

Improve the Present Respect the Future

Sustainability is a broad topic with several initiatives that support MEDCOM's current mission and will prepare us for future mission requirements. These initiatives include environmentally preferential purchasing, energy and water conservation, waste stream reduction, recycling, adopting sustainable construction and renovation practices, determining life-cycle costs and building community involvement.

We can protect and improve our future by initiating sound decision-making processes. We must choose wiser and less destructive uses of our planet's assets and resources.

A successful sustainability program recognizes the need for an organization to accomplish its mission and be both financially and environmentally responsible while also contributing to and protecting the surrounding community.

Sustainability is much more than just striving to be "green." It relates to the continuity of economic, social, institutional, and environmental aspects of human society, as well as the environment. For the Army, sustainability is a long-range vision to meet today's needs and anticipate tomorrow's challenges.



SUSTAINABILITY

the capacity to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



MEDCOM is a member of Practice Greenhealth! Practice Greenhealth is the nation's leading organization for institutions in the health care community that have made a commitment to sustainable practices. Members are dedicated to the greening of healthcare to improve the health of patients, staff and the environment.

Does Your Facility Have a Sustainability Success Story?

If so, send it in! We want to gather lessons learned and successes to share with other medical treatment facilities.

To learn more about the MEDCOM Sustainability Strategy, or to share your sustainability success stories, contact:

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Army Medicine...Army Strong!



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ARMY MEDICINE
Serving To Heal...Honored To Serve

U.S. Army Medical Command

SUSTAINABILITY



MEDCOM GREEN
IMPROVE THE PRESENT, RESPECT THE FUTURE

Accomplishing our mission through due consideration of health, value, environment, and communities while enhancing the ability of future generations to accomplish their missions.



Army Net Zero: A Force Multiplier

Today the Army faces significant threats to our energy and water supply requirements both at home and abroad. Addressing sustainability is operationally necessary, financially prudent, and essential to mission accomplishment. The Army's vision is to appropriately manage natural resources with a goal of net zero installations.

The Army is building a culture that recognizes the value of sustainability measured not just in terms of financial benefits, but benefits to maintaining mission capability, quality of life, relationships with local communities, and the preservation of options for the Army's future.

MEDCOM is Vital to Army Net Zero Success

MEDCOM medical treatment facilities (MTFs) are typically one of the largest users of energy and water, and one of the biggest generators of waste, on an installation. Given the resource intensity of MTFs, a partnership between MTFs and installations is crucial to achievement of overall Army Net Zero goals.

Army Net Zero will ensure that sustainable practices are instilled and managed throughout the Army, while also maximizing operational capability, resource availability and well-being.

The net zero vision is a holistic approach to addressing energy, water, and waste at Army installations – an approach that is a force multiplier enabling the Army to appropriately steward available resources, manage costs and provide our Soldiers, Families and Civilians with a sustainable future.



MEDCOM Sustainability

First, Do No Harm

The Army mission is only accomplished because America entrusts us with its most precious resources – its sons and daughters. The mission of MEDCOM is to promote, sustain and enhance Soldier health; train, develop and equip a medical force that supports full spectrum operations; and deliver leading edge health services to our Warriors and military Family to optimize outcomes.

To succeed in this mission, MEDCOM must continue to act in a manner that is fiscally, environmentally, and socially responsible and embrace sustainable practices that will help support our mission into the future. Understanding that the adage, “First, do no harm” applies to the environment and community as well as to patients, MEDCOM is committed to developing and implementing a Sustainability Strategic Plan. When implemented, this Plan will enable MEDCOM to sustain readiness, improve quality of life, strengthen community relationships, and help reduce total costs of operation and ownership by suggesting sound environmental and social investments to promote Army sustainability.

Sustainability & Healthcare

The medical profession has pledged to “first, do no harm” since the time of Hippocrates. However, in many cases purchasing habits, facility operations, and building design standards are not consistent with the professional values of health care. Applying sustainable practices can benefit health care facilities. For example:

- Purchasing items which have less environmental impact can create a healthier environment for our Warriors and military Family members.
- Reusing and recycling items can reduce disposal costs.
- Using biodegradable dining hall containers provides a more sustainable alternative to polystyrene foam and plastics.
- Conserving resources can decrease utility, water, and disposal costs.
- Using healthier building materials can provide a more healing environment for patients.
- Some elements of building design, such as use of natural daylight and views of nature, can improve patient outcomes and help patients heal faster.

MEDCOM Sustainability Strategy

MEDCOM is taking strides toward becoming a sustainable organization by developing a Sustainability Strategy. The Strategy details the way ahead for MEDCOM to continue the mission of providing top-notch healthcare while also being good stewards of the environment and tax payer dollars, and provides a roadmap for partnering with the community and ensuring the future availability of the earth's resources.

In alignment with Executive Order 13514, the DoD Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan, and the Army Sustainability Campaign Plan, the MEDCOM Sustainability Strategy establishes sustainability goals and metrics to track and measure progress. Results will be compiled and reported in the MEDCOM Annual Sustainability Report.

The MEDCOM Sustainability Strategy focuses on:

- Establishment of Sustainability Teams at HQ MEDCOM and at all MEDCOM MTFs
- Improving waste management practices, including
 - Reducing the amount of solid, regulated medical waste, and hazardous waste generated
 - Increasing recycling
 - Weighing and tracking all waste and recycling to allow assessment of progress towards MEDCOM Sustainability Strategy goals
- Maximizing energy conservation
- Improving water conservation
- Institutionalizing environmentally preferable purchasing