

## Mammoth Hospital Celebrates Earth Day

Earth Day was first conceived by John Connelly as a global holiday to celebrate the wonder of life on our planet and to encourage every effort to earth care. The first Proclamation of Earth Day was by San Francisco, the City of Saint Francis, patron saint of ecology designating the first day of spring to be universally accepted as Earth Day. This year Earth Day will be celebrated on Sunday, April 22 in which hospital employees will gather to clean up hospital grounds.

Mammoth Hospital has been working towards becoming an environmentally friendly hospital with Recycling Committee members meeting regularly under the direction of Carrie Clotere, RN. The first attempt was by removing all equipment containing mercury and has stopped purchasing any products containing mercury.

Other ways that the hospital stays environmentally friendly is by purchasing recycled Xerox quality paper for all printers and copiers, and by computerized charting and record keeping as part of the goal to become paperless.

In the first year of recycling paper (shredded confidential and non-confidential paper through Shred-pro), it was estimated that over 100,000 was recycled. With the help of Sierra Conservation Project, recycling also includes plastic, tin, boxes and glass. Because of a grant through the California Department of Conservation, bins can be seen throughout the hospital for cans and bottles. The hospital also supports using reusable dishware in the cafeteria.

Recently, safe removal has begun of pharmaceuticals that are potentially harmful to oceans and ground water. The hospital chooses to recycle batteries, printer cartridges and fluorescent bulbs as well. The new expansion will use low energy T-5 bulbs and all pump motors will be energy efficient motors in addition to air handlers operating with variable frequency drives to reduce power usage.

Mammoth Hospital would like to thank Brian Robinette of Sierra Conservation Project for donating all of the recycling bins in the new hospital expansion. If you would like to help out with the environment contact Sierra Conservation Project, dedicated to reducing the amount of recyclable waste deposited in Eastern Sierra landfills, by visiting [info@recyclesierra.com](mailto:info@recyclesierra.com).