

For Immediate Release

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**SAINT FRANCIS AGAIN WINS NATIONAL AWARD
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT**
Hospital Honored by Practice Greenhealth for Third Time

(HARTFORD, Conn.) – Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center has again been recognized with a *Partner for Change Award* from Practice Greenhealth, a national membership organization for healthcare facilities committed to environmentally responsible operations. This marks the third consecutive year that Saint Francis has received the award, which recognizes its work toward mercury reduction and pollution prevention.

“Saint Francis is committed to continued improvement in its environmental performance,” said Christopher M. Dadlez, President and Chief Executive Officer. “Winning this third award is a clear affirmation of our determination to create a healthy and healing environment for the patients entrusted to our care.”

The *Partner for Change Award* recognizes healthcare facilities that continuously improve and expand upon their mercury elimination, waste reduction and pollution prevention programs. In 2009, Saint Francis recycled 1,022 tons of solid waste and 54 tons of used linens, and saved 21.6 million gallons of water through conservation efforts.

“Saint Francis is clearly in the forefront of the green movement, greatly exceeding Practice Greenhealth’s 10 percent waste recycling benchmark. In addition, we are totally mercury-free in our patient care environment,” said David Crowell, M.S.M., the Hospital’s Director of Environmental Services.

In connection with the award, Practice Greenhealth has partnered with Trees for the Future and will plant 100 trees in Haiti in Saint Francis’ name.

Practice Greenhealth is the nation’s leading membership and networking organization for institutions in the healthcare community that have made a commitment to sustainable, eco-friendly practices. Members include hospitals, healthcare systems, businesses and other stakeholders engaged in the greening of healthcare to improve the health of patients, staff and the environment.

Founded in 1897, Saint Francis is a major teaching hospital licensed for 617 acute inpatient beds and 65 bassinets. It is the largest Catholic hospital in New England.