



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RESTON, Virginia (April 17, 2017) — Greenhealth Exchange (GX)—a completely green purchasing cooperative that makes it easy to source products and services used in health care settings that are good for people, the planet and the bottom line —announced today that Virginia Mason Medical Center has become the newest owner to join the organization.

Named one of Healthgrade’s America’s 50 best hospitals for 2017, Virginia Mason will celebrate its centennial in 2020. The organization is committed to providing the highest quality healthcare while preserving our natural environment for our community now and for future generations.

“We are excited to be working with the Greenhealth Exchange and other leading healthcare providers to drive the change for green, sustainable products. We strongly believe that healthcare systems have a responsibility to provide a healing environment and community that is free of harmful chemicals, pollution and uses our earth’s resources efficiently,” said Ken Freeman, vice president, Virginia Mason.

“Health care organizations in the US have a significant impact on our environment—as much as all the entire impact of Great Britain” said John Strong, President of Greenhealth Exchange. Additionally, providing a healing environment that is free from exposure to hazardous chemicals such as those found in flame retardants areas a high priority of GX members. Strong shared that our collective buying clout puts hospitals and health systems in a strong position to accelerate the adoption of products that are safer, healthier and more economical along the healthcare supply chain.

Virginia Mason joins the nation’s leaders in health care sustainability that launched GX earlier this year. Founders now include eight health systems, including: Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health System, Dignity Health, Gundersen Health System, Marshfield Clinic Health System, Mayo Clinic and Partners Health, Virginia Mason and University of Vermont Health Network—along with longtime sustainability advocates Health Care Without Harm and Practice Greenhealth. Since the launch, GX has continued its focus on developing a network of suppliers committed to greening their products, and their supply chains.

With the addition of Virginia Mason, the purchasing cooperative is now backed by a combined total of 65 hospitals that together represent \$40.5 billion in annual revenues and over \$9.3 billion in purchasing power.

“We continue to add owners to our group because these organizations recognize that healthcare must move to the use of more sustainable products. Health care systems who are truly committed to community health need to be examining what they are purchasing and what’s in it. Working together, we will intensify the pressure for suppliers to respond with better products at competitive prices. They will, and so far, they have,” said Strong.

Through detailed product specifications and supplier performance requirements, GX offers members:

- High-quality green and sustainable products brought together in one catalog at competitive prices;

- Apples-to-apples comparisons of key product features including price and sustainability scores plus health, environmental and community benefits; and
- Tracking and reporting the benefits associated with every purchase for GX members.

Strong shared that additional major health systems are expected to join GX as owners in the next few months. Learn more about GX and follow the latest updates by visiting the website:

www.GreenhealthExchange.com

About Greenhealth Exchange

Greenhealth Exchange (GX) is a Public Benefits Corporation structured as a purchasing cooperative created by Practice Greenhealth, Health Care Without Harm, and leading health systems deeply committed to environmental sustainability in health care. GX makes it easy to source products and services used in health care settings that are good for people, the planet and the bottom line. We work with our members to spark innovation in the supply chain: getting to next generation products, smarter and faster. www.GreenhealthExchange.com

About Virginia Mason

Virginia Mason, founded in 1920, is a nonprofit regional health care system based in Seattle that serves the Pacific Northwest. In the Puget Sound region, the system includes 336-bed Virginia Mason Hospital; a primary and specialty care group practice of more than 500 physicians; regional medical centers in Seattle, Bainbridge Island, Bellevue, Federal Way, Kirkland, Issaquah and Lynnwood; Bailey-Boushay House, the first skilled-nursing and outpatient chronic care management program in the United States designed and built specifically to meet the needs of people with HIV/AIDS; Benaroya Research Institute, which is internationally recognized for autoimmune disease research; and Virginia Mason Institute, which trains health care professionals and others from around the world in the Virginia Mason Production System, an innovative management methodology for continually improving quality, safety and efficiency. Virginia Mason online: VirginiaMason.org

Virginia Mason Health System also includes Virginia Mason Memorial, a 226-bed hospital serving the Yakima Valley in central Washington since 1950. Memorial online: YakimaMemorial.org