



# Office for a Healthy Environment

## Mission

To encourage healthy buildings, healthy operations, and better buying while finding champions and innovators in our institution and our community to create a healthcare system that is ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable and not a source of harm to human health and the environment.

Cleveland Clinic's **Office for a Healthy Environment (OHE)** was created in 2007 in response to a heightened awareness of our corporate impact on our regional environment and on climate change at large. We view environmental stewardship as an extension of our healthcare mission.

## Implementation

To reach our goals, we are focusing on the following areas:

**Healthy Buildings:** We are committed to designing and building safe, green buildings using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED system and evidence-based design, which will result in healthy environments in which to work and heal.

**Healthy Operations:** In connection with creating a healthier built environment, we strive to design and implement operational models that reduce waste and chemical use, and improve energy efficiency and promote energy independence.

**Better Buying:** We are committed to using our buying power to help transform the healthcare sector and prevent waste at its source.

**Finding Champions and Innovators:** We are committed to helping our region's communities become "Green Cities on a Blue Lake" and to pioneer sustainable healthcare on a national scale by leveraging Cleveland Clinic's brand equity and expertise in sustainable healthcare. Cleveland Clinic health system received 13 national awards in 2009 from Practice Greenhealth in addition to another 13 awards in 2008. Cleveland Clinic was also named one of the World's 100 Most Ethical Companies by Ethisphere in 2009.



## Office for a Healthy Environment

### Highlights

**Climate Change Action:** Cleveland Clinic health system is developing its first Greenhouse Gas Inventory for its US operations. Over time, we hope to expand the scope of this project to include our international sites. We also endeavor to educate our employees, patients and community on the public health effects of climate change.

**Waste:** In addition to standard practices of waste management and traditional recycling programs, we are taking the lead in our community by working with local businesses and authorities to develop recycling markets to divert materials from landfills. We work collaboratively with our supply chain to reduce the amount of waste generated from product consumption and are donating and repurposing materials to in-need populations. Our Main Campus recycling program is exceeding our 2009 goal of diverting 25% of our total waste from our landfills.

**Energy:** As the result of major infrastructure overhauls, including adoption of advanced energy technologies, we've realized a more than 9 percent per square foot reduction of energy use in only two years. We have received three Energy Star awards from the U.S. EPA, acknowledging buildings that operate in the top 25 percent

of comparable buildings nationwide in terms of energy performance.

We educate employees on energy-saving opportunities and are evaluating alternative energy-generation opportunities that would supplement our energy use and provide educational and research opportunities through collaborations with industry and academia.

Cleveland Clinic has a responsibility to create and maintain programs that contribute to improvements in our environment.”

– Delos M. Cosgrove, MD  
CEO and President

**Local Food:** Food production and transportation is credited with 19 percent of the total U.S. greenhouse gas contribution. To reduce this impact, stimulate our regional agribusiness and promote a healthier diet, we began a local Farmers' Market in 2008. The weekly market, held throughout the summer, features produce from certified local farms and helps promote the benefits of local eating. In 2009, we are collaborating with a partner to turn a vacant lot into an urban farm that will be managed by a local educational program and will generate food for our market and income for entrepreneurs.

**Healthy Buildings:** To date, we have finished construction on two buildings that are awaiting LEED certification, with seven more projects in the pipeline; in all, more than 6 million square feet. All new construction projects will follow LEED standards with Silver certification as our target and certification at a minimum. We send all our construction debris on projects large and small to be recycled, and we are achieving 76 percent to 98 percent recycle rates.

**Toxics:** We have taken charge to reduce the patient and employee exposure to toxics by pursuing a virtually mercury-free environment, procuring “green” cleaning products that have the minimum human and environmental health impacts while maintaining hospital-grade effectiveness, furthering our latex-safe environment, reducing PVC and DEHP exposure, and reducing food-to-plastic contact. We also are reducing the toxicity in our built environment through the use of safer adhesives, sealants, furnishings and finishes.

**Transportation:** We are taking steps to ensure the responsible management of our transportation fleet by adopting advanced technology and helping our employees and patients reduce the environmental impact of their transportation. We offer rebates and discounted parking to our employees who purchase qualified low-emission vehicles as well as other incentives to stimulate low-carbon commuter behavior.