

# 2025 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT



OSF<sup>®</sup>  
HEALTHCARE









# CONTENTS

## Introduction

2

Letter from the CEO  
About OSF HealthCare

---

## Our Approach to Environmental Stewardship

5

Innovation for a Healthier Future  
Sustainability Leadership  
Energy and Sustainability Program  
Supporting Operations Across the Ministry  
Measuring Environmental Impact  
2025 Key Achievements

---

## Energy and Certain Gases

9

Measuring Energy and Emissions  
Renewable Energy  
Energy Use and Performance  
Energy Efficiency and Optimization  
Anesthetic Gases  
Other Fuels

---

## Waste and Recyclables

17

Waste  
Recycling  
Medical Device Reprocessing

---

## Purchased Goods and Services

22

Measuring Emissions  
Medical Purchasing  
Furniture and Furnishings  
Food and Disposables  
Tree Planting Initiatives

---

## Conclusion

29

Letter from Sister Agnes Joseph Williams, O.S.F.  
Advancing Sustainability Through Partnership  
Glossary







# LETTER FROM THE CEO

It is my privilege to share the 2025 OSF HealthCare Sustainability Report, highlighting the meaningful progress we continue to make in caring for both people and the environment. At OSF, sustainability is an extension of our Mission to serve with the greatest care and love.

As health care continues to evolve, we recognize that the health of our communities is deeply connected to the health of our environment. The decisions we make today – how we power our facilities, manage resources, purchase supplies and reduce waste – have a direct impact on the well-being of future generations. That understanding continues to shape how we think, innovate and lead across the Ministry.

In 2025, we advanced a wide range of sustainability initiatives that are creating measurable environmental and operational impact. We expanded the use of renewable energy and community solar programs, achieved significant progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increased waste diversion and recycling efforts, and continued integrating sustainability into purchasing and food service practices across OSF.

We also saw important recognition of these efforts. Multiple OSF hospitals earned ENERGY STAR® certification and Tree Campus Healthcare designation, while national organizations recognized our leadership in sustainable operations, energy efficiency and medical device reprocessing. These accomplishments reflect the dedication of Mission Partners across the Ministry who continue to identify innovative ways to strengthen both environmental stewardship and patient care.

As we look ahead, sustainability will remain an important part of how OSF prepares for the future of health care. We are committed to building resilient systems, advancing operational excellence and creating healthier environments for the patients, Mission Partners and communities we serve. This work requires collaboration, continuous improvement and a shared commitment to doing what is right – not only for today, but for generations to come.

I am grateful for the passion and leadership demonstrated by our Mission Partners, physicians, community organizations and operational teams who continue to move this work forward. Together, we are building a healthier, more sustainable future while remaining grounded in the Mission and Values that define OSF HealthCare.

Thank you for your continued support of our Mission.

A portrait of Michelle Conger, Chief Executive Officer of OSF HealthCare. She is a woman with shoulder-length brown hair, smiling, wearing a dark blazer over a maroon top. The background is a soft-focus green plant.

## Michelle Conger

Chief Executive Officer  
OSF HealthCare



# ABOUT OSF HEALTHCARE





YEAR FOUNDED

**1877**

NUMBER OF  
CARE LOCATIONS

**174**

PRIMARY CARE,  
SPECIALTY & ADVANCED  
PRACTICE PROVIDERS

**2,433**

NUMBER OF  
LICENSED BEDS

**2,141**

NUMBER OF  
MISSION PARTNERS

**27,000**

OSF HealthCare is an integrated health system founded by The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis and headquartered in Peoria, Illinois. OSF follows the moral vision and teaching of the Catholic Church through a service of love and compassion, fulfilling a Mission of caring and peace consistent with the needs of the Church and the people served.

## OUR MISSION

In the spirit of Christ and the example of Francis of Assisi, the Mission of OSF HealthCare is to serve persons with the greatest care and love in a community that celebrates the gift of life.

## OUR VISION

Embracing God's great gift of life, we are one OSF Ministry transforming health care to improve the lives of those we serve.

## OUR VALUES

**JUSTICE:** Personal worth and dignity of every person we serve regardless of race, color, religion and ability to pay

**COMPASSION:** Caring response to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the people we serve

**INTEGRITY:** Decision-making based on Catholic ethical principles and Catholic social teachings in every activity of the system

**TEAMWORK:** Collaboration with each other, with physicians and with other providers to deliver comprehensive, integrated and quality health care

**EMPLOYEE WELL-BEING:** Concern for the physical, spiritual, emotional and economical well-being of employees

**SUPPORTIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT:** Quality work environments which focus on comprehensive, integrated quality service and opportunities for employee growth

**TRUST:** Open and honest communication to foster trust relationships among ourselves and with those we serve

**STEWARDSHIP:** Responsible stewardship of the financial, human and technological resources of the system

**LEADERSHIP:** Leadership in the health field and in the communities we serve



# OUR APPROACH TO ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

## INNOVATION FOR A HEALTHIER FUTURE

Health care is rapidly evolving, and OSF HealthCare recognizes that environmental stewardship plays an important role in building resilient, future-focused systems of care. From operational efficiency and sustainable purchasing to energy management and waste reduction, sustainability efforts help strengthen the environments in which patients receive care from OSF every day.

As OSF advances its long-term vision for the future of health care, the Ministry continues to adapt to emerging environmental priorities, changing industry expectations and new opportunities for innovation. Through collaboration, data-informed decision-making and strong partnerships, OSF is working to reduce environmental impact while supporting healthier communities and advancing operational excellence.





## SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP

To help guide environmental stewardship efforts across the Ministry, OSF maintains a Sustainability Advisory Council comprised of senior leaders from multiple divisions. The council provides direction, leadership alignment and governance for sustainability initiatives across OSF.

The Advisory Council's charter recognizes the connection between environmental stewardship and the Mission of OSF, which is reflected through the following guiding principles:

-  OSF believes the health of our planet is inextricably linked to the health of all people. Pollution and climate change are affecting global health and OSF can help reverse their devastating effects by mitigating its impacts.
-  Environmental stewardship is in the fabric of the Franciscan heritage of OSF. With compassion for the poor and vulnerable most impacted by environmental harm, OSF recognizes the dependent relationship between care for creation and care for community.
-  OSF is committed to doing its part, not only because it's our role as a leader in health care but also because doing so makes us a more innovative, resilient organization and inspires confidence in our Mission Partners, patients, suppliers and the communities that we serve.

## ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

The energy and sustainability program of OSF supports environmental stewardship efforts across the Ministry through operational collaboration, data-driven decision-making and continuous improvement initiatives. The program focuses on reducing environmental impact while supporting efficient care environments for patients.

Working closely with operational, clinical and facility teams across OSF, the program advances initiatives in the following focus areas:

- 1** Energy & Certain Gases
- 2** Waste & Recyclables
- 3** Purchased Goods & Services





# SUPPORTING OPERATIONS ACROSS THE MINISTRY

The energy and sustainability program focuses on 52 large facilities across the OSF Ministry, each greater than 20,000 square feet. Together, these facilities represent more than 9.5 million square feet and account for 82% of the total energy consumed by the Ministry.



## Operational and Environmental Footprint

These large facilities represent a substantial operational footprint across OSF, requiring ongoing management of energy, waste and greenhouse gas emissions.

