



TEACHING STAFF HOW TO GO GREEN

From Entry Level to a Green Career: The Green Grant



The Labor Management Project provided training and program support to help three New York City hospitals implement sustainable “green” practices.

The Challenge

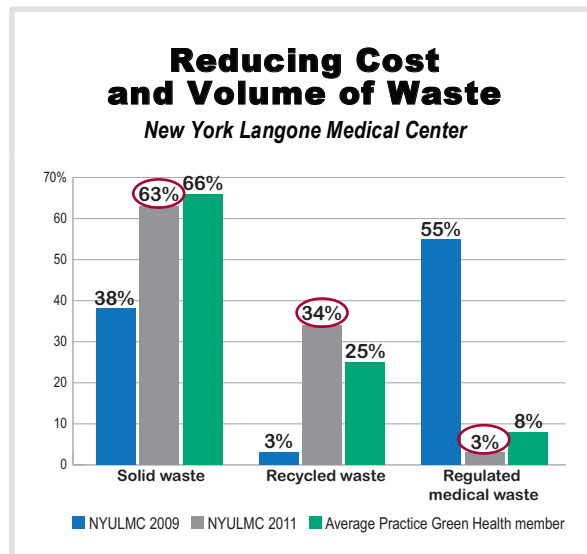
Healthcare institutions must increasingly consider how environmental factors impact health outcomes and sustainability as well as financial bottom lines. Developing efficiencies in the use of energy, water, and waste can make hospitals safer, greener, and more economical. There is, therefore, a need to train Environmental Service/Building Service Department (EVS/BSD) staff in new protocols.

The Solution

With funding from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act’s Energy Training Partnership Grant, the Labor Management Project (LMP) trained EVS workers at Montefiore Medical Center and New York–Presbyterian Hospital (NYP) and BSD workers at New York University Langone Medical Center (NYULMC). These 52 trainers then facilitated “green” trainings for approximately 800 of their peers. The LMP also helped establish labor-management EVS/BSD project teams at each hospital. Each EVS/BSD team selected its goals from five options: develop and implement recycling programs to reduce hospital waste, convert chemicals to green chemicals, create energy and water tracking mechanisms for EVS/BSD workers, reduce regulated medical waste by both volume and cost, and develop a sustainable hand-washing program. From 2009 to 2011, the hospitals implemented strategies that benefitted the environment, saved money, and created new positions for workers with specialized training. In addition, a grant-funded class at Lehman College provided an overview of green practices and environmental cleaning and qualified graduates to become Green Sustainability Coordinators, responsible for sustaining improvements after the grant was completed.

The Results

Of the more than 500 job seekers who completed the LMP’s Green Pre-hire Training Program, 112 were placed in jobs. Seven participants who completed the Lehman College certificate program were upgraded to the new position. NYP reduced its total waste portfolio cost by \$108,500, largely through a 14% reduction of regulated medical waste and a 7% reduction of solid waste. Montefiore increased its recycling share from 6% to 16%. NYULMC avoided approximately \$5,000 in waste expenses by increasing its recycling share from 3% to 34% and saved over \$200,000 by reducing its proportion of regulated medical waste from 55% to 3% (see chart).



Positive Feedback

Montefiore’s EVS Green Coordinator: “For the individuals involved, this project has provided a greater appreciation of and approach to their jobs.”

LABOR MANAGEMENT PROJECT

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