ALEDA E. LUTZ VA MEDICAL CENTER AWARDED TOP HONOR FOR LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH CARE SUSTAINABILITY

Hospital named among top 25 in the U.S. for environmental stewardship in health care

(Saginaw, MI) – In recognition for groundbreaking achievement and innovation in health care sustainability, the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center, received the Top 25 Environmental Excellence Award from Practice Greenhealth, the nation’s leading organization dedicated to environmental sustainability in health care. The award is one of the Environmental Excellence Awards given each year to honor environmental achievements in the health care sector.

The 25 hospitals presented with Practice Greenhealth's highest honors exemplify environmental excellence and are setting the highest standards for environmental practices in health care. Award winners are leading the industry with innovation in sustainability—and have the data and documentation to prove their success. Each year, the competition for these top spots increases as hospitals across the country continue to innovate.

Environmental stewardship is a top priority at the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center. Recent energy reduction projects include the installation of LED lighting, implementing demand control ventilation, the use of natural daylight, and installation of occupancy sensors. A recent investment focused on replacing old windows with new energy efficient windows.

Transportation planning includes alternative-fueled vehicles (ethanol and electric) for supply delivery, reduced days of delivery and a no idling policy; designed to reduce greenhouse gases and pollution. The facility participates in regional transportation planning, bike racks, and ride-sharing services, which promote single occupant vehicle use reduction.

In the green cleaning arena, 64% of expenditures on the five (5) target cleaning products meet the specification for Eco Logo or Green Seal certification. With the acquisition of new floor refinishing equipment, the facility refinishes waxed floors without
the use of stripping chemicals, which decreases VOCs within the facility. Green acquisitions are a priority as well: 80% of purchased furniture avoids key chemicals of concern which is in line with Practice Greenhealth’s Healthy Interiors goal. By moving to on-demand ordering and implementing food waste reduction measures, Saginaw VA Medical Center has driven costs down for inpatient meals.

The Aleda E. Lutz VA prioritizes green practices in our day-to-day operations and our planning for the future,” said Carla Mose, Industrial Hygienist and Green Environmental Management Coordinator. “It’s an honor to be recognized for our commitment to the health and safety of our patients, staff, environment and community.”

The award will be presented at the Practice Greenhealth Environmental Excellence Awards Gala, set for May 18, 2017 in Minneapolis, Minn at the conclusion of the CleanMed Conference & Exhibition.

The Aleda E. Lutz VAMC in Saginaw, Michigan operates an 81-bed skilled nursing and rehabilitation Community Living Center, with an additional 8-bed acute medicine and telemetry wing. It provides care to over 35,400 Veterans in a 35-county geographic area, from mid-Michigan to the Mackinac Bridge. Veterans also receive care at one of our nine VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics located throughout Michigan. More information about this VA can be found at www.saginaw.va.gov.

About Practice Greenhealth
Practice Greenhealth is the nation’s leading health care community dedicated to transforming health care worldwide so that it reduces its environmental footprint, becomes a community anchor for sustainability and a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice. To learn more about Practice Greenhealth visit www.practicegreenhealth.org.