### 2025 Total Resource Consumption

- Energy: 2,233,852,090 kilo-British thermal units (kBtu)<sup>1</sup>
- Water: 520,760,702 gallons
- Fuels: 461,254 gallons
- Food: 406,000 pounds of animal protein
- Styrofoam™: 3,302,850 cups purchased
- Disposable Water Bottles: 895,210 bottles
- Throw Away Cutlery: 3,000,000 pieces
- Printer Paper: 727,232 pounds

### 2025 Total Environmental Outputs

- Greenhouse Gases: 229,066 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MT CO<sub>2</sub>e) (Scope 1 & 2)
- Air Pollution<sup>2</sup>: 54.7 tons of nitrogen oxides and 4.1 tons of particulate matter (hospitals only)
- Solid Waste (trash): 12,785,528 pounds (hospitals only)
- Medical Waste: 1,129,878 pounds (hospitals only)
- Sterilization Blue Wrap (polypropylene): 45,790 pounds

<sup>1</sup> Equivalent to 24.5 million gallons of gasoline consumed.  
<sup>2</sup> Air pollution includes emissions from on-site combustion of natural gas and other fuels.



## MEASURING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT THROUGH CARBON EMISSIONS

Environmental impact across the health care industry is commonly measured through greenhouse gas emissions, which are reported as carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e). This standardized framework allows OSF to better understand and compare emissions associated with facility operations, energy use, transportation and supply chain activities.

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorized into three scopes:

- **Scope 1:** Direct emissions generated from sources owned or controlled by OSF, including on-site fuel combustion, facility equipment and vehicle fleets.
- **Scope 2:** Indirect emissions associated with purchased electricity used to power facilities and operations.<sup>3</sup>
- **Scope 3:** Other indirect emissions generated throughout the broader value chain, including purchased goods and services, waste disposal and other supply chain activities.<sup>4</sup>

## 2025 MINISTRYWIDE ACHIEVEMENTS

### Sustainable Healthcare Certification from The Joint Commission

Awarded to OSF HealthCare for leadership in environmental responsibility, becoming the first health system in Illinois and the 10th in the nation to earn the two-year certification.<sup>5</sup>

### Emerald Award from Practice Greenhealth

Awarded to OSF HealthCare Saint James - John W. Albrecht Medical Center in Pontiac, Illinois, and OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center in Rockford, Illinois, for ranking in the top 20% of the nation's sustainable health care organizations, honored for leadership, innovation and measurable achievements.

### Circle of Excellence Award from Practice Greenhealth

Awarded to OSF Saint James for being a top-10 performing hospital in the energy category, highlighting continued leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



<sup>3</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Scope 1 and Scope 2 Inventory Guidance," <https://www.epa.gov/climateleadership/scope-1-and-scope-2-inventory-guidance>

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Scope 3 Inventory Guidance," <https://www.epa.gov/climateleadership/scope-3-inventory-guidance>

<sup>5</sup> The Joint Commission, "Sustainable Healthcare Certification," <https://www.jointcommission.org/what-we-offer/certification/certifications-by-setting/hospital-certifications/sustainable-healthcare-certification/>



# 1 ENERGY AND CERTAIN GASES

Health care facilities rely on energy, fuel and specialized medical gases to support patient care each day. While essential, these resources also contribute to greenhouse gas emissions associated with building energy use, transportation and clinical care activities. OSF HealthCare works to reduce these emissions through various targeted energy and anesthetic gas efforts.

## MEASURING ENERGY AND EMISSIONS

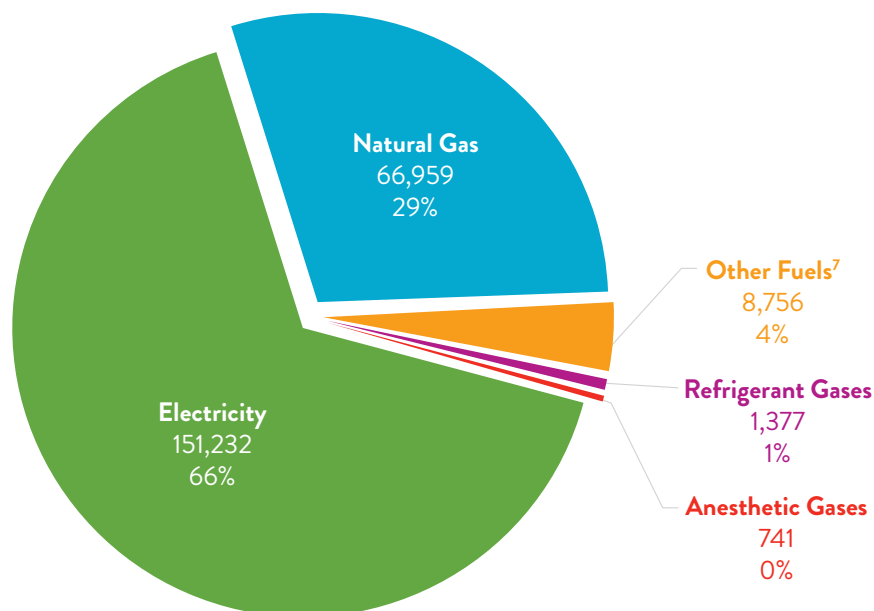
Energy consumption and certain gas emissions associated with facility operations, purchased electricity and medical gases primarily fall under Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions. These emissions are commonly measured as carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e), which standardizes the climate impact of different greenhouse gases into a single comparable metric. Through 2025, OSF has achieved a 27% reduction in carbon emissions (normalized by area). OSF aims to reduce Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 50% by 2030, using 2019 levels as a benchmark.



### Reduction in Scope 1 and 2 Emissions<sup>6</sup>

From 2019 Through 2025

2025 Scope 1 and 2 Carbon Emissions (metric tons)



<sup>6</sup> Reduction reflects emissions normalized by facility square footage and does not represent absolute emissions reductions.

<sup>7</sup> Other fuels includes diesel, gasoline, fuel oil and jet fuel.



## RENEWABLE ENERGY

OSF HealthCare continued to advance its use of clean, renewable energy through participation in the Illinois Community Solar program, with just over 3% of its total electricity sourced from community solar in 2025, resulting in more than \$292,700 in savings.

This program allows organizations like OSF to subscribe to portions of mid-sized regional solar farms (typically 10 to 40 acres), enabling the purchase of solar electricity at discounted rates without the need to install panels on-site.<sup>8</sup> As part of this effort, OSF Saint Anthony serves as the anchor subscriber for the Rock Cut Solar project in Winnebago County, Illinois,<sup>9</sup> committing to approximately 40% of the project's total energy output.

OSF also partnered closely with Summit Ridge Energy and Nexamp to finalize long-term agreements supporting the development of 27 new solar projects across Illinois over the next two years. The energy generated from these projects will be allocated to more than 180 OSF facilities.

As these projects come online, OSF expects to significantly expand its solar energy portfolio, projecting that 8% of its total electricity will be sourced from community solar in 2026, generating more than \$381,000 in annual energy savings.

In addition to its off-site solar commitments, OSF installed a 167.5 kW solar panel array at the OSF Center for Health on Route 91 in Peoria, Illinois. The array is expected to offset 38% of the facility's annual electricity use, saving approximately \$24,000 each year in energy costs and reducing carbon emissions by an estimated 192 MT. Any excess power generated will be returned to the grid. This project was supported by clean energy incentives, with 40% of costs covered by federal incentives and an additional 8.5% by state utility programs.



Clear Creek Solar in Virginia, Illinois, which supplies power to OSF HealthCare Sacred Heart Medical Center in Danville, Illinois, and OSF Center for Information Management in Peoria, Illinois.



