

# ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES AT MARYLAND'S HOSPITALS: SURVEY RESULTS, AUTUMN 2014

Trailblazer Education Event

GBMC

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# Introduction

In spring 2014, Maryland Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (MD H2E), in collaboration with the Maryland Health Care Sustainability Leadership Council (MD HCSLC) sent the survey via Survey Monkey to 60 hospitals in Maryland. Twenty-three hospitals replied (21 repeats from last year; 2 new), including:

- 17 community hospitals
- 2 academic/research hospitals
- 3 specialty hospitals
- 1 state hospitals

# Key to Results

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Respondents were asked to indicate whether their hospital participated in an initiative as a:

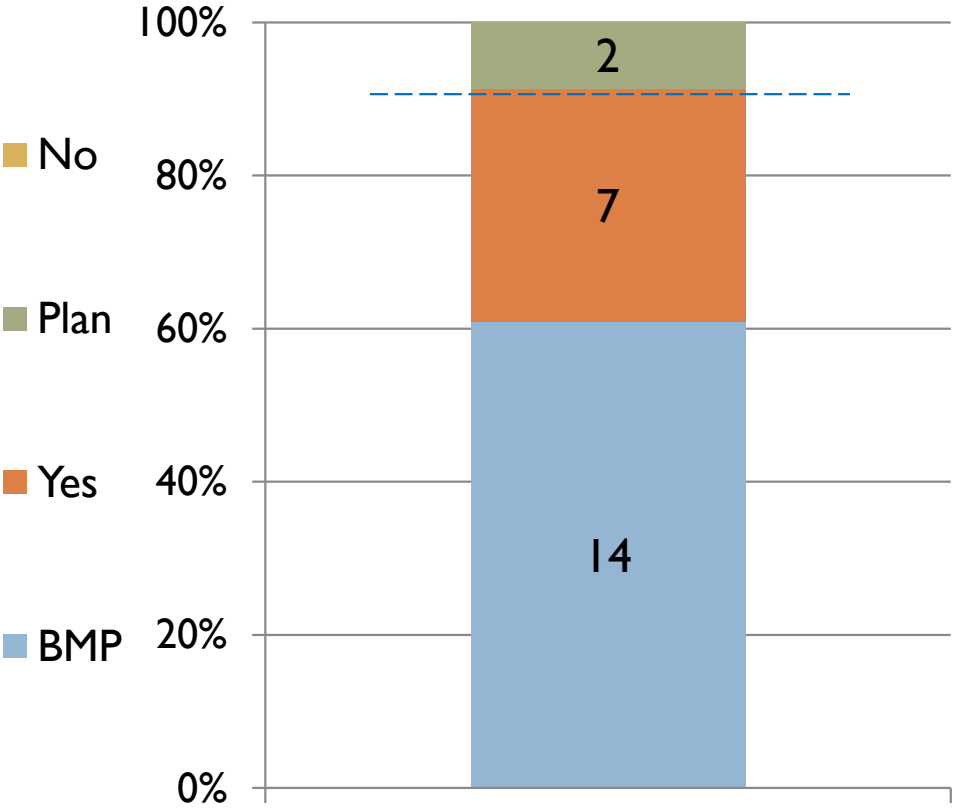
- Best Management Practice (BMP)
- Currently implementing (Yes)
- Planning on implementing (Plan)
- No
- Request more info

# Highlights

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- While **91%** have the support of at least one executive only **18%** employ a sustainability manager
- In Purchasing, using the EPEAT tool and requiring vendors to have an environmental scorecard are gaining traction.
- Waste Management and Recycling continue to be areas of **very high** achievement.
- Operating Room initiatives are being implemented by about **half**.
- In Green Building, LEED certification and gardens are on the rise, while the green roof category participation remains low.
- In Toxics, **91%** virtually eliminated mercury; **91%** employed Integrated Pest Management and **30%** more reported green cleaning as a BMP.
- **70%** are on their way to adapting a sustainability foods policy.

# Leadership supports sustainability



Does the hospital sustainability program have the support of at least one hospital executive?

