

Evanston Hospital

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dsilverstein@northshore.orgMayor Steve Hagerty
2100 Ridge Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201

Subject: NorthShore University HealthSystem Climate Commitment to Mayor Hagerty's Climate Action and Resilience Plan

Dear Mayor Hagerty,

Thank you for inviting NorthShore University HealthSystem to the April 5th Climate Action Meeting of large employers. As an organization we are committed to continuing to be an active member of the Evanston community. We are excited to join other large employers and the City in reducing our contribution to climate change and ensuring Evanston is prepared for its impact.

The core mission of NorthShore is to "preserve and improve human life." This mission will be achieved through the provision of superior clinical care, academic excellence and innovative research. NorthShore aspires to promote and sustain a healthier environment for our patients, their families, and our staff, and improve health outcomes for the communities we serve.

NorthShore University HealthSystem has already taken numerous steps to reduce our impact on climate change including:

Existing Climate/Energy/Sustainability Initiatives

- Implemented an Electronic Medical Records system with demonstrable benefits in quality, safety, efficiency and service to patients in 2003 as well as reduction in paper use.
- Implemented energy and water conservation measures through a Strategic Energy Management Plan for electrical, natural gas, utility water and domestic water systems
- Obtained 29% of NorthShore Energy Portfolio from renewable sources (approx. 25 M kWh).
- Purchased hybrid parking lot shuttle buses to reduce NOx and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Eliminated mercury-containing devices, including sphygmomanometers, thermometers, switchers, thermostats and pressure gages.
- Conserved energy in hospital operating rooms through LED surgical lighting and occupancy-based airflow setbacks.
- Established an internal repurposing store for furniture and fixtures used in the facilities to minimize waste.

- Implemented waste segregation and management plans to reduce solid waste volume and toxicity. Recycled approximately 28% of waste generated in 2017.
- Implemented sustained process to segregate pharmaceutical and chemotherapy wastes from solid waste for destruction by hazardous waste incineration and keep out of landfills and waterways.
- Established an Environmentally-Preferred Purchasing plan that reduced or eliminated environmentally-persistent chemicals such as Styrofoam serving ware, DEHP plasticizer, Triclosan disinfectant, and Ethylene Oxide and Glutaraldehyde sterilants.

We understand that in order for the Evanston community to meet its ambitious goals, such as 100% Clean Energy and eventual carbon neutrality, additional action is necessary from all members of the Evanston community. That is why we are excited to announce that in order to support these community goals we are looking to:

New Climate/Energy/Sustainability Initiatives

- By 2025, achieve 50% of entire energy portfolio from renewable sources (REC) equating to approx. 45 MkwH annually.
- Through ongoing energy efficiency initiatives, achieve Energy Star® rating (>75) for both Evanston and Skokie hospitals by 2025.
- By 2020, achieve 30% recycling rate across NorthShore campuses.
- Continue to update vehicle fleet with increased fuel efficient vehicles based upon established vehicle replacement cycle.
- Increase the percentage of total meat/poultry raised without the use of routine non-therapeutic antibiotics to 20% by 2020.

In addition we will provide an annual status update to the City to ensure community progress in fighting climate change.

Thank you Steve for your leadership on this important community issue. NorthShore is looking forward to working with you and the other Evanston organizations to make Evanston the Most Livable City in America.

Respectfully,



Douglas M. Silverstein
President, Evanston Hospital

cc: M. Fiore