



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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contact:

Atiya Butler, Assistant Director, External Affairs

718.334.1259

[atiya.butler@nychhc.org](mailto:atiya.butler@nychhc.org)

The coming “Green Revolution” has been in the news a lot lately, with calls from many quarters for businesses, government agencies, and ordinary citizens to embrace green alternatives. So we thought you would like to know the important steps Elmhurst Hospital Center (EHC) is taking to reduce its carbon footprint.

EHC is currently implementing a series of initiatives that will lead to a greener future. These measures include:

- ❖ **Using green cleaning products**—Elmhurst Hospital has begun using a new line of green certified products manufactured by JohnsonDiversey™. These products include a non-ammoniated glass and multi-purpose cleaner, a neutral citrus cleaner, and an eco-friendly bathroom cleaner and scale remover. In the future, EHC will continue to research other green products, such as floor finish, floor stripper, biodegradable toilet tissue, hand towels, and waste receptacle liners.
- ❖ **Using energy-efficient lighting**—Artificial lighting accounts for a large chunk of electricity use at EHC. Where appropriate, energy-saving light bulbs and fixtures that use at least 2/3rds less energy than regular lighting are being used. Other departments use motion sensor lights that automatically shut-off when they’re not needed.
- ❖ **Going paperless**—An increasing number of documents for employees, including administrative memos, manuals, and event flyers, are now available electronically via the EHC Intranet and Groupwise. In addition, EHC will begin distributing our community magazine *Your Health, Your Hospital* to the public in an interactive PDF format this summer. Using these methods to transmit information cuts down on paper and printing costs—and makes for happier trees!
- ❖ **Eliminating plastic water bottles**—EHC has begun experimenting with new water machines that do not use plastic bottles to contain the liquid. The use of these machines cuts down on the cost of hauling away empty plastic bottles.

- ❖ **Planting trees**—EHC will be planting ten additional trees (funded by the City’s Million Trees program) in various areas around the facility. These locations include The Hope Pavilion, the Emergency Department entrance, and the Pediatric Emergency Department entrance.
- ❖ **Planning for a greener future**—EHC is incorporating a green vision into its future building projects. Several proposed capital projects, including a new Women’s Health Center and the expansion and renovation of the Emergency Department will include sustainable materials for green building efficiency. EHC has also proposed the installation of more fuel efficient boilers that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and an upgrade to the emergency power generators and grid.

## **About Elmhurst Hospital**

Elmhurst Hospital Center (EHC) is the major tertiary care provider in the borough of Queens. The hospital is comprised of 545 beds and is a Level I Trauma Center, an Emergency Heart Care Station and a 911 Receiving Hospital. It is the premiere health care organization for key areas such as Surgery, Cardiology, Women's Health, Pediatrics, Rehabilitation Medicine, Renal and Mental Health Services.

Elmhurst Hospital Center serves an area of approximately one million people. This community is recognized as the most ethnically diverse in the world. Last year, EHC received 693,600 ambulatory care visits as well as receiving 130,042 Emergency Room visits making it one of the busiest ERs in New York City. Over 4,200 babies were delivered at Elmhurst last year alone-the most in this region. Ensuring accessible health care is our priority.