



Commitment to Sustainability



Message from Andrea

At HealthPartners, our 26,000 colleagues share a mission to improve health and well-being in partnership with our members, patients and community. The science is clear: The health of our environment has a big influence on the length and quality of our lives.

We have a responsibility to help lead the stewardship of our environment. And we also have a special opportunity because health systems tend to require a lot of energy and resources as we serve our communities. Smart changes we make can make a real difference while helping to drive innovation of better practices for all.

We're on an ongoing journey to make improvements across our system that strengthen health by sustaining and protecting our environment. From the power sources we use, to the equipment suppliers we select, to the food we buy, to managing waste – improving sustainability is embedded in every aspect of our work. The good news is that, like improved health, improved sustainability can mean lower costs – and that helps make health care more affordable.

On behalf of all of us at HealthPartners, I'm pleased to share this report highlighting some of the progress we're making to advance this important part of our mission. I'm grateful to all of our colleagues who are making it happen, and to our many community partners who share our vision of a healthier, more sustainable future.



Andrea Walsh

ANDREA WALSH
President and CEO



Improving energy efficiency

To better serve the south metro, we've doubled our size and grown the number of services available in Burnsville with the addition of a three-story, 84,000-square-foot building to the Park Nicollet Burnsville Clinic and Specialty Center. When we broke ground we had the opportunity to build an energy-efficient facility. We incorporated features such as:

- Energy-efficient lighting
- Automation to control temperature, air flow and lights in unoccupied spaces or during off-peak hours
- Donated 10,000 cubic yards of excess soil from construction to the City of Burnsville Parks Department for an archery site
- Received a \$10,000 grant from Dakota County to enhance recycling and other waste management programs

Total energy savings \$835,000

Energy use for one year 100 homes



Investing in renewable energy

Renewable energy is at the forefront of addressing climate change. It generates energy that produces no carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gas emissions, reduces air pollution and comes from natural sources that are constantly replenished.

We've installed solar panels at Westfields Hospital & Clinic and at Park Nicollet clinics in Plymouth and Maple Grove. We also have subscriptions to community solar gardens that provide energy for Lakeview, Methodist and Regions hospitals and four of our clinics. These solar panels and gardens produced enough energy to power more than 1,000 homes.



Photo source: Fresh Energy



Locally grown

Fresh locally grown produce is on the menu for patients, visitors and team members across our organization. Many of our locations also organize weekly farmers markets and serve as drop-off spots for Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm shares from June through October. We also have community gardens at HealthPartners hospitals in Wisconsin (Hudson Hospital & Clinic, Amery Hospital & Clinic and Westfields Hospital & Clinic). These are just some of the ways that we are working to increase access to fresh, nutritious (and delicious!) food for our colleagues, patients and the communities we serve. Buying local, not only supports our local economy, but is also better for our environment. Distributing food grown outside our region can add five to 17 times more greenhouse gases than foods that's produced locally.*



Herb and produce garden at Lakeview Hospital in Stillwater, MN.

In 2019 our hospitals purchased more than \$1.8 million of food and beverages from local growers.

Greener operating rooms

As much as one third of waste at a hospital comes from the operating room including things such as gloves, gowns, drapes and sponges. Surgical fluids and other biohazardous waste can also pose a danger to staff. Our hospitals and surgery centers use a device called Neptune 3 to safely dispose of this type of waste.

Greening the OR

- Reducing air conditioning when not in use
- LED lighting
- Reprocessing of single-use medical devices
- Customizing OR kits to avoid purchasing supplies that are not needed

2019 Savings: \$2.3 million

Climate smart health care

Climate change is the most urgent environmental and human health issue of our time. Health care is at the front line of climate change, bearing the costs of increased diseases and more frequent extreme weather events. HealthPartners is addressing health threats posed by climate change by implementing business-smart initiatives that also protect our communities by:

- Tracking the carbon footprint of major facilities since 2015
- Identifying and implementing opportunities to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Examples include responsible anesthetic gas usage, fleet management (efficient routes, electric vehicles) and energy conservation
- Using our trusted voice to educate patients, staff and communities on the connections between climate change and human health
- Advocating on the national level for comprehensive climate change solutions by being members of Health Care Without Harm's Climate Council and by signing the We Are Still In pledge



Reducing waste

Every day hospitals generate more than 30 pounds of waste* for each patient. In 2019, our hospitals generated half of that – about 15 pounds per patient per day.