91% have the support of at least one executive

### Year over year comparison in leadership:

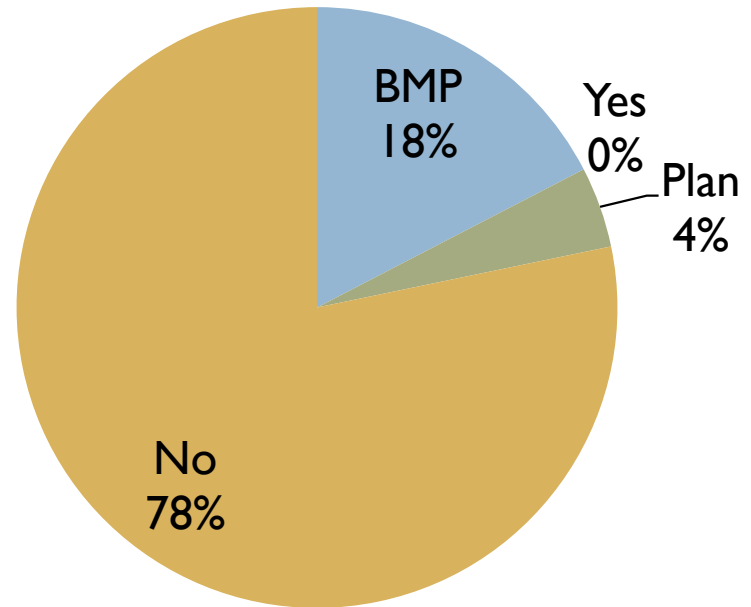
	Exec. Support	Env. Policy	Sustain. Mission
<b>2013</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>61%</b>

# Leadership

22% employ or are planning to **employ a sustainability manager.**

New question in 2014:  
30% have a dedicated budget for sustainability.

Does the hospital employ a sustainability manager?

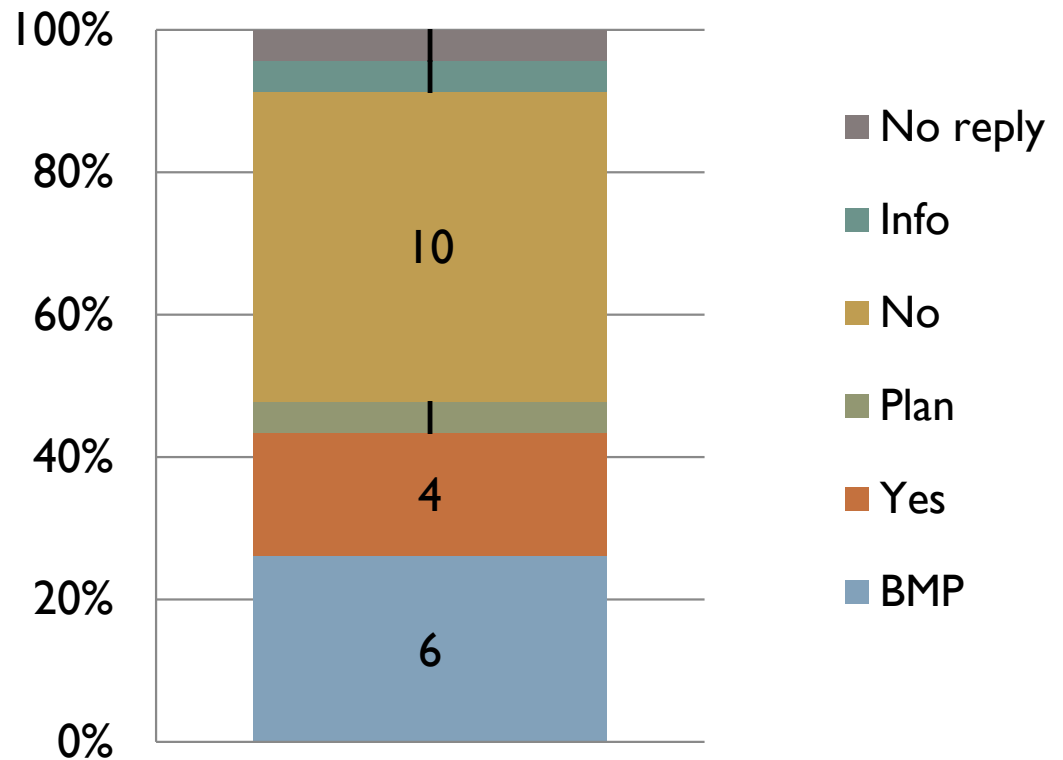


# Purchasing: Policy

48% are in the planning stages or greater of implementing an **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy**.

