SUSTAINABILITY

at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

>>> **2018-2019**

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

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The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center focused on eight sustainability goals for fiscal year 2019. These goals aligned with both The Ohio State University's overall vision for sustainability, as well as the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center's strategic plan goals:

- Reduce, reuse, recycle and segregate waste more effectively to become better environmental stewards
- Leverage purchasing power to generate demand for safer and healthier products
- Address the complexity of sustainability through a variety of learning formats, strategies and occasions
- Reduce energy consumption, increase energy efficiency and generate energy cost savings
- Reduce carbon impact due to travel by medical center employees
- Reduce potable water consumption by 5% per capita every five years
- Develop a data-driven framework to support an organizational commitment to sustainability
- Serve healthier foods to improve the health of patients, staff and communities

This report showcases not only the progress made toward achieving these eight sustainability goals, but also the innovative approaches deployed to reimagine the organization's business practices, policies and management in an effort to drastically reduce its environmental impact. Many individuals across all levels of the organization — staff, faculty and students — contributed to making these accomplishments possible.

The stories in this report are organized by the medical center's strategic plan goals: Healthy Communities, Research, Resource Stewardship, Talent and Culture, Education and Healthcare Delivery. Learn more about sustainability at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

Talent and Culture

650 STAFF PARTICIPATE IN GREEN TEAM'S TWO NEW SIGNATURE EARTH DAY EVENTS

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center's Green Team organized and launched two new signature events to engage staff in celebration of Earth Day 2019. At the Green Team's Earth Day Fair, volunteers hosted tables to share information about the medical center's sustainability goals and initiatives; Nutrition Services offered healthy dishes prepared using locally grown, sustainable plants; and a partner organization provided free, on-site bicycle tune-ups and repairs. This event drew 550 participants. The following Saturday, the Green Team hosted its inaugural Give Back event. More than 100 employees dropped off various items for recycling and reusing, including paper to be shredded and batteries, which totaled 900 pounds and 300 pounds, respectively. As of June 30, 2019, nearly 500 employees have joined the Green Team since its inception in early 2018.

MARKETING AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT PROMOTES SUSTAINABILITY

In fiscal year 2019, the Marketing and Strategic Communications Department at the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center created a new page on the medical center website and a Sustainability Accomplishments Report to showcase the organization's sustainability achievements. The Corporate Communications team promoted via various internal channels the Ackerman Recycling Education Initiative, the Green Team's Earth Day events, the Material Amnesty Days and the new Material Disposal Guidelines, helping to inform and educate employees about how they can dispose of items for reuse/recycling.

Research

GREENING THE OPERATING ROOM TASK FORCE COMPLETES INITIAL STUDY ON OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE TO ANESTHETIC GASES

In spring 2019, in collaboration with Ohio State's College of Engineering and the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center's Ambulatory Surgical Services, the Greening the Operating Room (OR) Task Force initiated a research project to study the occupational exposure of anesthetic gases within the OR, and to analyze the environmental impacts of the most common gases used. Senior chemical engineering students conducted a monthlong analysis of environmental and occupational exposure at one of the medical center's ambulatory surgical centers, focusing primarily on two volatile anesthetics, sevoflurane and desflurane. The study implemented an innovative methodology, which is not being used in ORs anywhere else in the nation, to measure these gases. The study concluded that desflurane in fact has a significantly higher environmental impact compared to sevoflurane. Two additional studies will be conducted in fall 2019.

Education

ACKERMAN GREEN CHAMPIONS ACHIEVE 46% REDUCTION IN RECYCLING CONTAMINATION RATE

The Ackerman Green Champions (AGC) is a site-specific sub-committee of Ohio State Wexner Medical Center's Green Team, which strives to build staff engagement in support of the medical center's sustainability goals. In fall 2018, the AGC launched its Ackerman Recycling Education Initiative with an email campaign and outreach events for staff working in the medical center's 660 Ackerman Road building. This initiative reduced the recycling contamination rate from 58.4% to 31.8% for the building's four bins located in the BistrOH! Café.

THE GREEN TEAM FURTHERS MEDICAL CENTER SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS WITH CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM

On May 23, 2019, the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center's Green Team hosted a lunch-and-learn forum on the current and future effects of climate change on the health of Ohio residents. The session featured Jason Cervenec from Ohio State's Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center, who shared the latest science with approximately 30 medical center staff participants. The presentation provided an opportunity for participants to exchange their personal strategies for reducing their impact on the environment.

SUSTAINABILITY GOALS PART OF NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATIONS

In partnership with the Fawcett Center, the medical center now hosts zero waste new employee orientation sessions every two weeks. The medical center's sustainability goals are introduced to new employees, among many other topics. Through bins with instructions on how to sort their waste from meals and snacks provided at the sessions, new employees get hands-on experience with diverting waste from landfills. The initiative launched on Oct. 15, 2018, and from that time through June 2019, the medical center hosted 18 orientation sessions to onboard 2,252 new employees. Five of these sessions met or exceeded the 90% diversion rate to qualify as zero waste events, and overall, the initiative achieved a diversion rate of 86% (697.1 pounds), composting 64% and recycling 22% of the overall waste.