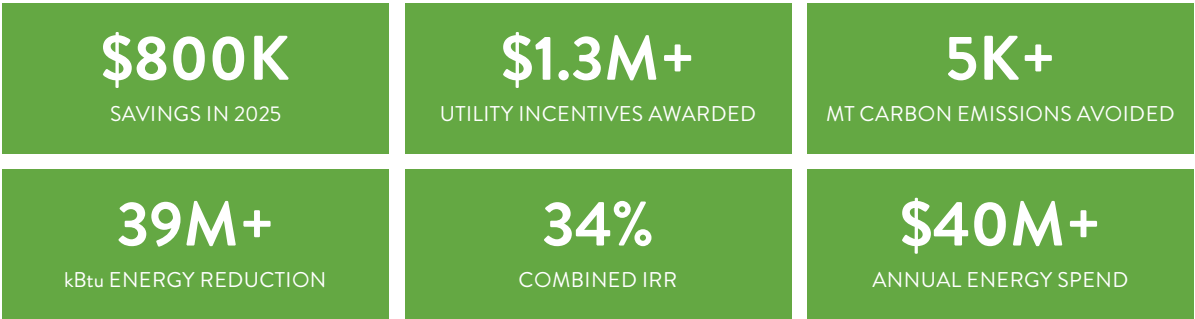
<sup>8</sup> Illinois Shines, "Explore Community Solar," <https://illinoisshines.com/exploring-community-solar/>

<sup>9</sup> Illinois Shines, "Rockford, IL Achieves Affordable Clean Energy and Community Benefits Through Innovative Illinois Shines Solar Development," <https://illinoisshines.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Rockford-Rock-Cut-Solar-CDCS-Case-Study-v260211.pdf>



# ENERGY USE AND PERFORMANCE

Building energy consumption represents 95% of Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions generated across OSF facilities. In 2025, OSF used more than 2.2 million MMBtu of energy across its buildings, with electricity and natural gas accounting for nearly all energy-related emissions. Total building energy costs exceeded \$40 million, reinforcing the importance of ongoing efficiency and optimization efforts.

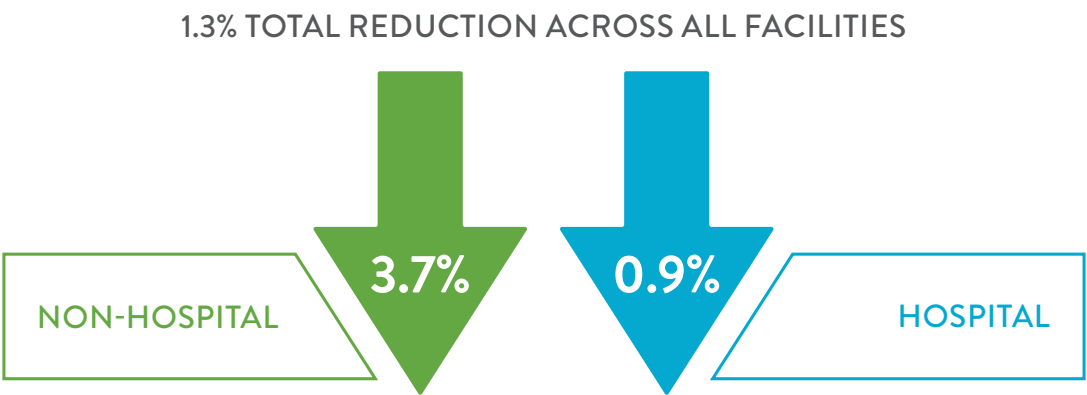


## Energy Reduction

In 2025, OSF reduced weather-adjusted energy use intensity (EUI) by 1.3% across its facilities, including a 3.7% reduction at non-hospital facilities and a 0.9% reduction at hospitals.

OSF tracks and benchmarks building performance using the ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager®, a tool within the EPA's ENERGY STAR program. The platform enables organizations to measure energy use in a secure online environment and compare performance across similar buildings.<sup>10</sup>

By analyzing key performance indicators such as weather-adjusted EUI, OSF identifies trends and sets goals to reduce energy consumption across its sites.



<sup>10</sup> Energy Star, "Benchmark Your Building With Portfolio Manager," <https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/benchmark>



## ENERGY STAR Participation

OSF evaluates its hospitals' energy performance using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR program, which helps organizations adopt energy-efficient solutions benefiting public health while delivery cost savings. ENERGY STAR scores are based on 12 months of energy consumption and range from 1 to 100, with scores of 75 or higher indicating top performance.<sup>11</sup>

In 2025, OSF HealthCare Saint Luke Medical Center in Kewanee, Illinois, and OSF Saint James earned ENERGY STAR certification, with scores of 97 and 89 respectively, placing them among top energy performers nationwide.

When OSF began tracking ENERGY STAR scores in 2019, no sites scored above 75 and only 15% scored above 50. Through continued focus and investment in energy efficiency, more than 50% of OSF hospitals now score above 50.

OSF aims for all hospitals to achieve a score of 75 or higher by 2030.



**OSF hospitals  
score above 50**

## Energy to Care Awards

OSF Saint James earned the Energy to Care Sustainability Champions Award, the highest distinction from the American Society for Health Care Engineering (ASHE), which recognizes health care facilities demonstrating exceptional leadership in health care sustainability.<sup>12</sup>

In 2025, the hospital was one of just 87 facilities nationwide (less than 2% of ENERGY STAR program participants) to achieve this honor, reflecting a strong and sustained commitment to environmental stewardship.

Nine OSF facilities also earned the Sustained Performance Award in 2025. To qualify, facilities must maintain either an ENERGY STAR score of 75 or higher or a weather-normalized EUI equal to or lower than their established baseline for three consecutive years.



<sup>11</sup> Energy Star, "ENERGY STAR Certification," <https://www.energystar.gov/about/how-energy-star-works/energy-star-certification>

<sup>12</sup> ASHE, "Energy to Care Awards," <https://www.ashe.org/energytocare/awards-overview>



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND OPTIMIZATION

In 2025, targeted building optimization efforts across 11 OSF facilities reduced energy costs by more than \$200,000 annually and avoided over 1,000 MT of carbon emissions.

The majority of energy used in buildings is consumed by HVAC systems that maintain indoor temperature, humidity and air exchange. Certain building areas, such as operating rooms, pharmacies and procedure spaces, have stringent guidelines for environmental conditions. To manage this complexity, OSF operates HVAC systems using sophisticated building automation systems (BAS) that integrate data from hundreds of sensors throughout each facility.

These systems are connected to advanced building analytics software, enabling OSF engineers to identify optimization strategies that improve performance and reduce energy use. Many of these efforts are part of ongoing monitoring-based commissioning initiatives that continuously refine system performance over time.

One notable example is the OSF HealthCare St. Mary Medical Center in Galesburg, Illinois, where updated control strategies – including occupancy-based adjustments, temperature resets, control loop tuning, standardized setpoints and revised control sequences – reduced overall energy use by 17% across gas and electricity.

Energy efficiency improvements occur across a wide range of OSF facilities and systems each year. The following projects represent a sample of initiatives completed across the Ministry in 2025.



A Mission Partner at OSF HealthCare St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington, Illinois, reviewing the HVAC systems.

**\$200K+**  
SAVED

**1K+**  
MT CARBON  
EMISSIONS  
AVOIDED



An OSF facility with upgraded lighting.

### LED Lighting Upgrade

OSF HealthCare invested \$240,000 in lighting upgrades across the Ministry this year, supporting nine projects across six locations. The upgrades, which ranged from exterior parking lot lighting to ICU lighting improvements, are expected to reduce electric consumption by over 900,000 kWh annually, generating nearly \$90,000 in energy cost savings. The projects also secured \$78,420 in utility incentives.

In total, the upgrades are projected to reduce carbon emissions by more than 600 MT, which is equivalent to using 68,000 gallons of gasoline.





## Chilled Water System Optimization

A system optimization project that was completed this year at OSF St. Joseph is expected to reduce energy costs by nearly \$100,000 annually and lower carbon emissions by 667 MT.