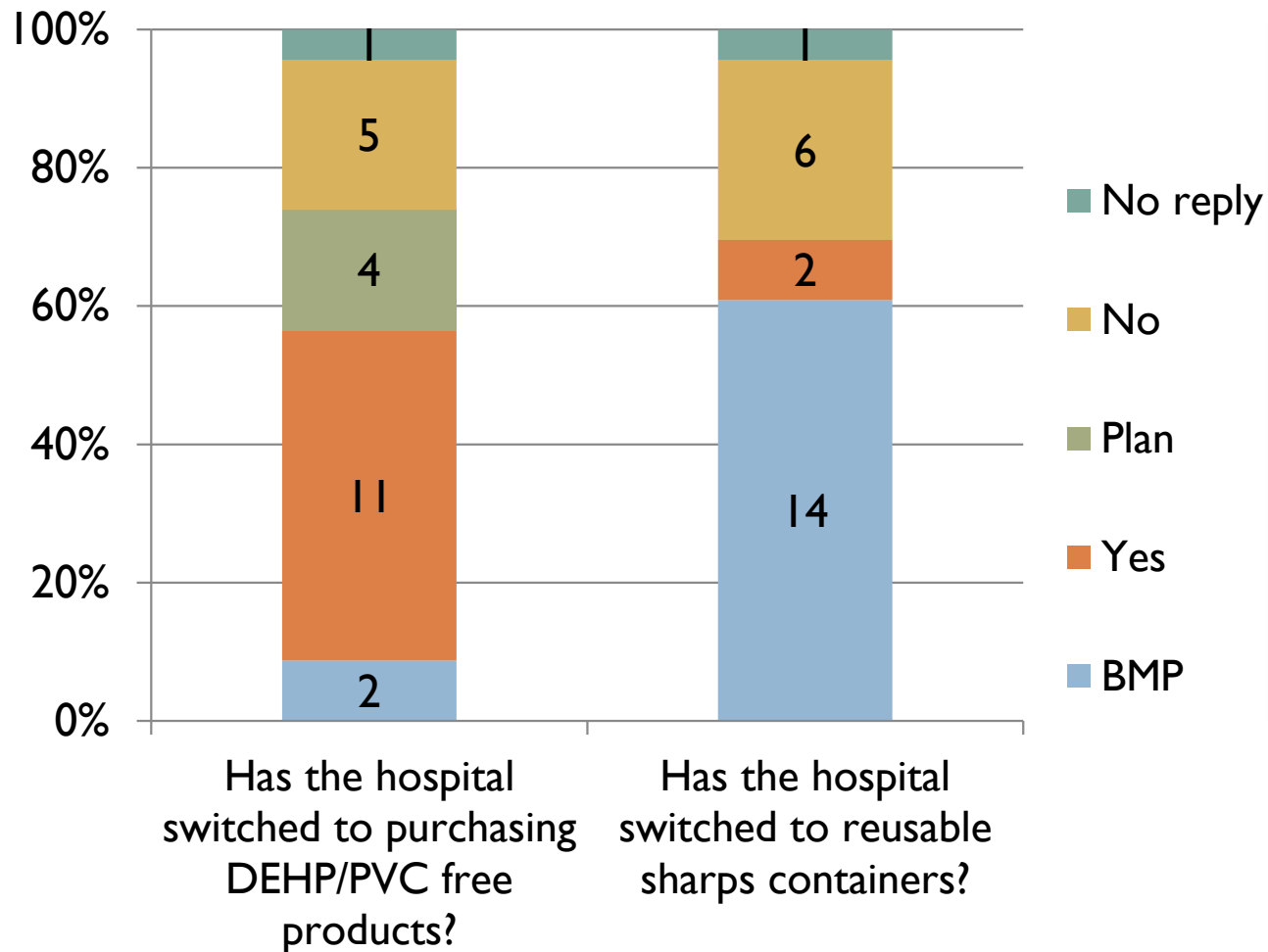
This is down slightly from 2013, (55%),

### Does the hospital have an environmentally preferable purchasing policy?



# Purchasing: DEHP and Sharps Containers

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74% are in the planning stages or higher in converting to purchasing **DEHP/PVC free products**.  
70% are using **reusable sharps containers**, compared with 78% in 2013.



