

THINK GREEN NEWS

RECYCLE • REUSE • REDUCE • SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES AT UPSTATE

UPSTATE
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

THIS PUBLICATION IS A PRODUCT OF UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY FOR COMMUNICATION OF INSTITUTIONAL, THINK GREEN, SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES.



For more information, visit: green.upstate.edu

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2016 UPSTATE ANNUAL CALENDAR GOES ELECTRONICALLY 'GREEN!'

In response to employee suggestions and in support of more sustainable practices, Upstate's Annual Calendar is available online. Historically, thousands of color calendars were printed and distributed institutionally. 2016 marks the first year of a new method – electronic distribution, online availability, and limited hard copy calendars for the small population without computer access. According to John Farruggio, Benefits Manager within Human Resources, this new method has significant advantages. From a cost savings perspective, approximately \$1,000 was saved in duplicating fees and distribution costs. Additionally, the timing and accuracy of the calendar is improved. The calendar, normally not available



until the end of November, was finalized and posted in October because of the shortened completion process. Lastly, having the calendar electronically increases the likelihood of a current and accurate document. Changes can be made and uploaded in a short period, insuring constant access to the most current calendar. Kudos to all involved in this environmentally and fiscally friendly process improvement! The calendar is available at multiple locations, including the two most commonly visited sites: Payroll 2016 Upstate Calendar and Self-Serve.

HOLIDAY COAT DRIVE

DECEMBER 14 - 31

Spread the warmth this winter by donating new or gently used coats. Coats will be distributed by the Rescue Mission to those most in need this Holiday Season.

LOOK FOR A BOX AT THESE UPSTATE COLLECTION SITES:

- Weiskotten Hall, Lobby
- Health Sciences Library
- Clark Tower, Lobby
- Widewaters, Lunch Room
- EVS, Room 802, Downtown Campus
- 5A Unit, Downtown Campus
- Clinical Engineering, Community Campus
- 250 Harrison Building, 4nd Floor
- Geneva Tower, Lobby
- IHP, Lobby

Presented by Upstate's Think Green Committee to Benefit the Rescue Mission.

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3 GREAT REASONS TO BUY A THINK GREEN CUP!

- 1 Proceeds support a worthy cause:** Supports Upstate's Pediatric Pulmonary Sunshine Fund.
- 2 It helps the environment:** Reusable cup eliminates single-use water bottles from landfills.
- 3 Great price:** The cups are on sale for the holiday! A perfect gift for friends and family!

Buy Your Think Green Cup at:
All Upstate Cafeterias
Espress Oasis Coffee Bar
Lori's Gift Shop, Downtown

\$6



Over 1,000 bottles collected for Upstate's '**MEDICINE BOTTLES FOR MALAWI**' drive. "I am proud of our volunteers and staff," said Rhonda Butler, Volunteer Services manager. "While small, medicine bottles can make a huge difference in protecting the health of people in areas like

Malawi, whose pharmacies and hospitals may not have the resources to provide adequate storage containers for medications." Thank you to all who contributed and Volunteer Services for coordinating!

American Campuses Act on Climate Pledge

Upstate Medical University joined 217 campuses representing 3.3 million students across the country in committing to take action on climate by signing the *American Campuses on Climate Pledge*. This states, “As institutions of higher education, we applaud the progress already made to promote clean energy and climate action as we seek a comprehensive, ambitious agreement at the upcoming United Nations Climate Negotiations in Paris. We recognize the urgent need to act now to avoid irreversible costs to our global community’s economic prosperity and public health and are optimistic that world leaders will reach an agreement to secure a transition to a low-carbon future. Today our school pledges to accelerate the transition to low-carbon energy while enhancing sustainable and resilient practices across our campus.”

This effort intends to build momentum for the United Nations Conference on Climate Change occurring in Paris November 30 – December 11, 2015. Attended by the President of the United States and other world leaders, the conference objective is to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate, from all nations.

Many of the institutions signing the pledge are also already taking significant action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase campus sustainability and resilience, and incorporate environmental action into their academic curriculum. For more information on the pledge, click [here](#).

Interim President Gregory Eastwood sent the following letter on behalf of Upstate Medical University:

“SUNY Upstate Medical University applauds the monumental progress already made to promote clean energy and climate action as we seek a comprehensive, ambitious agreement at the upcoming United Nations Climate Negotiations in Paris. Although we are optimistic that world leaders will reach an agreement to secure a transition to a low-carbon future, we recognize the urgent need to act now to avoid irreversible costs to our global community's economic prosperity and public health.

“Our university pledges to continue our aggressive transition to low-carbon energy while enhancing sustainable and resilient practices across our campus. As an academic medical university, we clearly understand the interrelationship between a healthy environment and a healthy body. For our university, we must take on a two-pronged approach to this global problem: minimize our consumption and maximize on campus carbon-free generation; and actively work with our energy providers to purchase electricity from low-carbon sources.

“Specifically, SUNY Upstate Medical University will:

1. Reduce our overall energy consumption by at least 20% by 2020, using a 2010 base year.
2. Perform all new construction and major renovations following the principals of LEED with a focus on maximizing energy conservation within these projects.
3. Continue the transformation of our grounds from groomed lawns to low- maintenance landscapes.
4. Continue our program of overall waste reduction by 20 percent while increasing the recycle rate of waste generated to over 50 percent.
5. With the limited space available on the campus, construct solar arrays to produce over one megawatt of electricity or two percent of our total annual consumption.
6. Pursue purchase of off-site sources of low carbon/no carbon electricity to replace purchased electricity from high carbon sources.”