



Maryland Green Registry

2018 Leadership Award Winner Pearlstone Center



Pearlstone
Center



About Pearlstone Center

Located on a beautiful 180-acre campus in Reisterstown, Maryland, Pearlstone welcomes over 20,000 annual guests through retreats, conferences, field trips, environmental education programs and more. Pearlstone is an agency of The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, and works to improve environmental health and wellness across the Jewish community and beyond.

Achievements

Energy Efficiency: Pearlstone decreased on-site Energy Use Intensity (EUI) in 2017 from a 2015 baseline by 28%. This corresponded with a 30% decrease in energy costs and a 27% decrease in total greenhouse gas emissions. These results were achieved through a building automation system, upgrades to LED lighting, and the installation of a Basic Power Unit, which optimizes electrical voltage for electrical efficiency. Pearlstone also installed a solar thermal hot water heater, reducing propane usage by about 30%.

Sustainable Food Service: In 2017, Pearlstone donated 20% of their farm harvest, amounting to 10,000 pounds of organic produce, to local food banks and food rescues. In its commercial kitchen and dining room, Pearlstone reduces food waste through portion control and by composting food waste. In one year, 31,000 pounds of food scraps were composted on site to create 60,000 pounds of compost when combined with other organic materials.

Sustainable Agriculture: Pearlstone's certified organic produce provides delicious farm to table dining. Drip irrigation is used to conserve water and community members can enjoy handpicking certified organic strawberries as well. And in following the biblical tradition, Pearlstone lets the land rest during *shmita*, the sabbatical year, and teaches thousands of people each year about the spiritual, cultural, and ethical dimensions of sustainability.

The Maryland Green Registry Leadership Awards recognize organizations that have shown a strong commitment to the implementation of sustainable practices, the demonstration of measurable results, and the continual improvement of environmental performance.