The project included the installation of 14 variable frequency drives (VFDs) on air handling unit (AHU) fans and 19 pressure-independent control valves on AHU chilled water coils. These improvements enabled more advanced control of the chilled water plant, including pressure, condenser water and chilled water resets. The VFDs also allow AHU fans to operate at reduced speeds, decreasing energy use and equipment strain.

This project received more than \$125,000 in incentives from the local utility energy efficiency program and is expected to reduce energy consumption by approximately 5.3 million kBtu annually, equivalent to using 75,050 gallons of gasoline. The initiative is projected to deliver a 28% internal rate of return (IRR).

## HVAC Controls Upgrade

OSF HealthCare Cardiovascular Institute in Peoria, Illinois, completed a comprehensive HVAC controls upgrade to reduce energy costs by more than \$180,000 annually and decrease building energy use by over 45%.

The project included full equipment integration along with advanced metering and monitoring capabilities. These upgrades enabled the implementation of targeted energy efficiency measures such as temperature resets and equipment scheduling.

The project was awarded \$70,000 in utility incentives through the local energy efficiency program. The initiative is expected to reduce energy consumption by nearly 9 million kBtu annually and avoid approximately 880 MT CO<sub>2</sub>, which is equivalent to 99,000 gallons of gasoline.





## ANESTHETIC GASES

OSF purchased 3,970 kg of anesthetic gases, including sevoflurane, isoflurane and nitrous oxide. Each anesthetic gas has a unique impact on atmospheric warming, which is expressed as its global warming potential (GWP).

### Desflurane Elimination

In 2025, OSF HealthCare fully eliminated its use of desflurane, with no purchases recorded during the year. Desflurane is a high-impact anesthetic gas with a GWP 2,540 times that of CO<sub>2</sub>. Since 2019, when OSF purchased just over 1,000 kg of desflurane (contributing to more than 2,500 MT of carbon emissions), usage has declined by 100% through a transition to lower-impact alternatives, including sevoflurane.

This shift has significantly reduced the overall greenhouse gas emissions associated with anesthetic gases. Over the past six years, the transition away from desflurane alone has avoided approximately 2,435 MT of carbon emissions and generated more than \$200,000 in cost savings.



### Decrease in purchased desflurane since 2019



A portable e-cylinder tank used in OSF operating rooms.

### Nitrous Oxide Efficiency Improvements

Nitrous oxide, used for anesthesia at OSF medical centers, is a potent greenhouse gas with a GWP 273 times greater than carbon dioxide.

A 36-month analysis of purchase and usage data from Epic revealed that over 90% of purchased nitrous oxide was not administered to patients, primarily due to transmission inefficiencies in central supply systems and residual gas loss in cylinders. Only 10% of purchased nitrous was ultimately administered to patients, findings consistent with national health care trends.<sup>13</sup>

In response, OSF began transitioning to e-cylinders, which are small, portable tanks mounted directly on anesthesia carts, to reduce system losses by eliminating long gas transmission lines and improving delivery efficiency.

By the end of 2025, 10 OSF hospitals successfully transitioned to e-cylinders. This effort reduced nitrous oxide purchasing costs by \$15,240 and is estimated to have avoided approximately 1,266 MT of carbon emissions (equivalent to 1.4 million pounds of coal burned). Additional savings are expected in 2026 as remaining hospitals complete their conversions.

<sup>13</sup> "Statement on Deactivating Central Piped Nitrous Oxide to Mitigate Avoidable Health Care Pollution," American Society of Anesthesiologists, 2024, <https://www.asahq.org/standards-and-practice-parameters/statement-on-deactivating-central-piped-nitrous-oxide-to-mitigate-avoidable-health-care-pollution>



## Pressurized Metered-Dose Inhalers

OSF expanded efforts to better understand and reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with pressurized metered-dose inhalers (pMDIs), commonly used to treat respiratory conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Many pMDIs use hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) propellants, or pressurized gases that deliver medication from the inhaler, which contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. Climate-related impacts such as wildfire smoke, air pollution and longer allergy seasons can also increase respiratory illness and inhaler use.<sup>14, 15</sup>

To support emission reduction efforts in this area, OSF formed a multidisciplinary work group to evaluate greenhouse gas emissions per dose across inhaler medications and identify lower-carbon alternatives that will continue to meet patient care needs.

Since 2023, total greenhouse gas emissions associated with inhalers purchased for inpatient use or sold through OSF pharmacies decreased by approximately 28%, while average emissions per dose declined by more than 20%. Additional opportunities to reduce inhaler-related emissions will be evaluated across the Ministry in the coming years.

## OTHER FUELS

OSF uses several fossil fuel sources across its operations, including gasoline, diesel, fuel oil and aviation fuel. This year, the OSF fleet of over 1,000 vehicles consumed 595,687 gallons of gasoline and 60,832 gallons of diesel fuel, totaling approximately \$2.2 million in fuel costs.

These mobile fuel sources generated approximately 5,851 MT of carbon emissions in 2025, along with 10.7 MT of ozone-forming nitrous oxide from tailpipe emissions. OSF continues to evaluate opportunities to improve vehicle fleet efficiency and reduce transportation-related emissions.



<sup>14</sup> Montreal protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer; UNEP 2014 report of the Medical Technical Options Committee, Nairobi [Kenya]; United Nations Environment Programme; 2015.

<sup>15</sup> Bebinger, Martha. "Could Better Asthma Inhalers Help Patients, and the Planet Too?" NPR, WBUR, 6 May 2024, [www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2024/05/06/1248504466/could-better-asthma-inhalers-help-patients-and-the-planet-too](https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2024/05/06/1248504466/could-better-asthma-inhalers-help-patients-and-the-planet-too).



## 2 WASTE AND RECYCLABLES

Health care and building operations generate significant quantities of waste. That's why OSF is committed to reducing waste and embracing responsible recycling practices by using innovative strategies and collaborative efforts.

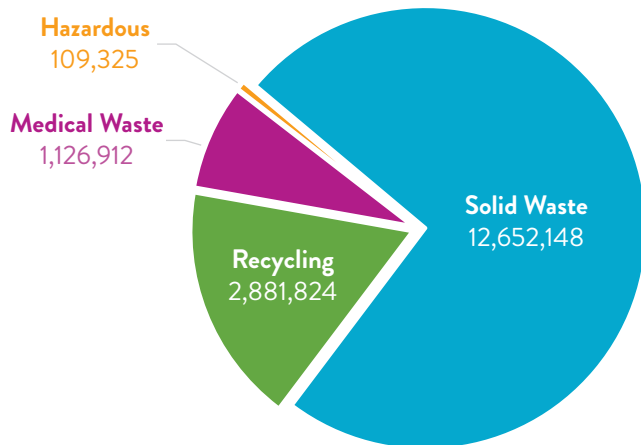
### WASTE

The OSF energy and sustainability program prioritizes reducing waste generated by hospitals, which is a significant contributor to the overall health care environmental footprint. A key focus area is regulated medical waste, including red bag waste, sharps and pathology/chemotherapy waste, which can generate greater climate emissions during disposal than regular trash.

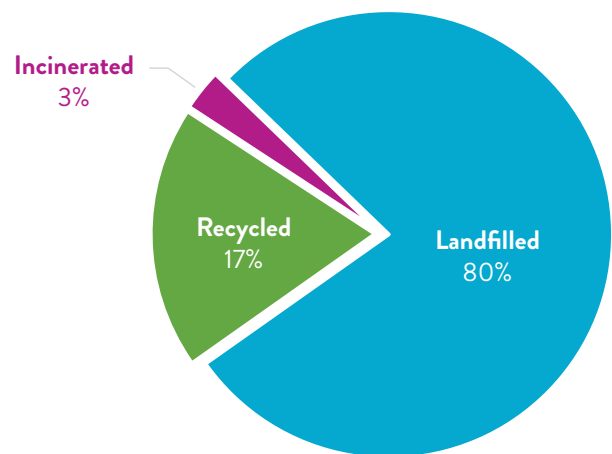
To support reduction efforts, OSF partners with a waste management vendor to perform medical waste audits and provide education at all OSF medical centers. These audits included visual observation of over 1,100 medical waste containers, with 52% identified as having opportunities for improvement primarily due to non-medical waste being incorrectly disposed of as regulated medical waste. Findings were communicated to care teams across the Ministry to support improved waste segregation and management practices.

