

## Portland VA Medical Center achieves three Green Globes®



### VA MC ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Energy:

- *Achieved a 99% Energy Star rating*
- *Robust energy management and training program*
- *Cycling facilities*
- *Implemented energy recovery system*

#### Water:

- *Water conserving fixtures and water management plan*

#### Resources:

- *Comprehensive recycling facilities*
- *Site pollution controls*
- *Superior waste diversion rate*

#### Emissions and Effluents:

- *Comprehensive management of storage tanks and hazardous contamination*
- *Radon-, asbestos-, and PCB-free*
- *Excellent occupational health program*

#### Indoor Environment:

- *Use of ventilation, filtration, and humidity controls*

#### Environmental Management:

- *Awarded perfect score of 100% in this Green Globe section*

The VA Medical Center in Portland, OR, recently joined 20 other VA facilities in earning Green Globes, a new guidance and assessment program that offers a way to achieve a green certification and advance the overall environmental performance and sustainability of commercial buildings. Green Globes is administered by the non-profit Green Building Initiative (GBI).



VA Medical Center, Portland, OR

The initiatives began in February 2006, when the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs joined 21 federal departments and agencies in signing the Memorandum of Understanding on Federal Leadership in High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. The MOU commits the signatories to demonstrate leadership in implementing common strategies for planning, acquiring, siting, designing, building, operating, and maintaining high performance and sustainable buildings. The Sustaining Guiding Principles employ integrated design, optimizing energy performance, protecting and conserving water, enhancing the indoor environment, and reducing the impact of materials as best practices to achieve these goals.

In 2009, the VA entered into a Green Globes Pilot Project with the Green Building Initiative. The pilot included rating/assessment/certification of Portland and 20 other VA hospitals. All were required to purchase subscriptions to the Green Globes system and place their building's information into the on-line environmental protocol questionnaire for Continual Improvement of Existing Building (CIEB) tool. A score of 35 percent allowed the hospitals to enter into Green Globes formal certification.

To assess and certify the VA facilities, the GBI assigned a third-party Green Globes Assessor to carry out the process. The assessor performed on-site visits to each hospital to

review the data entered in the online survey, evaluate the actual building performance data and then audit the hospital to assess sustainable features. The assessor then recommended a rating for each hospital to the GBI for Green Globes certification.

### Portland VA Medical Center's environmental achievements



Achieves 3 Green Globes  
(Out of possible 4)

The Portland VA Medical Center has a thorough and dynamic environmental management program that promotes health, safety and continuous improvement. The

facility received a total score of 838.5 out of a possible 1,000 Green Globes Points, which is equivalent to three Green Globes (the highest number of attainable Green Globes is four.) Using the Green Globes software tools and ratings/certification system ensures that environmental impacts were comprehensively assessed in multiple categories:

- **Energy.** Under the Energy Performance section of Green Globes, the Portland VA Medical Center achieved a 99% Energy Star rating (on a scale of 76-100) over a 12-month period. The building has a fully active and functioning operations and maintenance program for building and HVAC equipment and a robust energy management and training program. Among its features are its proximity to public transportation and fully maintained cycling facilities. In addition, the Portland VA scored extra points for implementing an energy recovery system.
- **Water.** The Portland VA Medical Center earned 49% in the Water category. The building incorporates many water conserving fixtures and implements a water management plan. This plan points the way to earning water performance credit in the future.
- **Resources.** The site achieved a score of 93% in the Resources section for its comprehensive recycling facilities. This program is above average and incorporates site pollution controls and a superior waste diversion rate for a hospital.
- **Emissions and Effluents.** The site achieved a 74% score in the Emissions and Effluents category. This score was, in part, for the comprehensive management of storage tanks and hazardous

*“We continue to take steps to assess and reduce our environmental impact. Ensuring the sustainability of our facilities across the country gives us energy efficient buildings to accomplish our primary mission - serving Veterans with the best care.”*

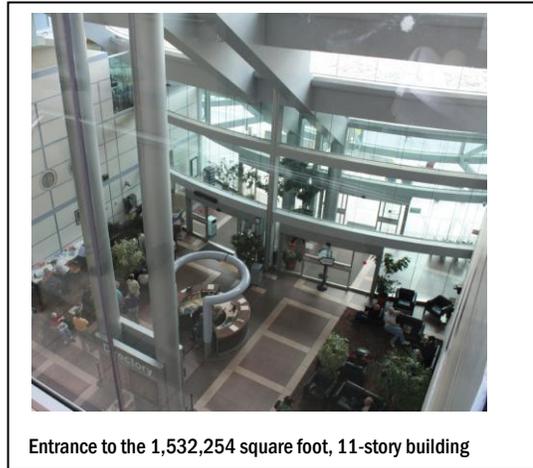
**– Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki**