# Purchasing: Environmental Scorecards and EPEAT

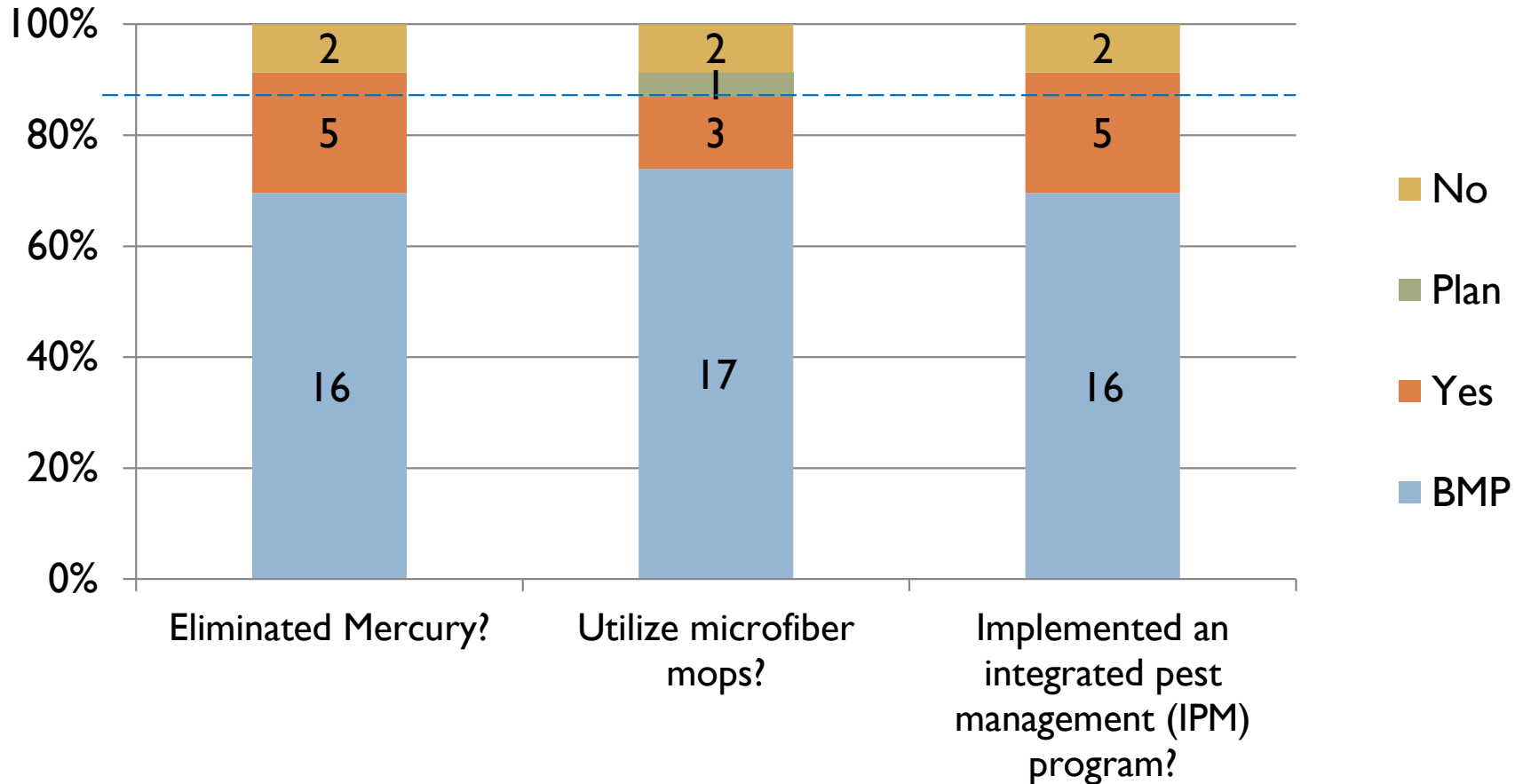
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- ❑ 30% are utilizing, or have plans to require vendors to complete **environmental scorecards**. This is an increase over 2013 where only 14% reported as such.
- ❑ 43% are using the **Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT)**; this is an improvement over 2013, where only 30% reported using it.



# Toxics Reduction

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At least 87% participation in three categories.

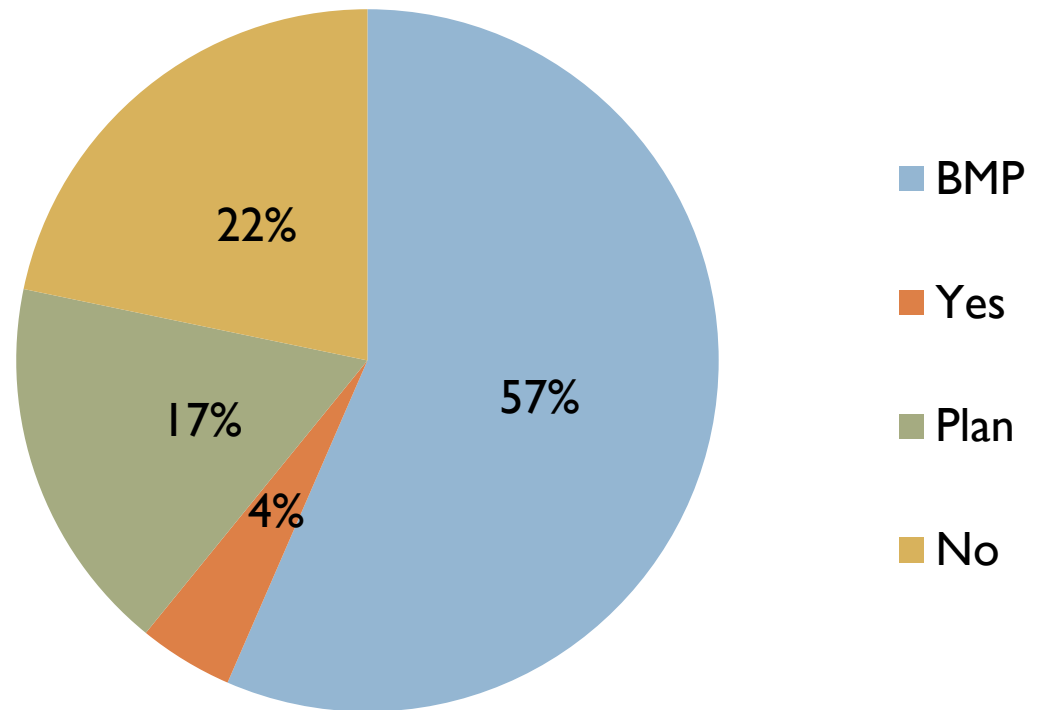
**Integrated pest management** shows the largest improvement over 2013:  
91% participation vs. 78%

# Toxics Reduction: Green Cleaning

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Does your hospital utilize at least 75% of cleaning products that are 3rd party certified as green?