These efforts helped avoid 182,006 pounds of additional medical waste this year, equivalent to a reduction of 82.56 MT of carbon emissions. By incorporating these initiatives across sites, OSF is working to reduce environmental impact while supporting safe patient care.

2025 Total Hospital Waste (pounds)



2025 Hospital Waste Disposal Method



182,006 lbs of medical waste avoided in 2025



## RECYCLING

Compared to 2019, OSF increased the amount of hospital waste recycled by almost 345,000 pounds per year, with 17.2% of total waste recycled in 2025. In total, OSF collected 2.9 million pounds of recyclable materials this year, including 835,795 pounds of cardboard.

Recyclables collected across the Ministry include confidential paper for shredding, mixed recyclables, electronic waste, medical devices, used cooking oil, batteries, bulbs and lead vests.



## Mission Outreach

In 2025, OSF donated 131 pieces of medical equipment and 4,612 pounds of supply items to Mission Outreach. The combined weight of these donations, which would otherwise be disposed of to a landfill, totaled 33,151 pounds. Since 2018, OSF has contributed a total of 250,622 pounds of supplies and equipment through the program.

Founded in 2002 by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, Mission Outreach works to improve the health and wellness of people across the globe through the responsible donation of medical supplies, equipment and support services. The program distributes donations to communities in need across Africa, South America and Ukraine.



**227,244  
LBS**

**SUPPLIES DONATED  
SINCE 2018**



HOSPITAL SISTERS  
**Mission Outreach**



## MEDICAL DEVICE REPROCESSING

Medical device reprocessing supports environmental sustainability by reducing waste while also contributing to cost savings and a more circular approach to health care resource management. OSF collected 207,925 single-use medical devices (SUDs) for reprocessing, diverting more than 44,880 pounds of plastic-dense waste from landfills.

OSF partners with four vendors to collect eligible SUDs for reprocessing in accordance with strict FDA regulations related to quality and patient safety. Reprocessed devices can reduce life cycle climate pollution by as much as 50% while also decreasing landfill waste.<sup>16, 17</sup>



**207,925**  
SUDS COLLECTED  
FOR REPROCESSING



**44,880 LBS**  
WASTE DIVERTED  
FROM LANDFILLS

### Practice Greenhealth Plastics Grant

OSF was one of just three health systems selected to receive a grant from Practice Greenhealth to reduce the use and disposal of plastic-dense SUDs. The grant supported expanded medical device collection for reprocessing at OSF Saint Anthony.

Through cross-functional collaboration, collection rates improved for targeted devices – including one that increased from 23% to 31% in six months – and prevented approximately 650 pounds of plastic waste from entering landfills annually. The initiative also uncovered new opportunities to reduce Scope 3 emissions and generate cost savings.<sup>18</sup>

### Environmental Excellence Award

OSF Saint Anthony received the Gold Environmental Excellence Award from Stryker's Sustainability Solutions (SSS), recognizing hospitals that demonstrate outstanding leadership in health care sustainability through SUD reprocessing.<sup>19</sup> The award was based on its 2025 performance, including waste diversion, collection growth and purchasing of reprocessed SUDs.

Through its reprocessing program, OSF Saint Anthony successfully diverted approximately 13,000 pounds of plastic waste from landfills, reinforcing its commitment to reducing environmental impact and advancing sustainable clinical operations.

<sup>16</sup> Association of Medical Device Reprocessors, "For Hospitals, the Road to "Net Zero" Begins with Reprocessing "Single-Use" Devices," <https://amdr.org/>

<sup>17</sup> Stryker, "Comparative Carbon Footprint of Reprocessed Single Use Medical Devices," <https://www.stryker.com/content/dam/stryker/sustainability/resources/Comparative%20Carbon%20Footprint%20for%20LCA.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> Practice Greenhealth, "OSF Healthcare: Data and Collaboration Drive Single-Use Device Reprocessing Success", <https://practicegreenhealth.org/topics/waste/osf-healthcare-data-and-collaboration-drive-single-use-device-reprocessing-success>

<sup>19</sup> Stryker, "Stryker's Sustainability Solutions," <https://www.stryker.com/us/en/sustainability.html>





A pulse oximeter being placed into a recycling bucket for reprocessing.

## Pulse Oximeters

OSF purchased more than 530,000 disposable pulse oximeters during the year, collecting 30.6% of those devices for reprocessing. These efforts diverted 8,158 pounds of plastic waste from landfills.

Through ongoing collection and reprocessing efforts supported by Mission Partners, approximately one-third of purchased oximeters were reprocessed rather than discarded. OSF uses a purchasing strategy that incorporates new and reprocessed devices, making the collection of eligible oximeters an important part of the reprocessing cycle. Reprocessed oximeters have a life cycle carbon footprint 51% lower than original devices, contributing to an estimated reduction of 13.1 MT of carbon emissions in 2025.<sup>20</sup>

## Green Horizons Sustainability Award

OSF HealthCare received the 2025 Green Horizons Sustainability Award – Silver Level from Medtronic in recognition of its outstanding commitment to environmental stewardship through the Nellcor pulse oximeter reprocessing program. This national award recognizes systems that achieve an oximeter collection rate of over 30%.

## Lateral Transfer Mats

OSF collected 21,303 lateral transfer mats for reprocessing (63% of all mats purchased), which diverted 33,019 pounds of plastic waste from landfills.

Lateral transfer mats are used throughout hospitals to safely move patients between beds, stretchers and other surfaces. Through its reprocessing program, OSF purchases a mix of original and reprocessed mats, reducing both costs and environmental impact. In 2025, the use of reprocessed mats generated more than \$600,000 in savings and reduced Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 66.1 MT of carbon emissions. Reprocessed mats also have a life cycle carbon footprint approximately 42% lower than original devices.<sup>21</sup>



A lateral transfer mat is placed into a recycling bin for reprocessing.

<sup>20</sup> Stryker, "Comparative Carbon Footprint of Reprocessed Single Use Medical Devices," <https://www.stryker.com/content/dam/stryker/sustainability/resources/Comparative%20Carbon%20Footprint%20for%20LCA.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> C. Thiel, Clinically Sustainable Prevalon Transfer Mat LCA, 2025.



## Other Medical Devices

Building on the framework established for pulse oximeters and lateral transfer mats, OSF expanded reprocessing efforts to additional device categories including electrophysiology (EP) devices, manifolds and MyoSure devices.

### EP Devices

EP devices, or electrophysiology catheters and cables commonly used in cardiac procedures, are expensive devices that contain significant amounts of plastic (60-75% of device). OSF collected nearly 57% of all eligible EP devices for reprocessing this year, supporting both environmental and operational sustainability efforts across the Ministry.

### Manifolds

Manifolds are plastic filters used in operating room waste management systems. This year, OSF purchased 54,360 manifolds and collected 10,695 devices (19.7%) for reprocessing, diverting 1,283 pounds of plastic waste from landfills. Focused education efforts contributed to collection improvements across the Ministry, including a 29% year-over-year increase at OSF Saint Anthony.

### MyoSure Devices

OSF Saint Anthony also evaluated the use of reprocessed MyoSure hysteroscopic tissue removal devices. Clinical reviews identified no operational concerns with the reprocessed devices, supporting future expansion efforts. Reprocessed MyoSure use at OSF Saint Anthony is projected to divert approximately 190 pounds of medical waste from landfills, reduce carbon emissions by 86 kg and generate more than \$21,000 in cost savings.





