



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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ST. LUKE'S BOISE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER RECEIVES "GOTCHA! CAUGHT IN THE P2 ACT" AWARD

Boise, ID (September 7, 2007) – St. Luke's Boise Regional Medical Center received the "Gotcha! Caught in the P2 Act" Award from the Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC). The award recognizes St. Luke's for significant achievements in protecting the environment and human health.

"St. Luke's is leading the way in finding and using innovative ways to reduce and prevent waste and conserve energy, while at the same time saving significant operational costs," said PPRC Executive Director Chris Wiley.

The pollution prevention (P2) achievements recognized through the "Gotcha! Caught in the P2 Act" program produced tens of thousands of dollars in savings in material and disposal costs. P2 is reducing or eliminating waste at the source by modifying production processes, promoting the use of non- or less-toxic substances and conserving resources.

St. Luke's is a leader in fluorescent lamp recycling in Idaho, collecting used fluorescent lamps each month, resulting in over 8,400 lamps being kept out of the landfill. Fluorescent lamps contain mercury, a toxin that can harm the brain, heart, kidneys, lungs, and immune system of people of all ages. In June 2007, St. Luke's initiated a program to replace PVC- and DEHP-containing IV bags with alternative plastics. DEHP, the phthalate used to make PVC medical bags flexible, is a toxic chemical that poses a health risk to patients.

"St. Luke's is focused on providing excellent care to patients in a number of ways," said Roger Dean, Director of Building Services at St. Luke's. "This includes providing exceptional health care in a safer and cleaner environment. We are doing what we can to protect people's health once they leave the hospital by reducing our waste and recycling."

St. Luke's Food and Nutrition department has taken several steps to reduce the use of petroleum-based service-ware products and eventually keep plastic products out of the landfill. Pre-made sandwiches previously wrapped in plastic containers have been converted to biodegradable

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cellophane. Plastic containers used for cold products have been converted to biodegradable and compostable service-ware made from Nature's Plastic, a corn-based polymer. Polystyrene drink cups have been converted to biodegradable paper cups. In addition to the environmental benefits, switching from Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) service-ware to Nature's Plastic service-ware is projected to provide over \$15,000 in annual operation savings.

Recently, St. Luke's has invested more than \$1 million into energy efficiency measures, resulting in reductions of annual electricity consumption by 3,849,950 kWh/yr and natural gas consumption by 354,439 therms. By using Reverse Osmosis water for make-up water in the boilers, boiler blow-downs have been reduced in frequency, thereby saving an average of 500 gallons of water per day or 182,500 gallons per year.

"St. Luke's is a prime example of holistic health care, taking responsibility not only for the health of their patients, but also for the health of the environment," said Wiley.

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