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Madigan receives environmental award for responsible operations

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Madigan Public Affairs

Published: 02:10PM May 16th, 2013

For the second year in a row, Madigan Army Medical Center has been awarded the most prestigious environmental achievement award presented by Practice Greenhealth, a national membership organization for health care facilities committed to environmentally responsible operations.

The Environmental Leadership Circle Award recognizes health care facilities that exemplify environmental excellence and are setting the highest standards for environmental practices in health care.

“This award applauds organizations that are protecting patient, staff and community health, as well as the environment,” said Laura Wenger, Practice Greenhealth executive director. “Madigan’s commitment to sustainability firmly places it on the path of leadership for the future of health care.”

“Winning this award has set us apart from the other MTF’s and established Madigan as the leader in environmental stewardship within MEDCOM,” said Michael Kyser, Madigan deputy chief of Environmental Health Services.

To be considered for the award, hospitals must have eliminated virtually all mercury from their facilities and demonstrate a continued commitment to be mercury-free. They must also recycle at least 25 percent of their total waste and have implemented numerous other innovative pollution prevention programs.

“We showed Practice Greenhealth that we were increasing our recycling while reducing our carbon footprint. I think that pushed us over the edge competitively,” Kyser said.

Madigan went completely mercury free in 2007. Since 2001, Madigan’s recycling program has saved the hospital approximately \$444,000. A total of 630 tons of solid waste has been diverted from local landfills, while another 10,500 pounds of single use medical devices have been recycled at Madigan.

“We expanded our recycling of medical plastics, and also single use medical devices. And that took our recycling rate from 44 percent to 48 percent,” Kyser said. “We’ve also developed a plan to start reprocessing single use medical devices and that will yield more than \$125,000 in savings each year.”

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