



Ecological Stewardship

NEWS

"understanding our impact... creating positive change"



London Health Sciences Centre

Issue 03

January, 2008

ELEMENTS



"We hope that you find something useful to take from Elements and something to give back"

This issue

Engineering Services

Energy

Ecological stewardship presents...

ENERGY AWARENESS WEEK

...featuring new technology

Waste



OR Plastic Recycling



Procurement



Environmental Working Group's
SKIN DEEP
cosmetic safety database



Energy Awareness Week 2008

... featuring new technology

Energy awareness week returns for 2008 to bring you new technology that will help you save. Once again, for a day at each of London's hospitals, the stewardship booth will be set up to showcase ways in which we can help protect our health and environment through energy saving. One of the observations made from the last energy awareness week was that London's hospital staff have adopted the common energy saving concepts, some of which include compact fluorescent bulbs and programmable thermostats. Most staff have now implemented these measures and have moved on to more advanced ways to save in the home. Many are replacing old windows and furnaces, purchasing energy-star appliances and even buying more fuel efficient vehicles. With that in mind, this year energy stewardship intends to bring the latest and greatest in home saving technology. In addition to the usual cluster of prizes and giveaways, the following are some of the items you might find at the booth in February of this year.

"... London's hospital staff have adopted the common saving concepts..."

Solatube



Solatube is day-lighting system with an exclusive film that will reflect almost 100% of the maximum amount of light into your room. This allows for a longer installation length without the loss of light. Solatube will actually bring more light in than a window or conventional skylight and save you the need for electrical lighting during the day.

Tankless Hot Water Heater

Tankless water heaters are capable of providing an instant, endless supply of hot water. Because these systems function on an on-demand basis, they don't require a holding tank to store hot water. No storage or holding reserve means that tankless water heaters have a life span that's twice as long as traditional systems and will save you the cost of storing all that hot water.



Prizes Giveaways Rebates
Information Floor model displays
Open forum with Chester

Stay tuned for dates, locations, and details

Plastics Recycling in U.H. Operating Room

The operating room at University Hospital and the Ecological Stewardship program have been working together to reduce LHSC's ecological footprint with the launch of a plastics recycling program. New green recycling containers with custom labels for the collection of plastics have been installed in each of the 16 operating rooms as well as in the core areas. The O.R. at UH disposes over 38,000 plastic bottles and containers each year that until now were going out as general waste. This plastic is now being collected and recycled.



Susanna Golovchenko, Manager of the operating room at University Hospital is continuing to work with Peggy Frew, Environmental Stewardship Specialist to identify more recycling opportunities. Chester was on hand for the launch along with Sherri Lawson, Director of Peri-operative Care, Susanna Golovchenko and Peggy Frew.

Transplant unit is Going Green

The Transplant Unit at University Hospital is greener these days now that a variety of recycling containers have been set up for the collection of plastics, cans, glass and cardboard in their offices, lounge, and patient care areas. Jane Van Bilsen, Manager of the Transplant Program and Peggy Frew, Environmental Stewardship Specialist organized the recycling plan and the new custom labeled containers were installed in January.



Understanding Our Impacts

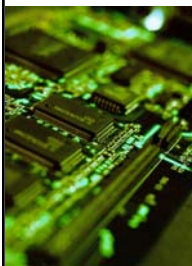
Last year the Ecological Stewardship Team gathered the information necessary to calculate the Ecological Footprint for LHSC—this calculation gave the team a unique understanding of our environmental impacts as an organization, and was the major impetus for change, bringing about many new programs and initiatives.

The Ecological Stewardship Team has been developing an Eco-Review Process that can do the same for individual departments, so that each area has the opportunity to learn about their environmental impacts and make a positive change! Members of the Ecological Stewardship Team will examine products and supplies identified by department leaders and coordinators as those of most concern, do all the background research into environmental impacts, highlight potential alternatives or mitigation measures, and will help facilitate positive change within the department. Mitigation might be as easy as increasing the amounts of recycling bins in supply rooms, or liaising with a vendor to reduce or change packaging...alternatives on the other hand, may include switching from one brand to another based on environmental criteria.

The Eco-Review Process is a completely voluntary exercise, driven by individual departments and facilitated by the Ecological Stewardship Team. [Email Chester](#) today to participate!

E-waste in our Hospitals LHSC uses a wide variety of electromedical equipment including items such as defibrillators, infusion pumps, patient monitors, heart-lung machines, kidney machines, mini computers, X-ray equipment and respirators. Every year these electronics are being replaced with advanced, safer and more efficient devices, and as a result, mountains of obsolete electronic waste are piling up in landfills across Canada. Of even greater concern is that most electronic equipment

contains toxic substances such as lead, cadmium and mercury. These heavy metals and other substances found in electronic products can pose elevated risks to human health and the environment if they are not properly managed. The VH Biomedical Department at LHSC has made a commitment to ensuring that these waste are handled responsibly by taking part in an Electronics Waste Recycling Program. In a pick up last month, the Biomedical Department recycled 10 000 lbs of electronics waste, thus saving valuable space in our landfills and preventing thousands of pounds of hazardous wastes from entering our environment!



Personal Care Products in the Spotlight

The Environmental Working Group, a U.S. based research and lobby group, created a website called Skin Deep: Cosmetic Safety Database—an interactive resource that compares the ingredients in nearly 25 000 popular cosmetic brands to 50 definitive toxicity and regulatory databases.

Go to the website: <http://www.cosmeticsdatabase.com/index.php> and type in your favorite products to determine its' chemical content and the hazards, if any, associated with its use.