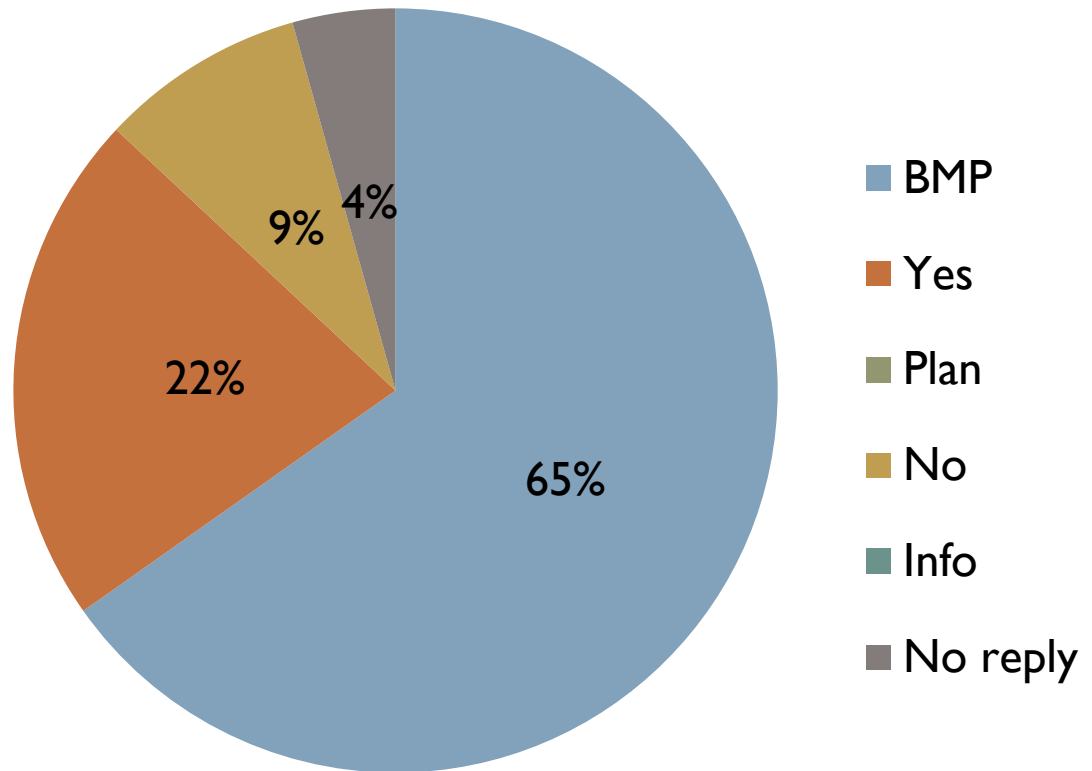
**Green cleaning** showed big strides since 2013, with 30% more reporting green cleaning as BMP.



# Toxics Reduction: VOCs

Does the hospital utilize products low in volatile organic compounds (VOCs)?

Low VOC product utilization is on the rise: 65% reported as a BMP in 2014 compared to 46% in 2013.



# Waste Prevention and Management

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Hospitals are “participating” by taking part as a *best management practice* or answering yes.

- **91%:** Track the disposal of solid, regulated medical, and hazardous waste, and recycling
  - Have a regulated medical waste reduction program and
  - Segregate hazardous pharmaceutical waste

Reusing/Recycling:

- **91%** Cardboard
- **87%** Bottles and cans
- **87%** Electronic waste
- **87%** Non-confidential paper
- **78%** Batteries
- **70%** **Equipment donation**
- **70%** Medical plastics
- **61%** Construction materials
- **52%** **Blue wrap**
- **43%** **Food waste**

Equipment donation, food waste and construction materials were all categories that were statistically “down” vs. 2013.

