

The Climate Chronicles

Quarter 1, 2023 - Keeping the Climate Health Team Informed

Food Waste Audit

UMaine students leading project to help reduce food waste

Hospitals are a sizable contributor to the food waste stream in our state. Northern Light Blue Hill Hospital and soon Northern Light Maine Coast Hospital are working with a student lead team (Halle Rogers and Ryan Fitzmaurice along with Professor Susanne Lee) at the George Mitchell Center of Sustainability at University of Maine in Orono to address this issue.

Blue Hill is completing a Waste Audit for eight+ weeks capturing and documenting all food waste. Including recording the source and details of the waste - weights, cost, cause, and how it's wasted, which might be composting, donated or thrown out. Once this data is collected, it'll be analyzed and reported back to us. We'll use the report to address mitigation wherever possible, minimizing all food waste and specifically what goes to landfills and incinerators.



Left to Right: Student-Ryan Fitzmaurice, Student-Halle Rogers, and Professor-Susanne Lee



Under the Hood

Northern Light Pharmacy goes electric with new fleet of delivery vehicles

Northern Light Pharmacy recently introduced four new electric Chevy Bolt EUVs to its delivery fleet. The swap to the zero emission, more efficient vehicles was made in part to align with Northern Light Health's Climate Health initiative, which aims to increase our contributions towards a healthier planet by implementing sustainable practices.

The vehicles are located in Bangor, Waterville, and soon Portland. Brian Raymond, retail business manager, Northern Light Pharmacy shared, "The leases on our former vehicles were coming to an end, and we were exploring ways to be a part of the solution to reduce the harmful effects on the Earth. These vehicles not only provided a wonderful and sustainable opportunity they also provide us with cost savings during the trade in." He adds, "According to the US Department of Energy, an electric car produces 1.2 metric tons of carbon emissions per year, while a gas car will produce 6.2 metric tons of carbon emissions—so it's a significant savings." To view a one-minute video featuring Northern Light Pharmacy's electric vehicles go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKIHFVjgG0>