



## **VA SIERRA NEVADA IS GREENING OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

The mission of the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System is to honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well being. In order to accomplish this mission, the healthcare system realizes that it must operate in a manner that protects the environment and the safety of all patients, employees and visitors.

As an integral part of this community, we are committed to managing our resources in an environmentally sensitive and sensible manner. In order to improve our environmental stewardship the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System has developed the Green Environmental Management System (GEMS). The GEMS program focuses on environmental compliance, water conservation, energy conservation, green purchasing, recycling, resource conservation, sustainable building, fleet management, fuel usage reduction and waste minimization. The GEMS Committee sets environmental goals and ensures our facility adheres to the following principles:

- We will implement directives and procedures specifically designed to prevent conditions that pose a threat to human health, safety, or the environment.
- We will comply with applicable environmental and worker safety laws and regulations.
- We will practice wise resource management by conserving limited resources, and reuse and recycle materials when possible.
- We will consider the life cycle cost of materials and procure less hazardous or environmentally preferable and recycled content products.
- We will look for opportunities to reduce pollution and risks by managing the types and quantities of materials we procure, store, handle, and ultimately dispose of.

Our expectations are for every employee, patient and visitor to be aware of our environmental commitment and to take an active role in the process. The GEMS Committee meets regularly to review all environmental aspects and impacts within our facility.

By working together we can continuously improve our environmental posture. Your ideas, commitment, and involvement in this improvement process are crucial. Questions and suggestions on GEMS can be directed to Ms. Tamicha Page at extension 1757.

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***PROVIDING WORLD CLASS CARE AND SERVICE TO AMERICA'S HEROES***