

Seton Medical Center Coastside Moss Beach, California

Losing The Waste

Seton Medical Center Coastside lost tons of waste, earning the Center a State Waste Reduction Award in 2006. Reducing waste translated into cost-savings and environmental benefits.

This rural hospital, located on the California coast in Moss Beach, California, is home to a 116-bed Skilled Nursing Facility, a five-bed Acute Care Unit and an Emergency Department. Seton Coastside saved approximately \$8,000 to \$10,000 through waste reduction efforts and diverted more than 25 tons of materials from California over-loaded landfills in fiscal year 2005/06. The majority of the facility's waste reduction efforts were in the form of donation, recycling, and reuse.



Photo Credit: California Integrated Waste Management Board

Seton Medical Center Coastside Sister poses with red flat mop. The flat mop contributed substantially to the winning of the State Waste Reduction Award in 2006.

“We are honored to be recognized out of 1,200 other California businesses as best examples of waste management models within our industry.”

-Becky Clark, Manager of Support Services at Seton Medical Center Coastside

Business Snapshot

116-bed Skilled Nursing Facility, a 5-bed Acute Care Unit and an Emergency Department

Actions to Cut Waste & Recycle

- Implemented flat mop system (2001) resulting in yearly cost savings of over \$2,000, and reduced floor chemical use by 75%
- Implemented online versions of policy and procedure manuals
- Diverted more than 25 tons of materials from disposal (FY 2006)

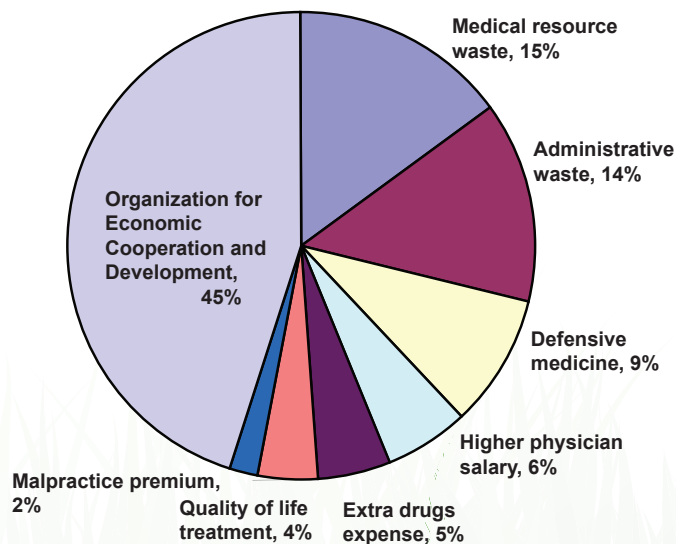
Estimated Yearly

- Cost Savings: \$8,000 - \$10,000 (FY 2006)

How Waste Adds to U.S. Health Costs

Medical resource waste accounts for 15% of the cost of health care in the United States. Administrative waste from health care centers accounts for another 14% of health expenses. This data is from the 2005 Global Health Net analysis.

U.S. Healthcare Expenditure Breakdown



What Actions Did Seton Coastside Take to Cut Waste & Recycle?

In 2001, Seton Coastside implemented the use of a "flat mop" system instead of their traditional mop system. This relatively simple action resulted in annual cost savings of over \$2,000; reduced floor chemical use by 75%; and enhanced patient safety by eliminating the threat of any cross-contamination between rooms.

Staff also thought creatively about donating and reusing items such as electronic equipment, pallets, binders, clothes and linens. Seton Coastside increased its paper recycling almost 50% over three years while still complying with federal regulations.

System improvements and widespread use of an intranet vastly improved electronic communication capabilities between facilities. The availability of policy and procedure manuals online eliminated the need to distribute hard copy manuals to multiple departments and contributed to paper waste reduction efforts.

Seton Medical Center Coastside is the first hospital in California to receive the California Integrated Waste Management Board's WRAP of the Year Award and a statewide leader in their efforts to reduce waste.



Photo Credit: Seton Coastside

Seton Sister demonstrates use of the red flat mop.

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Photo Credit: Seton Coastside

Seton Medical Center Coastside in Moss Beach, CA.

"Seton Medical Center Coastside has accomplished an outstanding achievement in winning our WRAP of the Year award."

**-Rosalie Mulé
California Integrated Waste Management
Board Member**



Photo Credit: Seton Coastside

The Seton Coastside group celebrates their WRAP award.

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