*“Portland VA is an stellar example of a hospital that has taken sustainability to the next level. Not only do they have a dedicated, energetic staff all actively working on sustainable initiatives, but they also have a creative plant staff who used innovative ideas to raise their environmental scoring within Green Globes. One such idea is to capture and reuse the energy created by the downward motion of the elevators in other parts of the hospital.”*

**– Jane Rhode, AIA, FIIDA, ACHA, AAHID, GGA, Green Globes Assessor**

contamination. The building is also radon-, asbestos-, and PCB-free, contributing to its high score. The assessor noted that the building had an excellent occupational health program addressing the handling of consumable hazardous materials, including pesticides.

- **Indoor Environment.** The Portland VA Medical Center demonstrates superior management by using ventilation, filtration, and humidity controls. It achieved 83% overall in the Indoor Environment section and the highest possible score for management of parking and receiving spaces, where all pollutants were controlled at the source.



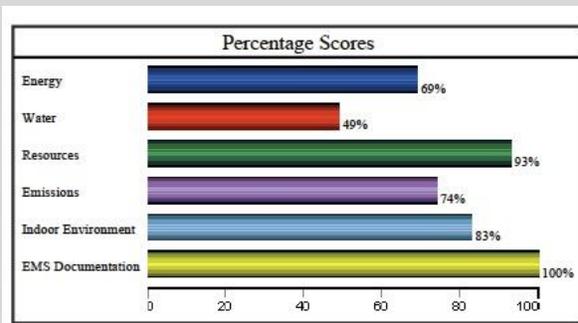
Entrance to the 1,532,254 square foot, 11-story building

- **Environmental Management.** The building was awarded a perfect score of 100% in the Green Globe Environmental Management section. The assessor noted that the hospital's indoor air quality management plan and EMS are both comprehensive and are being fully implemented.

The 21 VA Medical Centers that are Green Globes Certified include:

- Birmingham VA Medical Center, Birmingham, AL (3 Green Globes)
- John L. McClellan VA Medical Center, Little Rock, AR (3 Green Globes)
- VA Loma Linda, Loma Linda, CA (3 Green Globes)
- VA Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA (2 Green Globes)
- VAMC-San Diego, San Diego, CA (3 Green Globes)
- VA Medical Center - West Palm Beach, West Palm Beach, FL (2 Green Globes)
- Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center, Augusta, GA (3 Green Globes)
- Atlanta VA Medical Center, Decatur, GA (3 Green Globes)
- Overton Brooks VA Medical Center, Shreveport, LA (3 Green Globes)
- Ann Arbor VA, Ann Arbor, MI (3 Green Globes)
- John D. Dingell VA Medical Center #553, Detroit, MI (3 Green Globes)
- Charles George VA Medical Hospital, Asheville, NC (3 Green Globes)
- VAMC Durham NC, Durham, NC (2 Green Globes)
- VAMC Salisbury, Salisbury, NC (3 Green Globes)
- NYHHS Brooklyn Campus, Brooklyn, NY (3 Green Globes)
- Portland VA Medical Center, Portland, OR (3 Green Globes)
- NA North Texas Health Care System, Dallas, TX (3 Green Globes)
- Michael E. DeBakey VAMC, Houston, TX (3 Green Globes)
- Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center, Richmond, VA (3 Green Globes)
- VA Puget Sound Healthcare System, Seattle, WA (3 Green Globes)
- Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center, Milwaukee, WI (3 Green Globes)

Percentage of points achieved by the hospital under the environmental assessment areas



**About Green Globes**

Green Globes® is North America's first web-enabled, fully interactive green building assessment tool that allows building professionals and owners to augment their design, in the case of new construction, or incorporate sustainability operations, in the case of existing buildings, and rate the building's proposed or actual sustainability performance. The system allows building owners and managers to have first-hand knowledge at any given time how their building is scoring. If a building achieves at least 35% of the total number of 1,000 points, it qualifies for certification. Upon ordering the certification, a third-party Assessor appointed by the GBI begins to work with the owner and team during the assessment period which culminates in an on-site audit of the building. Green Globes rating and certification process can be completed for a fraction of the combined hard/soft costs and time associated with LEED. For more information, contact The Green Building Initiative at 877.424.4241 or [info@thegbi.org](mailto:info@thegbi.org) or visit [www.thegbi.org](http://www.thegbi.org).

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