Healthy Communities

NUTRITION SERVICES HOSTS FARMERS MARKETS TO SHOWCASE LOCAL, SUSTAINABLE, HEALTHY FOOD

In fall 2018, the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center's Nutrition Services Department partnered with Ohio State's Buckeye Wellness program and the Gabbe Health & Wellness Initiative to host two farmers markets, which drew more than 1,400 participants. Employees shopped for fresh local produce and sampled dishes prepared with healthy, sustainable ingredients. Additionally, Nutrition Services staff took The James Mobile Education Kitchen on the road to provide healthy food demonstrations at 42 events that reached more than 9,000 individuals throughout fiscal year 2019.

ROSS HEART HOSPITAL GARDEN: PRODUCING HEART-HEALTHY RESULTS

Work on the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center's Richard M. Ross Heart Hospital Garden began in 2014, in partnership with the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science and the Ross Food and Nutrition Signature Series. Designed to educate patients, caregivers and staff about the health benefits of eating a fruit- and vegetable-rich diet, medical center staff led 19 educational classes to 40 to 50 weekly participants in fiscal year 2019. Also within this timeframe, the garden produced fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs from its 37 beds, all of which were harvested and enjoyed by those who attended the classes to learn about preparing healthy meals, crop production and other related health topics.

Healthcare Delivery

GREENING THE OR TASK FORCE ACHIEVES 40% REDUCTION OF DESFLURANE GAS

In August 2018, Ohio State Wexner Medical Center formed the Greening the Operating Room (OR) Task Force to introduce new sustainable practices in the medical center's operating rooms, and to identify ways to scale up existing initiatives. One project under this task force is to lower the environmental impact of gases associated with anesthesia, with a special focus on reducing the use of desflurane, which has 10 times the global warming potential as sevoflurane. Between September 2018 and June 2019, the task force achieved a 40% reduction of desflurane at the Jameson Crane Sports Medicine Institute and a 14% reduction at the Eye and Ear Institute.

Resource Stewardship

MEDICAL CENTER SPENDS 95% THROUGH EPEAT PROGRAM

The Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) is the leading global ecolabel for the information technology sector. The EPEAT program provides independent verification of manufacturers' claims, and the EPEAT online registry lists sustainable products from a broader range of manufacturers than any comparable ecolabel. National governments, including the United States, and thousands of private and public institutional purchasers around the world use EPEAT as part of their sustainable procurement decisions. In fiscal year 2019, the medical center spent a combined $5,214,584.05 — 95% of the organization's overall spend — through its EPEAT program (including Dell, Open Systems and Telehealth).

SUPPLY CHAIN DEVELOPS SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT GUIDELINES, EXPANDS MEDICAL DEVICE REPROCESSING

In fiscal year 2019, Ohio State Wexner Medical Center developed new sustainable procurement guidelines to ensure environmentally friendly medical equipment and device purchases across the organization. From weight scales to MRI machines, the medical center also sold 2,390 pieces of used equipment and devices through a new vendor platform, resulting in $108,600 in revenue, 42,360 pounds diverted from landfills and several items donated to medical surplus relief organizations such as MedWish and MedShare, in just six months.
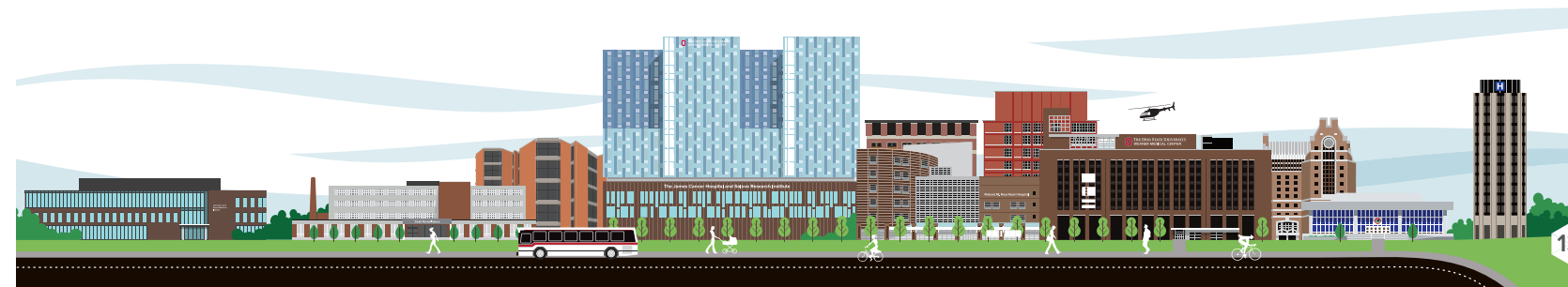
Additionally, the medical center diverted 34,312 pounds of single-use medical devices from landfills in FY19. As part of the medical center's partnership with its vendor and the medical center's year-over-year increase in the amount of reprocessing these items, the medical center's vendor planted more than 350 trees on Ohio State's behalf. By purchasing these same reprocessed devices, the organization saved $1,329,212 (7% more than in FY18).