Blue wrap recycling showed a large jump from 2013:

**52% from 34%.**

# Waste Prevention and Management

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	Solid Waste	Recycling	SMW	HW
<b>Baseline</b>	56.7%	7.9%	35.2%	0.2%
<b>Current</b>	66.0%	20.6%	13.2%	0.2%
<b>% change</b>	9.3%	12.7%	-22.0%	0%

## New question in 2014:

- 13 hospitals provided waste data
- Total of 34,000 TONS of waste in 2013.
- Baseline years went as far back as 2003

# Greening the Operating Room\*

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	2013	2014
Implemented single use device processing?	63%	68%
Transitioned to hard cases for surgical instruments?	55%	58%
Use reusable gowns and linens?	67%	47%
Reformulated OR kits to minimize excess products?	70%	68%
Installed a fluid management system?	51%	53%

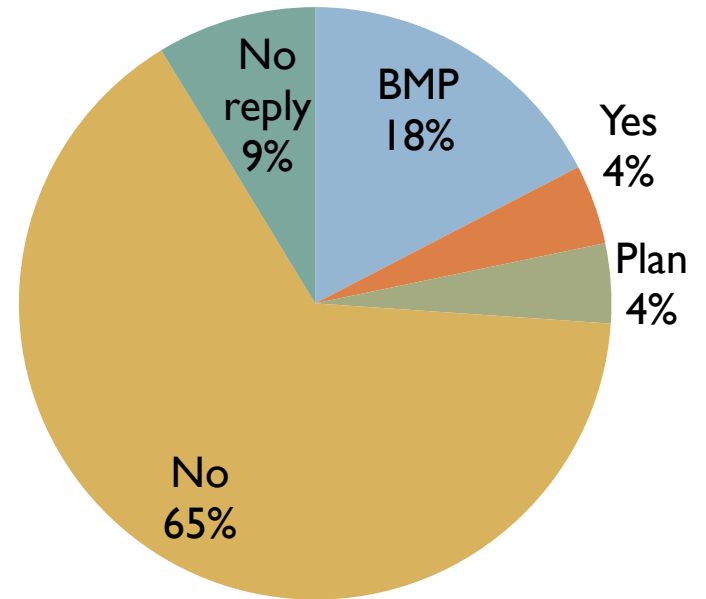
\*Four hospitals that filled out the survey do not have operating rooms

# Green Building

	2013	%	2014	%
LEED- BMP	5	14%	8	35%
LEED- Yes	4	11%	1	4%
Garden- BMP	4	11%	12	52%
Garden- Yes	9	26%	3	13%

The number and percentage of BMPs for LEED buildings and gardens on-site increased. Green roofs still show low participation.

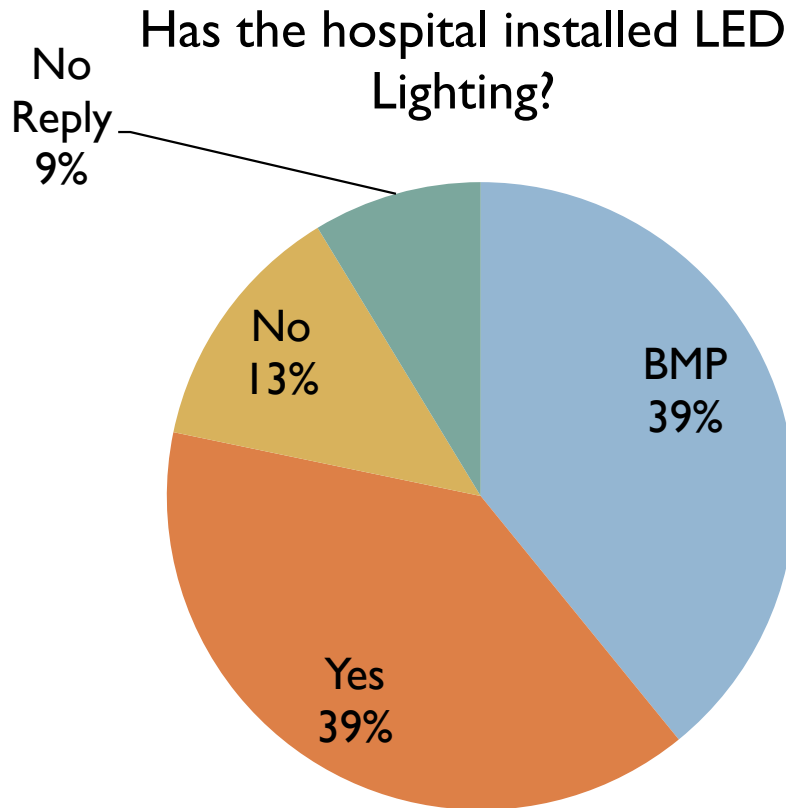
Has the hospital installed a green roof?



