



THE HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT FOUNDATION  
*Building Partnerships For Better Health Care*



## **DOYLESTOWN HOSPITAL**

### **Green Team... Live Healthy, Live Green!**

Doylestown Hospital developed The Green Team as a direct result of its participation in the Green Hospital Pilot Project, which provided a window into how other health care organizations had successfully implemented and integrated green programs into their respective hospital cultures.

Doylestown Hospital's Green Team was started in June 2008 and is composed of a self-directed group of environmentally conscious individuals who collectively tackle the everyday challenges of greening today's hospital environment. Participation is voluntary, and membership includes hospital volunteers, office assistants, housekeepers, food service workers, educators, radiology technicians, nurses, and pharmacists. Several physicians and an administrator also participate. The Director of Integrated Support Services sponsors the Green Team, which is led by those individuals who chair special interest work teams.

There are no rules, regulations. The only parameter is that they must support the mission of the hospital and uphold the values of the organization. As goals change, focus may change and teams may be added. Teams will also be ended as they accomplish their goals. Following is a synopsis of several of the teams:

- **Recycling Group**

The main focus of this group is to improve the communication and utilization of the recycling program. It is chaired by a supervisor from the Environmental Services Department.

The Recycling Group took on the task of transitioning from a standard sort recycling program to a single-stream recycling program. Its purpose and focus were to promote the greening of Doylestown Hospital. New green containers were acquired both through vendor donation and purchase. Containers were only emptied when they were full and put into one collection bin, one transport container, and one compactor. Implementing this program saved labor hours.

Doylestown Hospital's recycling numbers increased from 5% to a standard 25% of total waste within a six-week period. Associates participated in the process. Some offices went garbage-free, with only recycling containers used. Not only did paper and cardboard volumes increase, but battery and light bulb recycling rates increased. The team receives several inquiries per week regarding what can and cannot be recycled, repurposed or reduced. This program has truly engaged the workforce throughout the organization.

▪ **Green Halloween**

This group's main focus was to publicize the recycling program, educate the associates, improve involvement in greening operations, and celebrate the great work that the organization was doing.

On Halloween, the following green initiatives were on display:

- Several vendors provided green product samples;
- Food Service highlighted sustainable food service and organics;
- A bio-diesel company gave away custom soap bars made from waste fryer oil;
- An exhibit of sustainable housekeeping practices featured microfiber cloths, chemical free stripping, low VOE floor finishes and other green practices that the hospital utilizes;
- A full display of waste segregation along with appropriate collection containers;
- A sign-up for Adopt-a-Highway;
- A video that explains single-stream recycling and the route traveled once it leaves the hospital.

During the two-hour Fair, attendees were given a bag to trick-or-treat all of the areas. Various prizes, give-aways, and food were provided to participants. The following interactive areas were very popular:

1. A Can and Bottle recycling vending machine provided by Waste Management. Putting a recyclable can or bottle into the machine resulted in a prize – popular with both children and adults.
2. The pledge “Ten Ways to Reduce Your Environmental Impact”. Those who signed the pledge received a free reusable stadium cup with the hospital's *Live Healthy, Live Green* logo imprinted on it.
3. Sale of tote bags, t-shirts and reusable beverage cups. All proceeds on the sale of these items benefited the hospital arboretum.

Although the Fair competed with the Phillies World Series parade, it did receive media coverage and was attended by 600 people.

▪ **Adopt-a-Highway**

The Adopt-a-Highway team was formed to provide community support for sustainability. The team adopted a stretch of highway and will participate in four clean-ups per year. The Department of Transportation has posted signs, and the first clean-up occurred close to Earth Day.

The Doylestown Hospital Green Team created a web page, developed a logo, and has begun focusing on a number of other initiatives to promote the greening of Doylestown Hospital, always with the purpose of reducing, reusing and recycling.