# 3 PURCHASED GOODS AND SERVICES

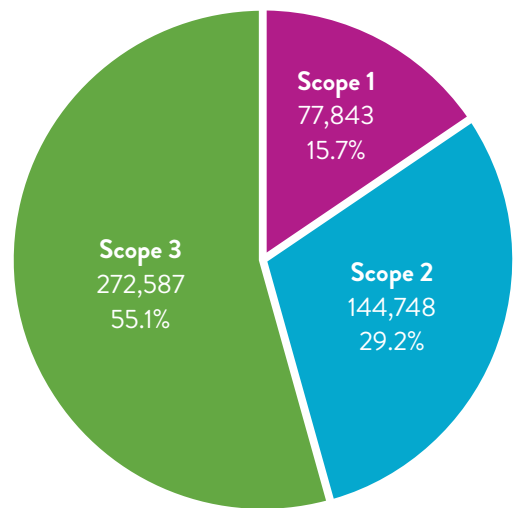
The impact that a health care supply chain can have on the environment is large and complex. OSF recognizes that the environmental and social impacts associated with the goods and services purchased are a significant part of its overall sustainability footprint. OSF is committed to addressing this key area and taking proactive steps to reduce the sustainability impacts within its supply chain.

## MEASURING EMISSIONS

As previously mentioned, greenhouse gas emissions are categorized as Scope 1, 2 and 3. Scope 3 emissions, such as those from purchased goods and services, often represent the largest share of a company's emissions.

OSF completed its Scope 3 inventory for the fourth year in a row, quantifying carbon emissions across several categories utilizing a spend-based accounting tool created by Practice Greenhealth.

2025 Scope 1, 2 and 3 Carbon Emissions (metric tons)



Scope 3 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Breakdown<sup>22</sup>

| Category Name                              | GHG Emissions (MT CO <sub>2</sub> e) | Percent of Total Scope 3 Emissions |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Purchased goods and services*              | 197,840                              | 72.6%                              |
| Employee commuting                         | 26,996                               | 9.9%                               |
| Fuel and energy-related emissions          | 23,466                               | 8.6%                               |
| Downstream transportation and distribution | 12,186                               | 4.5%                               |
| Waste generated in operations              | 4,484                                | 1.6%                               |
| Upstream transportation and distribution   | 4,379                                | 1.6%                               |
| Business travel                            | 3,063                                | 1.1%                               |
| Sold products (inhalers)                   | 173                                  | 0.1%                               |

\*The top three sub-categories of purchased goods and services are chemical products (such as pharmaceuticals and vaccines), miscellaneous manufacturing (such as surgical appliances, supplies and medical instruments) and software.

<sup>22</sup> Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions were estimated using the standardized GHG Protocol found at [www.ghgprotocol.org](http://www.ghgprotocol.org). Consistent with GHG Protocol guidance, investments are excluded from Scope 3 inventory.



## MEDICAL PURCHASING

### Medical Devices and Products

OSF continues to reduce the use of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP) in medical devices and supplies across the Ministry. This year, OSF achieved more than 97% compliant spend in enteral tube products and continued broader efforts to eliminate PVC and DEHP in high-priority product categories.

PVC and DEHP are commonly used in medical devices and are associated with significant health and environmental concerns. PVC manufacturing requires the input of toxic materials during manufacture, such as DEHP, a type of softener often used in PVC plastics. During use and disposal, DEHP can leach out from PVC medical devices and pose risk to vulnerable patients who are exposed.<sup>23</sup> This has prompted the FDA to recommend reducing patient exposure to DEHP.

According to Practice Greenhealth, eight categories of medical supplies are considered high priority for PVC/DEHP elimination.<sup>24</sup> For OSF, these categories represent approximately \$33.5 million in annual spending.

Progress has already been made to eliminate PVC and DEHP in several products and medical supplies across the Ministry. Prior to 2021, PVC and DEHP was eliminated from gloves, breast pumps and related accessories. OSF will continue working toward eliminating PVC and DEHP in high-priority medical supplies over the coming years.



Augustus Kormah examining an endoscope in an OSF surgery room.

### Sustainable Endoscopes

OSF continues to identify opportunities to purchase from vendors such as Ambu that actively reduce life cycle greenhouse gas emissions through more sustainable manufacturing practices. The company's single-use endoscopes are manufactured using bioplastics derived from waste-based feedstocks such as used cooking oil. Compared to traditional petroleum-based plastics, the bioplastic handles generate 70% less carbon emission.<sup>25</sup> Using life cycle analysis data, OSF estimated that purchasing more than 2,500 bioplastic endoscopes from Ambu reduced Scope 3 gas emissions by approximately 276 kg of carbon emissions.

<sup>23</sup> Practice Greenhealth, "Guidance to Achieve HH Safer Chemicals Challenge - PVC and DEHP Elimination in Medical Devices," [https://practicegreenhealth.org/sites/default/files/2019-02/hh\\_pvc\\_and\\_dehp\\_elimination\\_guidance\\_-\\_version\\_3.0\\_march\\_2018%20%281%29.pdf](https://practicegreenhealth.org/sites/default/files/2019-02/hh_pvc_and_dehp_elimination_guidance_-_version_3.0_march_2018%20%281%29.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> Practice Greenhealth, "Safer Medical Products and Devices," <https://practicegreenhealth.org/topics/safer-chemicals/safer-medical-products-and-devices>

<sup>25</sup> Force Technology, Life Cycle Assessment of single-use endoscopes, July 2025.



## FURNITURE AND FURNISHINGS

OSF prioritizes the purchase of furniture and furnishings that minimize the use of hazardous chemicals and support healthier indoor environments for employees, patients and communities. This year, 52% of purchased furniture and furnishings met the sustainability standard established by the Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA), surpassing the original 2020 Ministry goal of 30%.

Furniture and furnishings can contain chemicals and materials that pose environmental and human health concerns throughout their life cycle, from manufacturing through disposal. These may include substances such as formaldehyde, flame retardants, per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs), PVCs and antimicrobials, all of which can be linked to chronic diseases, cancer, birth defects and more.<sup>26</sup>

The Action Office workstation was the highest-purchased furnishing item in 2025, with 990 units acquired. The workstation includes several sustainability attributes, including BIFMA Level 3 certification, SCS Indoor Advantage Gold certification, recycled content and FSC(r)-certified materials.<sup>27</sup>



<sup>26</sup> Practice Greenhealth, "Healthy Interiors Goal," <https://practicegreenhealth.org/tools-and-resources/healthy-interiors-goal>

<sup>27</sup> MillerKnoll, "Herman Miller Action Office® System," <https://millerknoll.ecomedes.com/products/hermannmiller/CAP>



# FOOD AND DISPOSABLES

Food, health care and the environment are deeply interconnected. The quality, type and availability of food directly influence human health, while food production, distribution and disposal also have significant environmental impacts. Food therefore represents an important focus area for health care sustainability efforts. OSF closely monitors the sustainability attributes of its purchased food, including certifications (such as organic, local, hormone-free, antibiotic-free), origin and protein sources.



