



Atrium Health

Healthcare Recycling Best Management Practices

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Director of Environmental Sustainability

About Atrium Health

Our Mission: To improve health, elevate hope and advance healing – for all.

- Serving our community since 1940, first as Charlotte Memorial Hospital
- In 2018, we changed our name to Atrium Health, formerly Carolinas HealthCare System
- Serving NC, SC, and GA
- 40 hospitals and 900 care locations, ranging from doctors' office to behavioral health centers to nursing homes
- More than 65,000 employees



"The man who moves
a mountain begins by
carrying away small
stones."

- Confucius

Environmental Sustainability at Atrium Health

Focus Areas: Environmental Sustainability



**Recycling &
Waste Reduction**



Transportation



Air & Water



**Sustainable
Food Systems**



**Climate &
Health**



**Green
Buildings**



**Education &
Engagement**



**Energy
Management**



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Green Building Success

- 110 tons recycled since 8/2017
- 78% rate
- 11 sites
- Company: Russo



C&D Recycling Pilot



Mercy Exterior Renovation Project

- 100 tons of brick recycled (completed 2/2018)

- Standard for Tier 4 low emission equipment
- Clean Air Carolina & Novant Health



Clean Construction Partnership



Union Hospital Project Recycling

- 30 tons C&D recycled
- 88% rate
- Contractor: Rodgers

Recycling Program

Program Beginnings



Program Beginnings (2016)

- Cardboard Recycling
 - 30 compactors
 - 190 8-yard containers
- Recycling inquiries
- Some teammates take recyclables home
- Organized a waste audit with two units at one hospital to reveal recycling potential



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**Waste audits performed at hospital pilot location.
Potential to recycle at least 5-10% of the waste.**



Program Beginnings (2016)

- Collaboration with contracts department and the waste vendor. Monthly phone calls.
- Partnership with Environmental Services for logistics, collection, and capacity.



Program Beginnings (2016)

- Recycling pilot started in breakrooms at one hospital location and three units.



Temporary boxes



Exterior collection to gauge volume

Program Now

- Evolution of the recycling program



Permanent bins



Exterior collection in cardboard compactor

Recycling Program Organization

Recycling Program Benefits

- Potential cost savings
 - Corporate engagement
 - Improved quality of work life
 - Cross-functional collaborations
 - Culture of innovation
-
- Conversations for:
 - Action
 - Possibilities
 - Learning
 - Relationships



