



For Immediate Release

Contact: Tina Varona
Media Relations Manager
860.714.1076
tvarona@stfranciscare.org

**SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER RECOGNIZED WITH
NATIONAL PARTNER FOR CHANGE AWARD**

Formally Acknowledged for Community Stewardship

(Hartford, Conn. April 26 , 2013) – Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center was awarded the 2013 *Partner for Change Award* by Practice Greenhealth, the nation’s leading healthcare membership community that empowers its members to increase their efficiencies and environmental stewardship while improving patient safety and care. The award is one of the organization’s *Environmental Excellence Awards* given each year to honor outstanding environmental achievements in the healthcare sector.

The *Partner for Change Award* recognizes healthcare facilities that continuously improve and expand upon their mercury elimination, waste reduction, recycling and source reduction programs. At a minimum, facilities applying for this award must be recycling 15 percent of their total waste, have reduced regulated medical waste, are well along the way to mercury elimination, and have developed other successful pollution prevention programs in many different areas.

“This award demonstrates that Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center is committed to eliminating mercury, reducing waste, recycling and preventing pollution, among other environmentally preferable practices,” said Laura Wenger, RN, Executive Director, Practice Greenhealth. “Practice Greenhealth is pleased to recognize them for these efforts.”

A key factor in Saint Francis winning the *Partner for Change Award* is the Hospital’s continued efforts to be “green.” The organization recycled over 26 percent of its total waste, which represents 887 tons of waste diverted, in 2012.

“Saint Francis views its environmental stewardship as an integral part of its mission. The Hospital continues its efforts to be green, and we are pleased to once again be recognized for those practices,” said David Crowell, Director of Environmental Services.

“In addition to reducing waste, the Hospital is also reducing energy consumption by using a fuel cell that prevents the release of more than 939 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually,” added Bob Falaguerra, Vice President, Facilities, Support Services and Construction.

As evidenced in a recent Health Care Research Collaborative study, “*Can Sustainable Hospitals Help Bend the Health Care Cost Curve?*” introducing environmental sustainability measures in hospitals can result in significant savings, without increasing operating costs. The implications are clear — given the return on investment, all hospitals should adopt and expand their sustainability programs.

“We take pride in developing programs to improve the health of our patients, staff and community,” said Christopher M. Dadlez, President and Chief Executive Officer, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center. “We look forward to working with Practice Greenhealth to further our sustainability efforts and lessen our impact on the environment.”

The Practice Greenhealth *Environmental Excellence* Awards were presented in Boston, MA, at CleanMed, the premier national environmental conference for leaders in healthcare sustainability.

About Saint Francis Care

Saint Francis *Care* is an integrated healthcare delivery system established by Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, an anchor institution in north central Connecticut since 1897. Licensed for 617 beds and 65 bassinets, it is a major teaching hospital and the largest Catholic hospital in New England. Other major entities of Saint Francis *Care* include The Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, the Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute, the Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut, the Saint Francis/Mount Sinai Regional Cancer Center, the Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Center for Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care and Neuroscience Research, and Saint Francis Health*Care* Partners. Its services are supported by a network of five major Access Centers and eight additional medical office centers sited throughout the region. For more information, visit www.stfranciscare.com.

About Practice Greenhealth

Practice Greenhealth is the nation’s leading membership and networking organization for institutions in the health care community that have made a commitment to sustainable, eco-friendly practices. For more information on Practice Greenhealth, visit www.practicegreenhealth.org.

