Northern Light Health

The Climate Chronicles

December 2025 - Making a long-term commitment to organizational sustainability

Northern Light Health hospitals win national awards for environmental sustainability

A focus on more sustainable operations supports healthier patients, staff, and communities



Our hospitals are winners! All nine hospitals in the Northern Light Health system have been awarded the Greenhealth Partner for Change award by Practice Greenhealth, the leading membership and networking organization for sustainable healthcare in the United States. The Greenhealth Partner for Change Award recognizes superior performance in environmental sustainability, covering a range of sustainability programs and activities. Two of our hospitals, Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center and Northern Light Maine Coast Hospital, were honored as Circles of Excellence in the climate category. The Circles of Excellence designation celebrates hospitals who have not only earned an award for all around sustainability achievement, but who have also been identified as the top scoring programs for each category of sustainability. These awards are a national recognition of the work being done around our system to reduce our organization's environmental footprint, while providing high-quality care to our patients.

Systemwide, Northern Light Health has cut total greenhouse gas emissions by (continued on page 2)



Sustainable Healthcare Podcast

Listen to the latest episodes!

In 2025, host Tim Doak welcomed several guests to the microphone, including Nirav Shah, and Cecilia DeLoach Lynn. Topics include PFAS, desflurane, tick-borne illnesses, and developing eco-friendly products. Go to northernlighthealth.org and click on the Healthy, Happy, and Wise podcast link to listen.

New buildings prove to be energy efficient

Capital improvement projects in Blue Hill and Greenville show significant emission reductions

Have you wondered how recent building projects in our system are affecting energy efficiency? Let's take a closer look at what's changed at two of our campuses.



Northern Light C.A. Dean completed construction on a major capital improvement project in 2024. This project involved the construction of new, modern hospital facilities to replace older, aging infrastructure. Although final calculations for 2025 — the first full year of operating the new hospital — are months away, we can glean some information about what we know so far and compare that to what we know about the old hospital. In 2021, C.A. Dean and the surrounding buildings used 22,807 gallons of #2 fuel oil, 9,826 gallons of propane, and 436,838 kWh of electricity. In the 12 months between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025, C.A. Dean used no oil, 32,262 gallons of propane, and 144,170 kWh of electricity. Although heating oil and propane are both fossil fuels, propane is more environmentally friendly, with relatively low carbon emissions. That, along with an impressive 70% drop in electricity use, means that the new C.A. Dean hospital is realizing a 23% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2021 levels. (cont. on pg 2)

Climate | Health

New buildings

Continued from page 1

In 2024, Blue Hill Hospital completed the final phases of construction and fully transitioned to their new, modern building. The new hospital provides excellent patient care in a smaller physical footprint, and replaces the original facility, parts of which were built in the 1920s. In 2021, Blue Hill Hospital and the surrounding buildings used 118,492 gallons of propane, 1,667,321 kWh of electricity, and 1,435,584 gallons of water. In 2024, Blue Hill Hospital used 29,352 gallons of propane, 960,954 kWh of electricity, and 815,941 gallons of water. In all, the new hospital in Blue Hill is realizing a 62% emissions reduction, and a 43% reduction in water use versus 2021 levels. That's something to celebrate!



Plastic People screening

Film event on microplastics held in Bangor

The groundbreaking feature documentary *Plastic People* investigates our addiction to plastic and the growing threat of microplastics on human health. A special screening was hosted by Jessica Bloom-Foster, MD, and the Northern Light Climate Health Team at Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center, followed by a Q&A discussion on microplastics. The film looks at how leading scientists are finding these particles in our bodies: organs, blood, brain tissue, and even the placentas of new mothers. The post-film discussion looked at the impact of these invisible invaders on our health, and what can be done about it. The event was engaging and well received. It was also a good way to bring awareness of our climate health efforts on-location to our medical staff.





National awards

Continued from page 1

13% since 2021, the first year for which calculations are available. This figure reflects the success we've had in increasing the energy efficiency of our buildings, reducing waste, electrifying our fleet vehicles, phasing out the use of the anesthetic desflurane, increasing our utilization of reprocessed medical device programs, and more. We are proud of our progress, and the continued commitment of our employees to our sustainability goals. Thank you for your support and hard work, and we hope you also share in the pride of achieving these prestigious awards!

New CEO for Northern Light Health supports climate health

R. Guy Hudson, MD, addressed topic at recent online forum for employees



Northern Light Health president and CEO R. Guy Hudson, MD, says the system's commitment to climate health and environmental sustainability is "exactly the kind of work we should be doing." Northern Light Health signed onto the U.S. Health Sector Climate Pledge in 2023, committing to 50% emissions reduction by 2030 and net-zero by 2050, and developing climate resiliency plans for its Maine facilities. The system already has success in lowering its carbon footprint by reducing or eliminating use of certain greenhouse gasses, such as the anesthetic, desflurane, developing resiliency plans for the buildings systemwide, and sustainable operations in food and waste.