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Recycling Program Roles

Environmental Services

- Program ownership
- Collection & logistics

Teammates & Champions

- Program participation & education
- Use bins correctly

Facility Leadership

- Commitment & support
- Lead by example

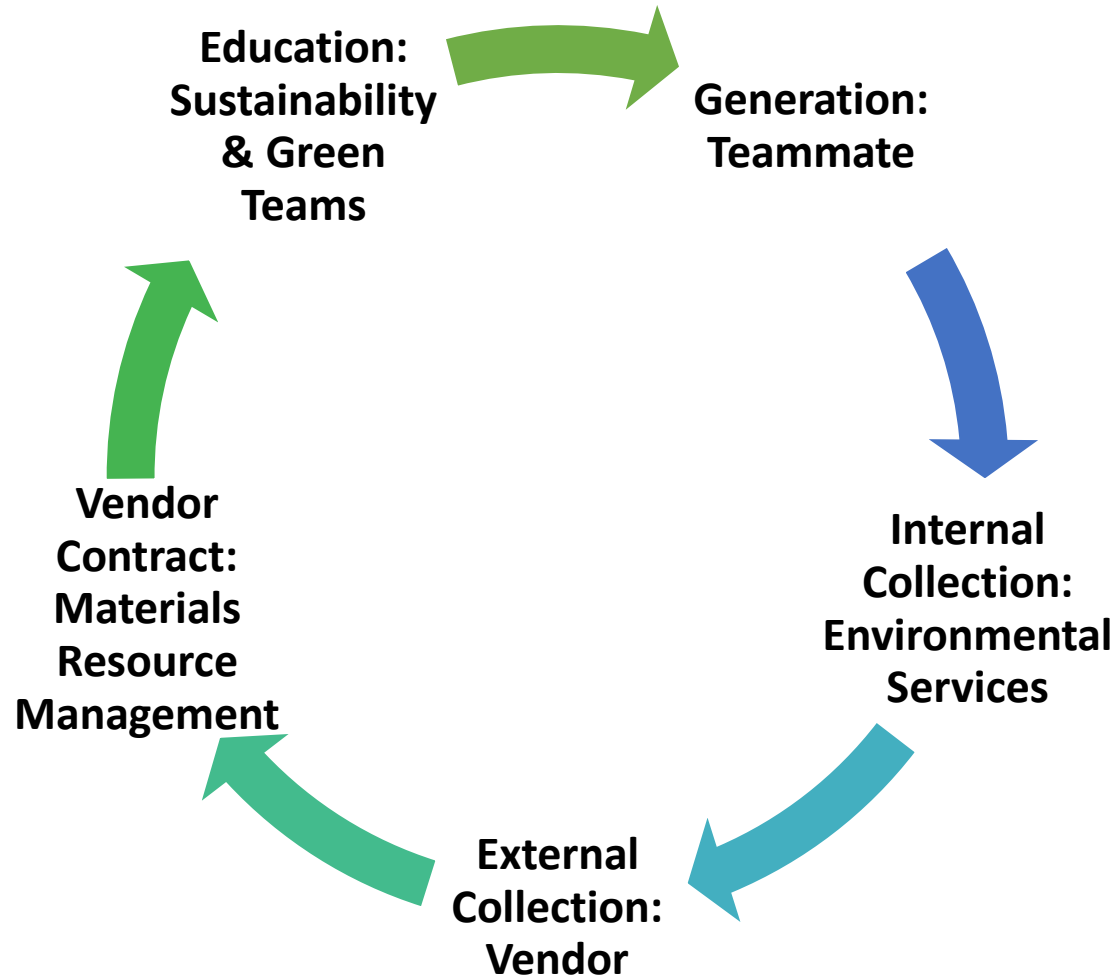
Materials Resource Management

- Data analytics
- Holds the waste contracts

Sustainability

- Program resources & education

Recycling Program Flow



Recycling Programs at Acute Care Sites

EVS has ownership over this program and control over recycling bin locations and collection schedule.

About the program:

- Blue bins and blue liners are utilized to collect recyclables
- Bins are located in breakrooms and select common areas
- All blue bags go into the cardboard compactor
- Signage and education is available from Environmental Sustainability



Recycling Program Teammate Resources

PeopleConnect



I need to find...



Take me to...



Tools

Policies

Education

Clinical

Human Resources

Departments

Facilities

Home > Departments > Environmental Sustainability Solutions > Recycling

Environmental Sustainability Solutions

About Us

Green Teams

Recycling

Energy

Recycling

Environmental Sustainability Solutions offers guidance and resources for facilities that want to recycle non-hazardous, non-confidential waste. We can provide program start-up guidance and signage, teammate education, deliver presentations, and share impact data.

Cardboard, Cans and Bottles Recycling

Recycling cans and bottles at your locations depends upon the following:

1. Environmental Services and Facility Leadership operational support
2. Teammate engagement to participate
3. Interior collection locations
4. Exterior collection vendor

- [5 Steps to Start Recycling](#)
- [Recycling Supplies on eMerald](#)
- [What Can We Recycle Sign](#)



Shredded Paper and Disposal of Protected Health Information

Atrium Health is committed to protecting the privacy of our patients. Visit [HIPAA Privacy](#) for more information.

[Disposal Procedures For Protected Health Information](#)

The locked shred bins at Atrium Health are collected on a regular schedule by Shred-It. Please consult with your supervisor for policies and procedures. If your location needs additional service, please email scs-Charlotteops@stericycle.com with the Shred-It Account Number and/or Service Address and the reason of your request.

HealthCare Waste Management

Atrium Health provides resources for the proper management of the various types of regulated and hazardous wastes in healthcare facilities. For details please contact [Corporate Safety](#). You may also find more information on [Waste Management Resources](#).

Used Ink and Toner Cartridges Recycling

Used ink and toner cartridges, whether bought through Office Depot or not, are picked up for recycling for free by the courier that handles

What Can We Recycle?

Mixed Recycling – Place altogether, it's sorted later.

..... Remove patient labels.