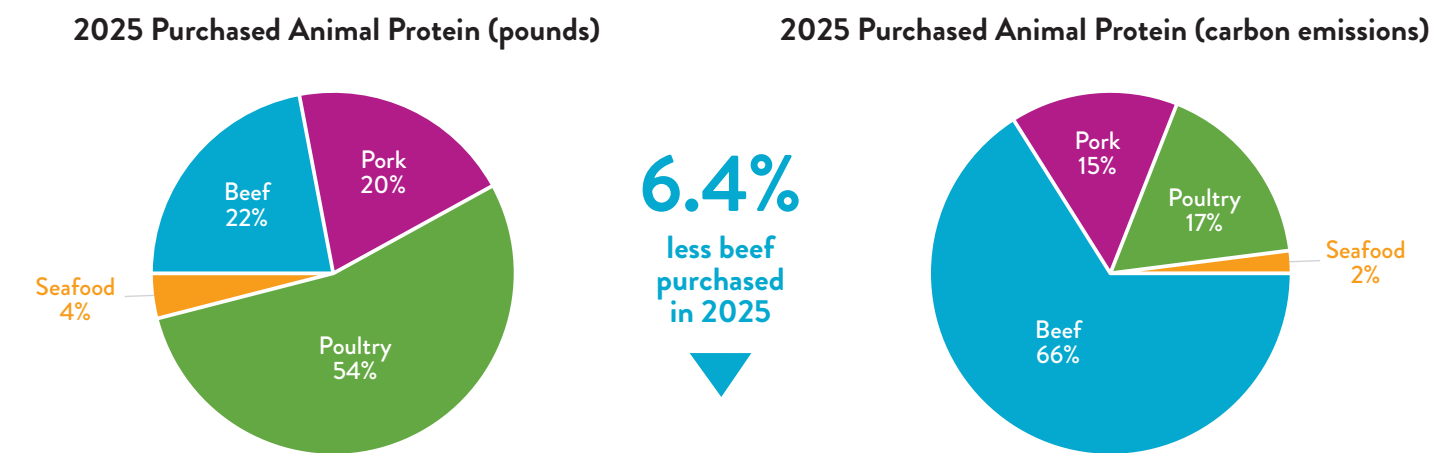
## Animal Protein

OSF has continued efforts to reduce the environmental impact of food purchasing and meal planning across the Ministry. Although overall animal protein purchases increased by 8% due to system growth, beef accounted for just 22% of total animal protein purchased weight<sup>28</sup> - down from 26% in 2024. Pound for pound, beef purchases decreased by 6.4% in 2025. These purchasing changes reduced Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions by more than 50 MT of carbon emissions.

Animal-based foods generally require significantly more resources and generate almost 10 times more greenhouse gas emissions than plant-based alternatives, with beef representing one of the highest-impact protein sources.<sup>29</sup>

OSF also consolidated food services with Aramark, creating greater consistency in food purchasing and meal planning across the Ministry. Through this partnership, OSF began expanding sustainability-focused initiatives such as Coolfood meals, developed by the World Resources Institute. Coolfood meals are designed to reduce food-related greenhouse gas emissions by 30-40% while maintaining nutritional quality.<sup>30</sup>

In 2025, OSF Saint Anthony served 74,923 Coolfood portions, representing 38% of all meals served at the facility. OSF plans to expand Coolfood menu offerings across additional locations in 2026.





## Community Gardens

Eight OSF campuses operated on-site community gardens this year, collectively harvesting over 24,550 pounds of fresh produce for donation to local charitable organizations. One standout initiative is the Garden of Hope, located in Peoria, Illinois. This garden alone harvested 12,900 pounds of produce that was donated to various charities around the Peoria community, including Trewyn Wrap Around Center, Peoria Neighborhood House, Riverside Community Fridge, Southside Manor Senior Living and Sophia's Kitchen.



Garden of Hope, an OSF-operated community garden located near OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois.



## Disposable Cups

OSF purchased approximately 4 million disposable cups during the year, composed of materials including paper, plastic and Styrofoam, also known as expanded polystyrene foam. Styrofoam cups accounted for 83% of all disposable cups purchased.

Because polystyrene products contribute to environmental pollution and have been associated with potential health concerns related to chemicals used during manufacturing,<sup>31, 32</sup> OSF continues to work toward reducing the use of Styrofoam cups across the Ministry. Since 2019, disposable cup purchases have decreased by 4.76%. Efforts to reduce reliance on Styrofoam cups and identify cost-effective alternatives will continue in the coming years.

## Aluminum Beverage Transition

Plastic beverage bottles contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and plastic waste throughout their life cycle, from production and transportation to disposal. Compared to aluminum cans, plastic bottles carry a 70% larger carbon footprint.<sup>33, 34, 35</sup>

Across the Ministry, OSF purchased and/or sold more than 895,000 plastic water bottles during the year, with the majority distributed through cafeterias and vending machines. In vending machines alone, more than 220,000 bottled beverages introduced over 10,000 pounds of plastic into the waste stream.

To help reduce this impact, the Green Team at OSF Saint James transitioned vending machine beverages from plastic bottles to aluminum alternatives. Following the success of this initiative, OSF plans to expand the aluminum beverage portfolio across hospitals throughout the Ministry in 2026, which is projected to eliminate more than 6,915 pounds of plastic waste while increasing recyclable aluminum collection by more than 4,280 pounds each year.

<sup>31</sup> Children's Environmental Health Network, "FAQs: Polystyrene Foam," <https://cehn.org/our-work/eco-healthy-child-care/ehcc-faqs/faqs-styrofoam/>

<sup>32</sup> National Toxicology Program, Department of Health and Human Services, "Report on Carcinogens," <https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/sites/default/files/ntp/roc/content/profiles/styrene.pdf>

<sup>33</sup> Metabolic, "Recycling Unpacked," <https://www.metabolic.nl/projects/cmi-recycling-unpacked/#:-:text=In%20today's%20U.S.%20system%2C%20more,percent%20of%20plastic%20PET%20bottles.>

<sup>34</sup> Ball Corporation, Comparative Life Cycle Assessment: North America," <https://www.ball.com/getattachment/334d5de9-d11e-4e18-bf36-be278d9aac51/LCA-presentation-US.pdf>

<sup>35</sup> Center for International Environmental Law, "Plastic & Health: The Hidden Costs of a Plastic Planet," <https://www.ciel.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Plastic-and-Health-The-Hidden-Costs-of-a-Plastic-PlanetFebruary-2019.pdf>



## TREE PLANTING INITIATIVES

Tree cover isn't just about aesthetics, but rather an essential part of community health infrastructure. Trees offer a wide range of environmental and public health benefits including air pollution reduction, carbon capture, lower ground temperatures, storm water absorption and the promotion of outdoor activity, which benefits both physical and mental health.

### 2025 TREE CAMPUS HEALTHCARE CERTIFICATION SITES

OSF Saint Francis

OSF Saint James

OSF Saint Anthony

OSF St. Joseph

OSF Saint Luke



### Tree Campus Health Care Program

Five OSF hospitals earned Tree Campus Healthcare certification from the Arbor Day Foundation in 2025, recognizing their commitment to community wellness through tree planting and environmental education. Those that achieved designation include OSF Saint Francis, OSF Saint James, OSF Saint Anthony, OSF St. Joseph and OSF Saint Luke.

The Arbor Day Foundation's Tree Campus Healthcare Program recognizes health care organizations that champion community wellness through intentional tree planting and education. Certification is awarded to hospital campuses that not only plant trees but also raise awareness of their health benefits among employees and the broader community.

The certified OSF campuses planted 21 trees and conducted outreach about the importance of tree canopy with employees, partners and local media. They also hosted spring sapling giveaways, distributing a combined 100 bare-root saplings to Mission Partners.

Beyond the Tree Campus program, OSF planted an additional 280 trees across other locations since 2022, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable environments and community wellness.



## Annual Autumn Tree Adoption

OSF continues to deepen its commitment to building greener, healthier communities by hosting the Annual Autumn Tree Adoption event. This event provided 550 potted saplings to Mission Partners across the Ministry. Participants could choose from 18 different species of trees – from oaks to maples to redbuds – and were provided with planting and care instructions to help ensure the trees thrive.

