



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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St. Francis Earns National Environmental Award

Energy Reduction, Recycling Achievements at St. Francis deemed “Best of Best” in Healthcare

GREENVILLE, SC – From reducing overall power consumption by more than 12%, saving 8.3 million gallons of water through more efficient clinical systems, to handing every employee a reusable mug to reduce Styrofoam, Bon Secours St. Francis Health System is in a significant culture change for optimal use of resources and a fulfilling a Mission commitment to be “Good Help for a better planet.”

This week, those achievements also led to national recognition.

Bon Secours St. Francis Health System was the only health system in the country to earn the prestigious 2011 **Environmental Leadership** Circle Award from Practice GreenHealth -- a national membership organization for healthcare facilities committed to environmentally responsible operations.

“We’re very serious about our stewardship for God’s creation. This path has led us to incredible achievements that promote the health of our patients, staff and our community,” said **Mark Nantz, St. Francis CEO**. “We are very proud that these programs are now being recognized as a model on a national scale.”

Award winners are chosen by the Practice Greenhealth award review team and must meet stringent criteria including mercury-free purchasing, recycling of at least 25 percent of their total waste stream, implementing recycling and pollution prevention programs and launching innovative employee and community programs to foster local sustainability.

Sister Rosemary Moynihan, SC, Bon Secours Health System’s director of ecology and global ministries stated, “Bon Secours is extremely proud of all of our Bon Secours facilities’ achievements in ecological sustainability. This year, we are especially proud and grateful to Bon Secours St. Francis Health System for the work that team has accomplished. They have clearly raised the bar for environmental excellence and are setting the standards for ecological stewardship.”

St. Francis’ ecological strategy is focused on four fronts: **reduce, recycle, replenish and reuse** with highlights including:

Reduce

- \$784,000 saved in energy costs over the past two years; based on Energy Star’s calculations this equals nearly \$16 million in revenue
- Through Energy Star’s water efficiency program St. Francis-eastside saved 8.3 million gallons of water by removing two medical vacuum systems

- Power reduction: \$20,000 annual saving through innovative power use, receiving designation from the American Society for Healthcare Engineering's (ASHE) Energy Efficiency Commitment (E2C) program; ASHE is a membership group of the American Hospital Association (AHA)
- Implemented a system-wide "Mercury-free" purchasing policy
- Biodegradable eco mugs given to employees and sold to visitors with free tea/coffee refills

Recycle

- Recycling of total waste improved by 28% by adding new items to recycling program
- 2.336 tons waste prevented in single-use device processing, a savings of \$134,000
- Guest Services employees wear suits made in part from recycled plastic bottle "fibers"—each suit contains the plastic of about 25 bottles

Replenish

- The on-site Worm Farm at the St. Francis Community Garden converts 599 lbs. of Food Services' trim waste into compost for the garden
- Proceeds from the sale of "Worm Tea" liquid fertilizer—a by-product of the worm composting—is invested into the Community Garden
- Farmers Markets offering fresh, South Carolina produce at each hospital

Reuse

- Internal Catering replaced foam and plastic with reusable tableware, reducing foam/plastic usage by 2000 cups, 3,000 plates and 1,000 each of knives, forks and spoons
- 3.96 tons waste prevented through a reusable sharps container program, a savings of \$10,000

As part of St. Francis effort to engage employees system-wide in understanding and adopting environmentally-conscious work/life styles, a music video called "Every Day is Earth Day" was produced using local talent as song-writers, singers and performers. Music video "artists" include all levels of the organization from CEO, COO, nurses, and guest services to food service staff.

The video is available on the St. Francis website, www.stfrancishealth.org, and on St. Francis' YouTube Channel www.youtube.com/user/bonSecoursStFrancis.

"All of our members are committed to improving health care's environmental performance, but there is an illustrious group of facilities setting the highest standards," said **Practice Greenhealth Executive Director Anna Gilmore Hall**. "They are the best of the best, the recipients of our top award. St. Francis has introduced extensive environmental strategies into health care and is committed to achieving further improvements."

Bon Secours St. Francis Health System, a member of Bon Secours Health System, Inc., is a private, not-for-profit, integrated healthcare delivery system. Under the sponsorship of Bon Secours Ministries, St. Francis has 319 beds and includes: St. Francis Hospital – downtown, St. Francis Hospital – eastside, St. Francis Millennium campus, the St. Francis Outpatient Center and the Upstate Surgery Center. Services include orthopedics, cardiac care, cancer treatment, rehabilitation, surgical services, women's health services, home care, hospice, community outreach and business health services. For more information, go to www.stfrancishealth.org.

About Practice Greenhealth

Practice Greenhealth is the nation's leading membership and networking organization for institutions in the healthcare community that have made a commitment to sustainable, eco-friendly practices. Members include hospitals, healthcare systems, businesses and other stakeholders engaged in the greening of

healthcare to improve the health of patients, staff and the environment. Practice Greenhealth is a source of environmental solutions for the health care sector.

For more information on Practice Greenhealth and a complete list of 2011 Award Honorees, visit www.practicegreenhealth.org.

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