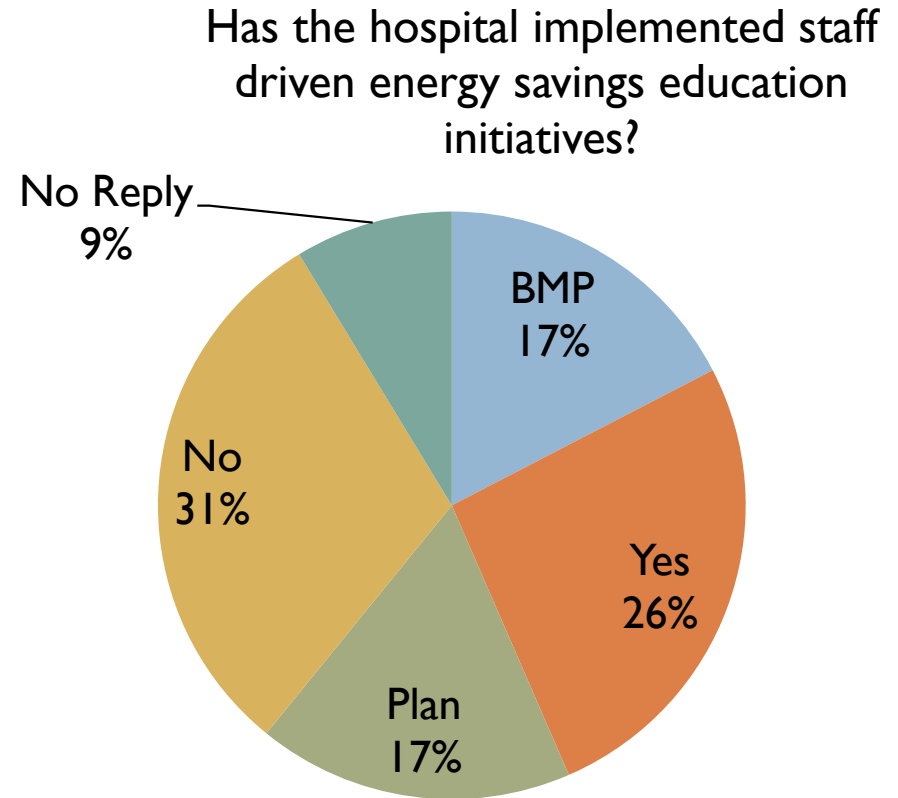


# Energy Conservation: LEDs and Staff Education

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78% participation (either "BMP" or "Yes") in LED Lighting versus 68% in 2013.



Hospitals are implementing staff education initiatives in greater proportions than 2014.

# Energy: Rebates, Renewables, and Tracking

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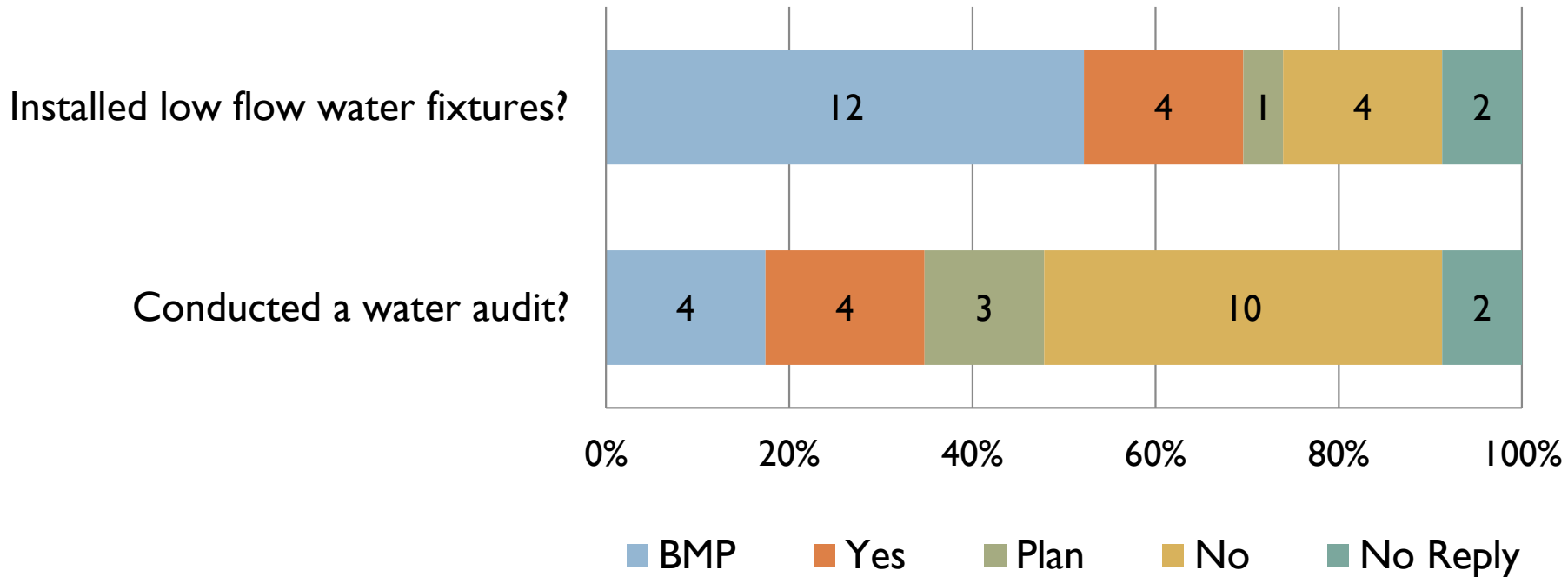
- ❑ 70% are participating in **utility reimbursement or energy curtailment programs.**
- ❑ 17% are using the **alternative forms of energy, such as solar and wind.**
- ❑ 17% are **tracking carbon footprint.**

