

VA



U.S. Department
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News Advisory

Minneapolis VA
Health Care System

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MINNEAPOLIS VA AMONG TOP 25 MEDICAL FACILITIES RECOGNIZED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE

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The Minneapolis VA Health Care System is among the nation's top 25 health care facilities when it comes to environmental practices.

The Minneapolis VA received the "Environmental Excellence Award" from Practice Greenhealth, the nation's leading networking organization for institutions in the healthcare community that have made a commitment to sustainable, eco-friendly practices.

Only facilities that recycle 15 percent of their total waste may apply for the award.

Award winners are chosen based on an elaborate scoring and evaluation system that considers reduction of regulated medical waste, mercury elimination and pollution prevention programs.

"Sustainability is part of the day-to-day operations at the Minneapolis VA," said Green Environmental Management Services (GEMS) Coordinator George Johnson. "It's an honor to be recognized for our commitment to the health and safety of our Veterans, staff, environment, and the community at large."

"Our goal is to develop and implement a culture where sustainability is ingrained into daily operations to the point where it is habitual," said Associate Director/Operations Kurt Thielen.

Here are a few of the Minneapolis VA recent achievements that factored into the national award:

- Decreased overall energy intensity in FY 2014 by 28.0% for the MVAMC compared to the FY 2003 baseline; contributing for an overall reduction recognized VA wide.
- Achieved 19.2% renewable electricity use in FY 2015;
- Increased use of alternative fuels to 67.9% of all fuel in FY 2015;
- Reduced potable water use intensity 280% from the FY 2007 baseline;
- Collected more than 6,222 pounds of electronics during an Earth Day 2015 recycling event.

The St. Cloud VA Health Care System also received the Environmental Excellence award.

To learn more about Practice Greenhealth visit www.practicegreenhealth.org.