SAVING RESOURCES AND ELIMINATING PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

In fiscal year 2019, e-commerce platform MedShorts selected Ohio State Wexner Medical Center as its first test site to pilot its new business model, designed to connect hospital pharmacies to drug manufacturers with a surplus of medicines that are set to expire within one year. This pilot resulted in eliminating 50,000 products and packages from the waste stream and $300,000 in cost savings for the medical center.

RECYCLING AT OHIO STATE WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER EXPANDS TO FIVE ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS

In May 2019, Ohio State Wexner Medical Center completed the expansion of its recycling program to include Ohio State Harding Hospital, Eye and Ear Institute, Stefanie Spielman Comprehensive Breast Center, Martha Morehouse Outpatient Care and JamesCare Gynecologic Oncology at Mill Run. More than 60 recycling bins were distributed to these locations. In fiscal year 2020, recycling bins will be added to two other locations to complete the expansion.

SUSTAINABLY SUNSETTING IT EQUIPMENT

As part of the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center's Asset Lifecycle Project, the Information Technology (IT) Department has designed a comprehensive program to improve IT asset management practices and launch an electronics recycling initiative to achieve the organization's goal of producing zero landfill waste by 2025. By creating a universal tracking system of all IT assets across the organization, the team now has the capability to track precisely how much equipment is resold, donated, recycled or sent to the landfill. The team is in the process of selecting an electronics recycling partner to begin this work in the second half of 2019.

PRINTER AND IMPRINT REDUCTION EFFORTS RESULT IN SAVINGS

For fiscal year 2019, the medical center achieved a reduction of printed outputs from networked printers across the medical center by 4.93%, going from 106M imprints in fiscal year 2018 down to 100.7M in fiscal year 2019. The medical center also reduced its printer and multifunction device (MFD) footprint by 49 MFDs/printers across the organization. Combined, these efforts helped to achieve $68,932 in savings from fiscal year 2018 to fiscal year 2019.

DATA CENTER PROJECTS REDUCE ENERGY, REALIZE SAVINGS

In fiscal year 2019, the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center's Information Technology team launched a project to expand the racks into an unused portion of the data center, and to deploy cold aisle containment racks throughout the new area. This work has resulted in more efficient delivery of heated air return to our A/C systems, promoting further operating efficiencies, including moving the temperature set points up a couple of degrees to further reduce energy consumption. Since 2015, data center projects have reduced power usage by 32% and carbon footprint by 32%, and have realized approximately $732,727 in savings.

Awards and Honors

MEDICAL CENTER RECEIVES STATE AND NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Practice Greenhealth honored Ohio State Wexner Medical Center with its 2019 Partner for Change Award. 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. This award recognizes superior performance in environmental sustainability, covering a range of different sustainability programs and activities.

The Ohio Hospital Association awarded Ohio State Wexner Medical Center with its top environmental leadership award, the 2019 John Chapman Award. This award recognized the medical center's comprehensive program to reduce its ecological footprint in the community, and for its overall environmental and energy achievement.

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE STUDENTS AWARDED $40,000 FOR INTERNET SEARCH PROJECT; 250 TREES PLANTED DAILY

Three students from the Ohio State College of Medicine won second place in a campuswide sustainability pitch competition. Their concept was to promote the use of Ecosia, a search engine headquartered in Germany that plants trees in exchange for searches made using its search engine. This initiative was launched on campus last spring. Between April and June 2019, 4,000 trees were planted from 50,000 campuswide searches using Ecosia. This search engine has been implemented across more than 20,000 medical center staff devices and is set as the default search engine through Internet Explorer. Each day, 250 trees are now being planted as a result of internet searches at the medical center.

Report Conclusion

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Over the past year, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center made significant progress toward its sustainability goals. Working in alignment with The Ohio State University and the medical center's strategic plan goals, sustainability initiatives engaged staff across all levels of the organization to explore many of the organization's business practices. By looking at each challenge through an environmental lens — this is where the innovation happens — new solutions that benefit our patients, staff, the organization and the environment are revealed.

In the coming year, we will continue our efforts to increase our impact with existing initiatives. We will also delve into new areas that are ripe with reduce-recycle-repurpose opportunities. From promoting more sustainable and healthy food options and sharing ways for reducing our individual carbon footprint, to investing even more in sustainable products and renewable energy enterprisewide, sustainability at the medical center is gaining ground. We have many accomplishments and much to celebrate.

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