

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.



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November 2015

And the winner is...Upstate Medical University!

Upstate Medical University is the winner of the University Health System Consortium (UHC) 2015 Sustainability Award in recognition of its ongoing environmental-friendly efforts. The recognition comes from one of the nation's largest healthcare organizations, UHC, which represents the nation's leading academic medical centers and not-for-profit hospitals. The award was presented to Upstate Medical University in October at the Annual UHC Conference.

The award honors Upstate's commitment to sustainability as measured by the following criteria: a demonstrated, continuous commitment to a sustainability strategy; a quantifiable means of measuring and reporting progress toward and achievement of sustainability goals; and a demonstrated commitment to increasing awareness of and communicating about the sustainability program, both among staff/internal stakeholders and the community.



"I am proud of Upstate's national recognition," said Assistant Vice President for Facilities and Planning Tom Pelis. "Winning this prestigious UHC award reflects on Upstate's commitment to sustainability and also recognizes the extraordinary work of our employees who volunteer their time to promote Think Green and develop its many creative and effective initiatives."

The 2015 award application describes Upstate's rich history of sustainability efforts, which began when then-Upstate President Gregory Eastwood, MD, launched the university's first-ever recycling program through the hospital and academic settings in 1997. Since then, Upstate's sustainability program, called "Think Green," has expanded to include sustainability education; increase employee, visitor, patient and student participation; construction priorities; and community involvement.

In 2008, the Upstate's Sustainability Task Force was developed and Upstate introduced a Sustainability Vision: "Upstate will become a leader within SUNY and our regional community. Sustainability will be an integral part of Upstate's culture and as such will be a guiding principle for both routine and strategic decisions going forward." In an effort to achieve this vision, Upstate launched a series of task force sustainability principles focusing on fossil fuel consumption, its energy and carbon footprint, supply purchases and management, sustainability participation, energy conservation in construction and its SUNY partnership. These principles are reviewed annually to measure progress and launch new initiatives.

"Upstate's sustainability program is far more than simply recycling," said Pelis. "The program raises funds for charitable organizations and also seeks to educate staff, patients, visitors and students on how to focus on sustainability at home." Over the past year, Upstate has introduced new ways to implement green initiatives to surpass its sustainability goals. These unique projects have included changes at the patient's bedside, in the operating rooms, construction processes, education and communication, recycling methods in office spaces, and more. In addition, Upstate continues to work with regional and local partners and vendors to general sustainability programs that benefit the institution and the communities it serves.

(Article from: <http://upstateonline.info/static/Oct8-Oct152015/blog/story-1/index.html>)



Left: Dr. John McCabe, UH CEO, Tom Pelis, AVP for Facilities & Planning, and Jason Rupert, Assistant Director in Environmental Service, cut the celebratory cake.

Right: Members of Upstate's Think Green committees and initiatives celebrate the award announcement.





Arbor Day Foundation®

More recognition for Upstate Medical University.....Named as a Tree Campus USA!

The Tree Campus USA program helps colleges and universities around the country establish and sustain healthy community forests. This is an Arbor Day Foundation program sponsored in partnership with Toyota. We were recently notified of our selection and listed in the September edition of the *Chronicle for Higher Education* for such.

Upstate Medical University was nominated for this prestigious distinction by Dr. Douglas Morrison of SUNY ESF. He worked closely with Doug Joseph and Jeffrey Griffin of Physical Plant on the information needed for the application. Recognition of this designation is determined in part by meeting five key standards: Standard 1 – Campus Tree Advisory Committee; Standard 2 – Campus Tree Care Plan; Standard 3 – Campus Tree Program with Dedicated Annual Expenditures; Standard 4 – Arbor Day Observance; and Standard 5 – Service Learning Project. For more information on the specifics, please visit: <https://www.arborday.org/programs/trecampususa/standards.cfm>. Next time on campus, pay particular attention to the amount and variety of trees Upstate proudly maintains!

Congratulations and Thank You to the 2014 Tree Campus USA® Schools
As shown in the September 25, 2015, *Chronicle of Higher Education*

The Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota congratulate these colleges and universities for earning Tree Campus USA recognition.

TOYOTA TREE CAMPUS USA

Learn more about Tree Campus USA at arborday.org/TreeCampusUSA

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UPDATE: Medicine Bottles for Malawi

In last month's edition of the *Think Green News*, we included information on an effort to provide much needed empty medicine bottles to medical pharmacies and hospital facilities in Malawi, Africa. While first world nations throw away an enormous amount of perfectly good medicine bottles, others in the world find themselves with nothing but scraps of paper in which to wrap medicine for their patients.

A GIANT GREEN SHOUT-OUT TO UPSTATE'S VOLUNTEER INITIATIVES DEPARTMENT FOR STEPPING UP TO COORDINATE AN INSTITUTION-WIDE COLLECTION EFFORT! Don't want to mail the bottles yourself? No problem! Through November 30th, drop off or inter-office mail your empty medicine bottles (NOTE: Labels MUST be removed!) to the Volunteer Services Office, UH Downtown – Room #1401. They hope to collect 500 bottles to send to the project.

To remove labels: Place bottles in boiling water until label and glue is easy to remove. Or place the bottles on a flat surface, fill the containers halfway with hot water and let stand for 10 – 15 seconds. Pour out the water and peel off the labels. Please be careful as bottles may be hot.