



NEWS RELEASE

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## **Catholic Healthcare West Receives Environmental Excellence Award**

*Health care system's leadership in ecology is recognized at global conference.*

SAN FRANCISCO - May 19, 2010 - Catholic Healthcare West (CHW), the eighth largest hospital system in the nation, has been honored with an award for encouraging environmental sustainability through its system of 40 hospitals and medical centers.

CHW was presented with the System of Change Award at the 2010 Environmental Excellence Awards ceremony at CleanMed 2010, the global conference for healthcare's environmental leaders held May 12 in Baltimore, Md.

"The Environmental Excellence Awards recognize the initiative, hard work and determination it takes to protect the environment and human health, yet still maintain cost effectiveness in the competitive healthcare industry," said Anna Gilmore Hall, executive director of Practice Greenhealth, which conferred the award. "Thanks to leaders like CHW, healthcare is setting new standards and we applaud your commitment."

Fourteen CHW hospitals were also recognized by Practice Greenhealth for exhibiting commitment to sustainability of our people and planet. To further honor these hospitals, 100 trees were planted in Haiti through an organization called Trees for the Future.

**System for Change Award:** Catholic Healthcare West

**Environmental Leadership Circle Award:** Dominican Hospital, Santa Cruz, CA; Sequoia Hospital, Redwood City, CA; St. Joseph's Medical Center, Stockton, CA

**Partner for Change with Distinction Award:** St. Bernardine Medical Center, San Bernardino, CA; St. John's Regional Medical Center, Oxnard, CA

**Partner for Change Award:** Chandler Regional Medical Center, Chandler, AZ; Community Hospital of San Bernardino, San Bernardino, CA; Mercy General Hospital, Sacramento, CA; Mercy Medical Center, Mt. Shasta, Mt. Shasta, CA; Northridge Hospital Medical Center, Northridge, CA

**Partner Recognition Award:** Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital, Grass Valley, CA; St. Rose Dominican Hospitals Rose de Lima, San Martin, and Siena campuses, Henderson, NV

Catholic Healthcare West has a longstanding record of environmental stewardship. It was the first hospital system to sign onto the California Climate Action Registry and for the last 14 years has been an active member of Ceres, a national network of investors, environmental organizations, and other public interest groups working with companies and investors to address sustainability challenges.

Among CHW's many initiatives:

**Mercury Free:** Since 2001 CHW hospitals have been virtually mercury free, and CHW hospitals have organized thermometer exchange programs in their communities to help remove mercury from the waste stream.

**PVC/DEHP-Free:** In 2005, CHW transitioned to PVC/DEHP-free intravenous bags, solutions, and tubing. CHW is the first major integrated delivery network to take such a strong position on the use of PVC/DEHP-free products, eliminating approximately 840 tons of this toxic material from both the patient care setting and the waste stream.

**Comprehensive Chemicals Policy:** In 2009, CHW adopted a policy that safeguards care settings from hazards posed by chemicals that are known to be harmful to humans, animals, and the environment. The goal is to support the use of products that are environmentally preferable throughout their entire lifecycles.

**Healthy Food:** CHW has a strong commitment to food systems that are economically viable and environmentally sustainable. We seek to purchase locally grown foods and work with producers and processors who uphold the dignity of farmers and workers in their communities. Most recently, we have begun pressing our food suppliers to prohibit animal cloning and genetically engineered foods.

Practice Greenhealth is a nonprofit membership organization founded on the principles of positive environmental stewardship and best practices by organizations in the healthcare community. Its goals include reducing waste, achieving carbon neutrality, reducing energy and water use and increasing recycling programs. In addition to honoring CHW with the System for Change award, Practice Greenhealth also recognized 14 CHW facilities with various environmental awards.

At the GreenMed conference, CHW and Kaiser Permanente announced their commitment to the nation's strongest environmental standards for purchasing and managing electronic equipment used in their hospitals.

The two hospital organizations have endorsed guidelines for environmentally preferable information technology and management developed by the Center for Environmental Health, a nonprofit member of the national Health Care Without Harm coalition. Data compiled on the two organizations' e-waste management to date found that the energy savings resulting from reuse and recycling is the equivalent amount of electricity needed to power more than 100,000 homes per year.

### **About Catholic Healthcare West**

Catholic Healthcare West (CHW), headquartered in San Francisco, CA, is a system of 40 hospitals and medical centers in California, Arizona, and Nevada. Founded in 1986, it is the eighth largest hospital system in the nation and the largest not-for-profit provider in California. CHW is committed to delivering compassionate, high-quality, affordable health care services with special attention to the poor and underserved. The CHW network of more than 10,000 physicians and approximately 55,000 employees provides health care services to more than four million people annually. In 2009, CHW provided \$1.2 billion in charity care and unsponsored community benefit. For more information, please visit our website at [www.chwHEALTH.org](http://www.chwHEALTH.org).