By encouraging tree planting, OSF continues to support healthier environments, expanded tree canopy and long-term environmental stewardship.





# IN CLOSING

“God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.”  
– Genesis 1:31

From the very beginning, Scripture reminds us that creation is a sacred gift – one entrusted to our care with love and responsibility. The beauty of the natural world reflects the goodness of God and sustains the health and well-being of all people.

At OSF HealthCare, we believe caring for creation is one expression of the love and compassion we are called to share with others. The earth sustains us, nourishes us and connects us as one human family. When we care for it thoughtfully and responsibly, we also care for the people who depend upon it each day for health, safety and well-being.

Across our Ministry, we are blessed with opportunities to bring healing through medicine and care, while also through the choices we make as stewards of God’s gifts. Even small acts of compassion and responsibility can help create healthier communities and preserve the beauty of creation for generations to come.

As Franciscans, we are especially inspired by the example of St. Francis of Assisi, who recognized all creation as a reflection of God’s presence and goodness. Pope Francis carried forward that spirit in *Laudato Si’*, reminding us that care for our common home is deeply connected to care for one another. As the Church begins a new chapter under Pope Leo XIV, that call to stewardship, compassion and human dignity continues to guide our shared responsibility to care for creation with love and humility.

This work calls us to act not out of fear, but out of hope – hope for healthier communities, hope for future generations and hope for a world where compassion guides the way we care for both people and the planet. Through faith and a commitment to one another, OSF continues to answer that call with purpose and dedication.

May we always remain mindful of the sacred responsibility we share as stewards of God’s creation. And may our efforts continue to reflect His love by bringing healing, compassion and hope to all those we are blessed to serve.

God Bless You Always,

**Sister Agnes Joseph Williams, O.S.F.**  
Chairperson, OSF HealthCare Boards





# ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

## SUSTAINABILITY EXPERTISE FOR HEALTH CARE

With years of experience supporting hospitals and health systems, Pointcore helps health care organizations develop and operationalize sustainability strategies that improve environmental performance, strengthen infrastructure and support long-term operational efficiency.

Through expertise in facilities management, energy optimization, analytics and project implementation, Pointcore partners with health care organizations like OSF to identify opportunities, implement data-informed solutions and track measurable outcomes across complex care environments.

At OSF, Pointcore supports sustainability initiatives focused on energy efficiency, emissions reduction, waste management, resource conservation and operational resilience. By integrating sustainability into day-to-day operations, Pointcore helps create scalable, practical solutions that align environmental stewardship, operational and financial performance, and the Mission of OSF HealthCare.



# POINTCORE

Elevating healthcare, together.



## ABOUT POINTCORE

Pointcore is an innovative health care services company that works to transform health care in the communities it serve. The team does so by extending expertise, systems and environments to various health care clients of all sizes.

Through our collaborative partnerships with hospitals and health systems, we provide customizable solutions as needed that strengthen nonclinical operations and help overcome key challenges, such as driving down costs, staying current with technology and meeting compliance regulations. By reinforcing critical operations with the help of our strategic partners, Pointcore enables health care teams to deliver exceptional patient care and prepare for the future of health care.



# GLOSSARY

**ENERGY STAR Program:** Launched by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1992, this program sets energy efficiency specifications for industrial, commercial, utility, state and local organizations. The program uses ENERGY STAR scores, among other tools, to assess how a building's energy consumption is performing compared to similar buildings nationwide. A score of 50 represents median energy performance while a score of 75 or higher indicates a top performing facility that may be eligible for ENERGY STAR certification.<sup>36</sup> For OSF's hospital locations, this score takes numerous variables into account such as climate, weather, hours of operation, staffed beds, number of MRI machines and more. The ENERGY STAR scale allows OSF to easily compare facilities despite their differences in size and climate zones.

**EUI:** Energy Use Intensity, used to express a building's energy use as a function of its size or other characteristics.<sup>37</sup>

**GHG:** Greenhouse Gas, gases that trap heat in the atmosphere and have effect on climate change by slowing the rate at which the energy escapes to space. The main greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases, with carbon dioxide being the primary gas emitted from human activities.<sup>38</sup>

**GWP:** Global Warming Potential, developed to compare the global warming impacts of different gases. GWP measures how much energy the emissions of one ton of a gas will absorb over a given period of time, relative to the emissions of 1 ton of carbon dioxide. The larger the GWP, the more that a gas will warm the earth compared to carbon dioxide.<sup>39</sup>

**IRR:** Internal Rate of Return, a metric used in financial analysis to estimate the profitability of potential investments. It calculates the annual rate of growth that an investment is expected to generate. Generally, the higher an IRR, the more desirable an investment is.<sup>40</sup>

**kBtu:** One thousand (1,000) British thermal units, a common unit of energy measurement used to convert and combine other energy measurements.<sup>41</sup>

**kWh:** Kilowatt-hour, a unit of energy equivalent to 1,000 watt-hours. It is a standard unit of energy measurement most used to measure the amount of energy consumed by various machines in a given amount of time.<sup>42</sup>

**MMBtu:** One metric million (1MM) British thermal units, a common measurement of heat or energy value. It is often associated with the measurement of natural gas. Thermal units assume a certain energy content of the gas.<sup>43</sup>

<sup>36</sup> Energy Star, "How the 1-100 ENERGY STAR Score is Calculated," <https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/benchmark/understand-metrics/how-score-calculated>

<sup>37</sup> Energy Star, "What is Energy Use Intensity (EUI)?" <https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/benchmark/understand-metrics/what-eui>

<sup>38</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Overview of Greenhouse Gases," <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/overview-greenhouse-gases>

<sup>39</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Understanding Global Warming Potentials," <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/understanding-global-warming-potentials>

<sup>40</sup> Investopedia, "Internal Rate of Return (IRR): Formula and Examples," <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/i/irr.asp>

<sup>41</sup> Law Insider, "kBtu Definition," <https://www.lawinsider.com/dictionary/kbtu>

<sup>42</sup> Carbon Collective, "Kilowatt-Hour (kWh)," <https://www.carboncollective.co/sustainable-investing/kilowatt-hour-kwh>

<sup>43</sup> IRM Energy, "Explore MMBTU," <https://www.irmenergy.com/explore-mmbtu-com/>





**MT CO<sub>2</sub>e:** Metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, a measurement used to express a carbon footprint, or how much greenhouse gas something produces.<sup>44</sup>

**Therm:** Equal to 100,000 British thermal units (BTU), a unit of measurement for natural gas use over time.<sup>45</sup>

**Weather Normalized Energy:** A metric used to compare a building to itself over time under average (normal) weather conditions. This metric evaluates a building over time and considers that a year may be much hotter or colder than a building's normal climate, however it does not account for differences between your building and other locations that have different average (normal) climates.<sup>46</sup>

<sup>44</sup> WKU, "WKU Office of Sustainability – Carbon Footprint," [https://www.wku.edu/sustainability/carbon\\_footprint.php#:~:text=Measuring%20our%20carbon%20footprint.&text=Specifically%2C%20a%20carbon%20footprint%20is,dioxide%20equivalent%20\(MT%20eCO<sub>2</sub>\)](https://www.wku.edu/sustainability/carbon_footprint.php#:~:text=Measuring%20our%20carbon%20footprint.&text=Specifically%2C%20a%20carbon%20footprint%20is,dioxide%20equivalent%20(MT%20eCO2))

<sup>45</sup> Arcadia, "What is a therm?" <https://www.arcadia.com/blog/what-is-a-therm>

<sup>46</sup> Energy Star, "Climate and Weather," [https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/tools/Climate\\_and\\_Weather\\_2020\\_508.pdf](https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/tools/Climate_and_Weather_2020_508.pdf)



Brought to you by:

