



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 13, 2008

Contact: Amy Goodwin      Cait Ervin  
301-816-6264      301-816-5957

**Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States Lauded for Environmental Achievements**  
*Awarded the Partners of Change Award for the second time*

**Washington, DC (June 13, 2008)** - - - Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States was honored for the second year in a row with a Partners for Change Award on May 20<sup>th</sup> at this year's Practice Greenhealth Environmental Excellence Awards. The award was presented by Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E), a non-profit group committed to increasing environmentally sustainable health care initiatives and to recognizing industry leaders for their achievements in developing and implementing environmentally conscious programs.

The H2E Partners for Change Award is given annually to facilities that have made significant and sustainable progress toward reducing waste, preventing pollution, and eliminating mercury. Recipients reduce, reuse, and/or recycle at least 10% of their total waste each year, and often find that these pollution prevention programs benefit both their communities and their bottom line.

"By focusing on environmental sustainability, Kaiser Permanente is playing an active role in the health care sector's fundamental shift toward protecting public health instead of simply treating disease," said Laura Brannen, Director of Hospitals for a Healthy Environment. "They are to be commended for visionary efforts and creating a healthier environment for their patients, staff, and community."

"Receiving this award is confirmation that we are on the right track," says Marilyn Kawamura, President of Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States. "In order to best serve our community we are focused on environmentally friendly facilities and best practices that reduce our ecological footprint."

In 2007 Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States was the first region of the national organization to receive an Environmental Excellence Award and this year many other regions were also honored. Kaiser Permanente leads the health care industry in green hospital building, purchasing green materials, saving energy and reducing waste. Nationally Kaiser Permanente has purged 630,000 grams of mercury (about 1,430 pounds) from its system over the past several years, leaving the organization 95 percent mercury free.

"Everyone has a choice. Making better decisions and choosing to use natural light or recycle are examples of the steps we're taking to improve our environment and health. Green choices are better for our patients, employees, and the environment," says Keith Frederick, Director of Environmental Health and Safety for Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States.

###

Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States is a total health organization serving over 500,000 patients in Maryland, Virginia and Washington D.C. Kaiser Permanente is composed of the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States, Inc. and the Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group, P.C., an independent medical group that features over 900 physicians who provide or arrange care for patients throughout the area. Visit [www.kp.org](http://www.kp.org) for more information