

# Eight Ways UCSF Medical Center at Mission Bay\* is Embracing our Environment

UCSF Medical Center  
at Mission Bay

1. We're very green – literally. We're among the greenest urban hospitals in the nation with 4.3 acres of green space, including one acre of rooftop gardens. We're doing this to foster a local ecosystem with protected habitat for native birds and butterflies. And we're doing this because scientists say that the nurturing effects of nature help us heal.
2. We've implemented intriguing ways to save water. We've adopted a smart irrigation system that automatically adjusts water output according to weather fluctuations. We're using dual-flush toilets and low-flow, high-efficiency showers and basins. These together with other water conservation innovations are expected to save 4 million gallons of potable water a year.
3. We've nixed all known toxins wherever possible. We've selected materials for flooring, walls, paint, ceilings and trim that are believed to be free from associations with cancer, endocrine interference, birth defects and reduced fertility. We've bypassed toxic flame retardants in favor of smolder-resistant fabrics that do not need to be chemically treated.
4. We're powering down on our energy performance. We will use 50 percent less power than the average U.S. hospital, thanks to initiatives like our heat recovery ventilators that reclaim energy from exhaust overflows. We've minimized our carbon footprint by designing our hospitals to maximize natural light and by using a photovoltaic system that converts solar energy into electricity.
5. We're taking it to the table. Sustainability is also about our stomachs. We're expanding a program that started at UCSF's Parnassus campus, which procures a growing percentage of food that meets at least one of three criteria: certified organic by the USDA; grown within 200 miles of San Francisco; domestic or fair-trade certified or humane-raised certified. We're also cutting waste by providing patients with a menu meal service, allowing them to order what they want, when they want.
6. We're striving to keep landfill levels down. Construction waste at UCSF Medical Center at Mission Bay reached a 90 percent "diversion rate," meaning that 90 percent could be recycled, rather than sent to a landfill.
7. We're using "green" to clean. Many hospitals have vinyl flooring that requires periodic stripping and waxing using harsh chemicals. We opted for rubber floors that can be cleaned with water and buffed with a cloth. Nontoxic cleaning products that do not increase pollution have been adopted, and longer-lasting microfiber mops, requiring less water, are used to clean floors.
8. We're providing preferred parking spots to eco-friendly cars. Currently 5 percent of our total parking spaces are dedicated to low-emitting, fuel-efficient vehicles and we have 10 dual charging stations for electric-powered cars.

\*UCSF Medical Center at Mission Bay opened on Feb. 1, 2015. It comprises UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital San Francisco, UCSF Bakar Cancer Hospital, UCSF Betty Irene Moore Women's Hospital and UCSF Ron Conway Family Gateway Medical Building. UCSF Medical Center at Mission Bay has received the highly acclaimed LEED gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED-certified buildings save precious resources and have a positive impact on health, while promoting renewable, clean energy.