Plastic bottles, jugs and tubs



Metal cans



Milk and juice containers



Cardboard boxes – including snack, meal and glove boxes



Newspaper and magazines
No patient information, place in paper shred bin.

Do NOT Recycle – Trash Only



Glass



Food



Styrofoam



Plastic or paper cups



Plastic utensils, straws or lids



Paper towels or napkins



Gloves



Plastic bags



Batteries

Recycling Reminders



Recyclables go into the cardboard compactor.

Keep the recycling bin contamination free.

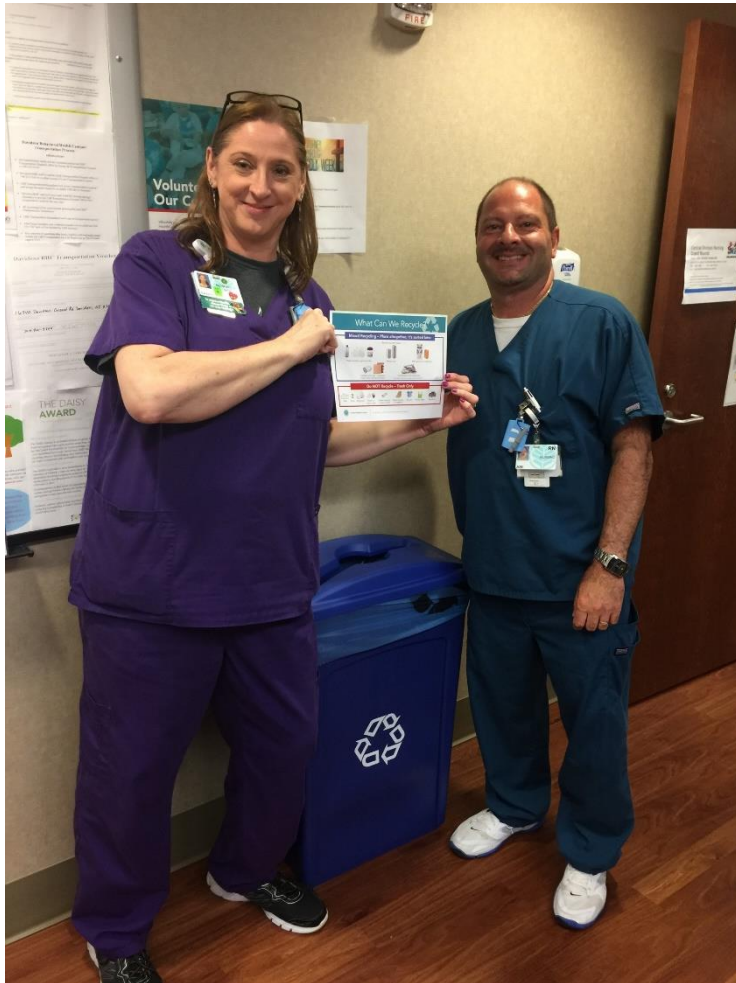


Place only recyclables in the recycling bins. All recycling gets hand-sorted at the recycling facility.



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Recycling Across Atrium Health



Atrium Health Data

Compactors and Shredded Paper

2018

Commingle Recycling = 2250 tons



Shredded Paper = 5963 tons



Solid Waste Landfill = 10,976 tons



2017

Commingle Recycling = 2197 tons

Shredded Paper = 6176 tons

Solid Waste Landfill = 11,218 tons



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Next Steps: Location-Based Green Teams

Two main focuses:

1. Examining the sustainability opportunities within the organization.
2. Educating employees on sustainability and engaging them in actions that they can do at work and at home.



Green Team Mission & Vision

- The mission of the Green Team is to encourage, inspire, and support efforts to build a sustainable community for the benefit of teammates, patients, and families.
- Each Green Team should determine their own vision for their facility in alignment with the corporate mission and vision





Giving you, and the Earth, the best care



CarolinasHealthCare.org/About-Us/Environmental-Sustainability-Solutions



Awards and Recognitions



- **ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year for Atrium Health in 2018**



- **Carolina Recycling Association Annual Award for Pineville in 2018**



- **Practice Greenhealth Partner for Change for Lincoln and Pineville in 2017 & 2018**
- **Wipe Out Waste Ambassador Award for Pineville in 2017**



Change
Happens
One Step
at a Time



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Contact Me!

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