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**PRESS RELEASE:**
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**Pardee Hospital Making Strides to Go Green**

*(Hendersonville, N.C.)* In an effort to reduce our environmental footprint and be socially responsible, Pardee Hospital has become a charter member of Practice Greenhealth. Practice Greenhealth is a nonprofit organization founded on the principals of positive environmental stewardship. As a member of Practice Greenhealth, Pardee is committed to the virtual elimination of mercury, overall waste reductions, minimizing the use of toxic substances and the design, construction and operation of healthcare facilities that significantly improve the collective impact of human and environmental health.

Pardee has already shown its commitment to this program by stepping up efforts in making sure the majority of our printed pieces use a paper that is 100% recycled and manufactured using biogas energy. The paper used is FSC certified, meaning it can be traced back to the forest where the trees were cut and to know that our paper was not from illegally harvested trees.

Pardee is also composting food waste from nutrition services. “Nutrition services began composting all of our food and biodegradable paper products in early

December," said Randy Kirbo, director of nutrition services. "We are disposing of approximately seven tons of product per month that is no longer going into the landfill, but instead, is being reprocessed as compost." Nutrition services hopes to someday be able to use this same product in the form of top grade compost for use in on-campus landscaping.

Practice Greenhealth is the nation's leading membership and networking organization for institutions in the healthcare community that have made a commitment to sustainable, eco-friendly practices. For more information about Practice Greenhealth visit www.practicegreenhealth.org or you can see PardeeGreen initiatives at www.pardeeblog.org.

Pardee Hospital is a not-for-profit community hospital founded in 1953. The main hospital is licensed for 222 acute care beds and is the second largest employer in Henderson County. The hospital has several locations separate from the main campus, including an adult day services center, a health education center in the Blue Ridge Mall, home care services, a rehab and wellness center, a midwifery program, various family and internal medicine practices, and an urgent care facility. For more information or to find a physician, call 1-866-790-WELL (9355) or visit www.pardeehospital.org.

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