In 2019 HealthPartners donated 65 tons of medical equipment, supplies and furniture in collaboration with numerous local non-profit organizations including Matter. Matter's mission is to expand access to health, next door and around the world. Initially, we began our donation program as an environmental and financial stewardship project. While the environmental effects of sending less waste to the landfill and the associated disposal cost savings have been beneficial, the program has evolved to focus more on the social and global health impacts by helping to provide lifesaving medical care.

In addition to donating medical equipment, supplies and furniture we recycle:

- Electronics
- Organic and food waste
- Blue wrap and shrink wrap
- Plastic, paper, glass and cans at all of our locations
- Materials from construction and demolition
- X-rays

In 2019 we kept 3,200 tons of materials out of landfills. That's equivalent to about 1,500 cars.

**Source: HealthTrust*



Photo source: Matter



Reducing single-use plastic

Single-use plastics such as bottles, straws and coffee stir sticks are used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. Plastic is made from petroleum, which is difficult to recycle. After many years, it breaks down and releases chemicals that can make their way into our food and water supply.

We're replacing plastic bottles across our organization with cans and dispensers for healthy beverages, like fruit-infused water. We've also replaced plastic stir sticks with wood and have started using reusable patient belonging bags instead of plastic.



Safely disposing of medication

Safe disposal of unused medication is important because it can:

- Prevent accidental poisoning of children and pets
- Avoid the misuse of medication that could lead to addiction or death
- Prevent chemicals from ending up in lakes, rivers and water systems as most waste water treatment plants cannot remove prescription drugs

Kiosks in 25 clinic pharmacies and hospitals collected 12,900 pounds of medication (2019).



Sustainable practices reduce costs

2019 Cost Savings: \$3,200,000



2018 Energy Cost Savings: \$358,000

Total Cost Savings: \$3,500,000

HealthPartners online clinic, **virtuwell**®, treats more than 60 common conditions without the need to travel to a traditional medical clinic. In 2019, we provided about 94,000 treatment plans.

Environmental benefit of virtual care

Cumulative total (2014 to 2019)

390,765 online visits

3.9 million miles saved

178,492 gallons of gas saved

331 cars taken off the road



Protecting and restoring the environment

Creating and maintaining natural green spaces are central to our sustainable landscaping practices. These types of spaces include rain gardens, trees, shrubs, wildflowers and other native prairie plants. In addition to the health and wellness benefits for our colleagues, patients and visitors, sustainable landscaping also requires less maintenance once mature, improve air and water quality, provide habitat for pollinators and other wildlife and provide educational opportunities.

In 2019, we saved 8.2 million gallons of water – the majority of which is a direct result of sustainable landscaping practices implemented throughout the organization.



Audubon Sanctuary Hospitals

Amery Hospital & Clinic and Westfields Hospital & Clinic are the only hospitals in the world to be certified as an Audubon International Sanctuary. In 2019, both became Tree Campuses through the Arbor Day Foundation. Amery Hospital & Clinic is one of only 34 properties worldwide that is certified as a Monarch Waystation.



Awards

HealthPartners is proud to receive the highest honors from the nation's leading organization dedicated to sustainability in health care. Practice Greenhealth's Top 25 and Circles of Excellence awards recognize green practices in our organization and our hospitals.

The Wisconsin Sustainable Business Council recognized Westfields Hospital & Clinic, Hudson Hospital & Clinic and Amery Hospital & Clinic with its Green Masters award for their commitment to sustainability. The Green Masters honor is the council's highest level of recognition.





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Founded in 1957, HealthPartners is the largest consumer-governed, non-profit health care organization in the nation. HealthPartners serves more than 1.8 million medical and dental health plan members nationwide. The care system includes more than 1,800 physicians, eight hospitals, 55 primary care clinics, 23 dental clinics, 22 urgent care locations and numerous specialty practices in Minnesota and western Wisconsin. HealthPartners also provides medical education and conducts research through HealthPartners Institute.

For more information, visit healthpartners.com.
