



Efficient Plan Helps Simi Valley Hospital Build Its Reputation

Just over 50 years ago, in 1965, a country doctor and group of forward-thinking citizens created Simi Valley Hospital to provide exceptional service and quality care to meet the physical, mental and spiritual needs of their community. Today the licensed hospital facility serves Simi, Moorpark, and the surrounding Southern California communities with a full range of medical care services.

In recent years, in response to a growing population, the hospital underwent a \$120-million campus renovation, bringing in the latest medical technology and expanding its services. They created the area's first Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Their Nancy Reagan Breast Center is designated as one of the two Breast Imaging Centers of Excellence in Ventura County. They also developed Ventura County's first hybrid cardiac catheterization lab and operating suite to treat patients needing immediate cardiac surgery.

Commitment is the First Step Toward Sustainability

While this expanded, state-of-the-art health facility provides a higher level of care, it also generates additional solid, liquid and biomedical waste. As a faith-based hospital founded on the principles of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Simi Valley Hospital believes that a healthy lifestyle promotes wellness. Its own environment, therefore, needs to be healthy too. In 2009, the hospital's leaders committed to becoming pioneers of sustainability.

Waste Management Sustainability Services (WMSS) became Simi Valley Hospital's sustainability partner in January 2010. At the time, hospital leadership was interested in diverting waste from landfill, but they also wanted to use good environmental stewardship as a way to build their relationship in the community.

A Waste Management Operations Manager was embedded into the organization in the role of the sustainability officer. He was included in all social responsibility meetings and relied on to help the hospital assess its needs, set sustainability goals, gather sustainability data, provide advice and recommendations, develop and implement programs, plan and source more sustainable materials, train employees and ensure regulatory compliance.

A Sustainability Program Designed for Unique Needs

Since no two hospitals are alike, with different size loading docks, storage areas, financial restraints, operations, and resources, each hospital requires its own customized sustainability plan.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Recycling:** Successfully planned and implemented a hospital-wide single stream recycling program that resulted in a 63.12% increase in recycling in one year.
- **C&D Recycling:** Identified 80% of C&D material as recyclable and diverted from landfill.
- **Compliance:** Designed universal waste program for regulatory compliance and safety
- **Diversion:** Increased waste diversion rate from 21% to 47% in six years
- **Data Tracking:** Collected and monitored various waste stream data for to document diversion programs.

"With their team of experts, they have transformed our facility into an efficient, compliant, and green-minded healthcare institution, all while keeping our costs down."

*Bill Werner, Vice President,
Simi Valley Hospital*

SUSTAINABILITY SERVICES

When the Waste Management Operations Manager first began working with Simi Valley Hospital, the organization had insufficient data to track their various waste streams and was focused on single-stream recycling as their primary goal.

The Operations Manager was instrumental in helping the hospital think in broader terms. After careful assessment, he developed and implemented a hospital-wide single-stream recycling program for the facility. Additionally, he designed a universal waste program for regulatory compliance and safety. He continues to lead environmental efforts that include the recommendation for programs for energy efficiency, water conservation, green building practices, responsible purchasing and renewable energy.

Today, Simi Valley Hospital works with the Operations Manager so that all hazardous wastes, construction and demolition (C&D) waste, green waste, scrap metal, printer cartridges, batteries, light tubes and cooking oil are managed and recycled appropriately. Sustainability has since spread across the organization inspiring other green initiatives to be implemented, including the use of more china and silverware (rather than Styrofoam and plastic) in the hospital cafe, a paperless electronic medical record system, a non-invasive pest management process and the use of drought tolerant landscaping plants.

Working together with Simi Valley Hospital, Waste Management Sustainability Services has ensured that all programs work as they were designed to so that hospital staff is free to focus on their true priority: providing superior patient care.

Cost-Effective Solutions are Sustainable Solutions

Simi Valley Hospital is now diverting 47% of its waste from landfill. Through waste diversion practices, access to preferred vendors, and efficient program design, WMSS has enabled Simi Valley Hospital to stabilize monthly costs for several years.

Because the client is on a flat fee for all the waste streams and services that Waste Management covers, their costs remain the same each month at a reduced rate, even though waste vendor costs have gone up over the past six years.

Through operational efficiencies, expert program implementation and the use of select vendors, Waste Management has managed to reduce waste costs for the hospital while maintaining a great sustainability program. In spite of financial challenges caused by the recession and changing regulatory obligations, Simi Valley Hospital is able to remain competitive with other area hospitals while maintaining its status as a good environmental steward.

About Sustainability Services

Waste Management Sustainability Services is a nationwide network of environmental professionals offering sustainability advisory services, environmental and project management experience to help companies advance along the path toward sustainability. By leveraging the network of assets and expertise of Waste Management, the leading provider of comprehensive waste and environmental services in North America, our team can design and implement value-driven solutions unrivaled in the industry.

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