

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

ORG-ENM-001

Scope

This policy applies to all employees at all RHC sites.

Purpose

This policy provides guidance for the continual improvement of RHC's environmental performance and quality of patient care by optimizing energy and water use, reducing waste, preventing pollution and promoting the health of the environment.

Policy

We will comply with all applicable legislation, regulations and other requirements that apply to the hospital's environmental activities, and wherever feasible, we will exceed requirements as legislated.

Energy and Water Conservation

We will continually evaluate our energy and water use in existing buildings and promote the efficient use of energy and water resources by identifying opportunities to invest in energy-saving technology and management.

We will incorporate the principles of energy efficiency and sustainability in all capital projects, renovation projects, operations and maintenance within budgetary constraints and programmatic requirements.

Pollution Prevention

We will contribute to the conservation of natural resources and minimize the release of pollutants through environmentally sound decisions and processes.

We will continually evaluate our chemical use and emissions and promote optimal indoor air quality by identifying opportunities to minimize pollution and toxins.

Waste Reduction

We will dispose of all waste responsibly in order to protect the health and safety of our employees, the community, and the environment.

We will continually evaluate our waste management practices in order to further minimize waste.

We will reduce waste through re-use and recycling and by purchasing recycled, recyclable or re-furnished products and materials where these alternatives are available, economical and suitable.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

We will incorporate the principles of environmentally preferable purchasing in the procurement of products and services within budgetary constraints and programmatic requirements.

We will continually evaluate our purchasing practices in order to minimize adverse environmental impacts.

Transportation

We will continually evaluate our transportation practices and promote sustainable transportation alternatives for staff, patients, volunteers and physicians.

Communication

We will communicate our environmental sustainability policy and environmental requirements to our contractors and suppliers to influence them, as much as possible, to improve their environmental performance.

We will ensure that staff, patients, volunteers and physicians are aware of the environmental policies, procedures and issues with the hospital by providing the necessary training and communication programs in order to instill an organizational culture committed to the protection of the environment.

We will communicate our environmental performance and progress to interested internal and external stakeholders.

Review and Evaluation

We will monitor our progress against program goals, and review training, procedures and resources, in order to continually improve our environmental performance, set forth in this policy.

We will conduct a bi-annual evaluation of the objectives, scope, performance and effectiveness of all elements of the policy and make appropriate changes to continually improve the system in light of current and future hospital programs and operations.

Responsibility

The Board of Directors, Senior Management, Staff, Physicians, Students and Volunteers of Riverside Health Care recognize and accept the responsibility to be stewards in the protection of the environment. RHC is committed to providing quality health care in a manner that ensures a safe and healthy workplace and minimizes the potential impact on the environment.