compliance with regulations
- Environmental leadership