

MINNEAPOLIS VA AMONG TOP 25 MEDICAL FACILITIES TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

By Ralph Heussner, Public Affairs Officer

The Minneapolis VA Health Care System Environmental Excellence Award” from the nation’s leading networking institutions in the healthcare made a commitment to sustainable, eco-



received the “Top 25 Practice Green Health, organization for community that have friendly practices.

This is the highest award presented to the

25 hospitals that have

the highest overall scoring and best meet key performance indicator targets from more than 600 applicants.

For the second year in a row the Minneapolis VA, is among the nation’s top 25 health care facilities when it comes to environmental practices. The award will be presented at the national Clean Med 2017 conference in Minneapolis on May 18.

Clean Med is THE premier national environmental conference for leaders in health care sustainability who are on the leading edge of greening the health care sector.

Award winners are chosen based on an elaborate scoring and evaluation system that considers reduction of regulated medical waste, mercury elimination and pollution prevention programs.

In addition, the Minneapolis VA also won five Circles of Excellence awards which recognize hospitals for outstanding performance in one specific area of environmental expertise.

This year our Circles were awarded in Leadership; Chemical use; Greening the Operating Room; Energy Efficiency; Climate for limiting Carbon Dioxide missions to minimize climate-change effects.

“Sustainability is part of the day-to-day operations at the Minneapolis VA,” said the facility’s Green Environmental Management Services Program Manager George Johnson.

“Our goal is to develop and implement a culture where sustainability is ingrained into daily operations to the point where it is habitual,” said Associate Director Kurt Thielen.

Here are a few of the Minneapolis VA’s recent achievements that factored into the national award:

- Increased facility recycling to 53.5% of all solid waste
- Increased facility recycling to 77.3% of all construction and demolition waste
- Achieved 18.1% renewable electricity use in FY 2017.
- Added four alternative fuel vehicles to a fleet of eight.
- Collected more than 11,252 pounds of electronics for recycling during Earth Day 2017.