

ENERGY TO CARE *SUCCESS STORY*

Providence St. Joseph Medical Center
Case Study: Small but Mighty

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St. Joseph Medical Center

Beds: 22

Floorspace: 100,000 square feet

Providence Health & Services Montana Facilities: 2 hospitals, 40 clinics

Providence Health & Services Montana Employees: 2,000

Even small hospitals can make big moves to improve their sustainability. Providence St. Joseph Medical Center in Polson, Mont., which has 22 beds and is 100,000 square feet, has taken several important steps over the past few years to make itself more sustainable.

“We’ve done some things that have improved our energy efficiency,” says Wade Reed, the hospital’s facilities management and safety officer. “And this year we hired an outfit for an energy audit for all of our facilities. We just got that back and are now starting to tackle the no-brainer issues.”

Even before that audit, Reed and his colleagues addressed four sustainability issues:

- Replaced two diesel-powered steam boilers with electric boilers. “Those boilers were oversized from the day they put them in, and they were short cycling,” Reed says. “And they were expensive and not working properly. We chose electric boilers to replace them because in the Mission Valley we’re locked in at 0.4 cents per kilowatt hour.”
- Replace lights with LED bulbs whenever they need to be replaced. They’ve only replaced about 3% of the hospital’s lights so far, Reed estimates, but they’ll eventually get them all.
- Recycle used motor oil from lawn maintenance equipment and provide it to a business that uses it for heating.
- Created an education program to ensure their Stericycle containers are free of non-contaminated waste. “We make sure people aren’t throwing regular garbage into the Stericycle,” Reed says. “We’re saving probably 50 to 60 pounds of waste with that program, which is saving us \$500 a month.”

Reed says the sustainability efforts are encouraged by the hospital’s Green Team, which includes him and the environment of care coordinator.

“Regionally, the organization provides great Green Team programs, and we set the goals for our hospital,” says Reed, who adds that the team meets monthly. “That’s basically what drives our programs.

The Energy to Care program, sponsored by Johnson Controls, encourages hospitals across the country to reduce their energy consumption by 10 percent or more over their baseline energy consumption. Since 2009, hospitals participating in the Energy to Care program have tracked more than \$67 million in energy savings. This free program includes a robust energy-benchmarking tool in addition to the awards. ASHE congratulates these hospitals for their leadership in reducing energy consumption.



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