

Montefiore Health System earns national recognition for environmental sustainability



Montefiore Health System's Bronx and Lower Westchester hospital campuses (in Mount Vernon and New Rochelle) have earned Practice Greenhealth's Partner for Change Awards for energy and sustainability leadership. Photographs courtesy Montefiore.

Caring for a person's physical well-being transcends traditional health care and must address all aspects of the environment, including the air we breathe and food we eat. This recognition of environmental influences on health has led Montefiore Health System's Bronx and lower Westchester hospital campuses to Practice Greenhealth's Partner for Change Awards.

The honor cites Montefiore's 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions since 2007, with 40,000 pounds of single-use medical devices diverted from landfills; the cleaning up of parks and planting of trees in partnership with local organizations, and an employee wellness campaign focused on plant-based eating.

"Concentrating on renewable energy sources, cleaner air, safer use of chemicals and extending workplace wellness programs to incorporate environmentally friendly practices are just some of the many ongoing efforts we have to enhance the health of our communities," said Aharon Kestenbaum, director, Energy and Sustainability, Department of Engineering and Facilities, Montefiore Health System. "As the largest employer in our region, we are committed to being a driver of positive climate change."

Montefiore will be releasing a sustainability report later this year that will feature efforts like combined heat and power technology, which is providing cleaner, more resilient methods for heating and cooling buildings as well as health-care provider championed initiatives like sustainable anesthesia practices and lifestyle medicine initiatives promoting healthy eating and wellness.

"Achieving a stamp of approval from Practice Greenhealth, the nation's leading organization dedicated to environmental sustainability in health care, means we're continuing to move in the right direction," added Kestenbaum. "We look forward to building on our successes and addressing underlying barriers to environmental justice."

For more, visit <https://www.montefiore.org/>.