New question in 2014:

39% are using a sustainability dashboard

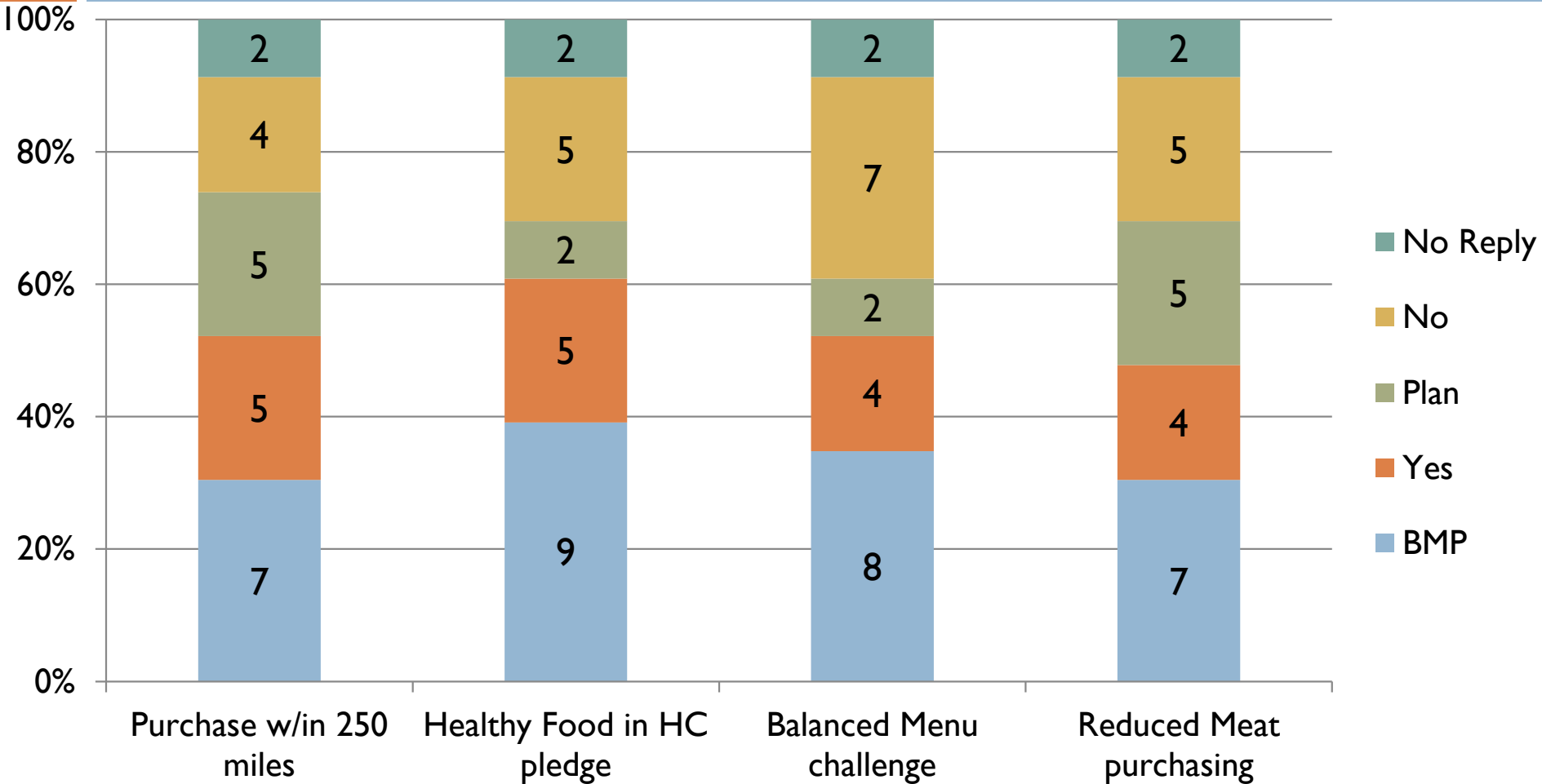
# Water Conservation

70% installed low flow water fixtures in 2014, which is on par with 2013. 35% conducted water audits.



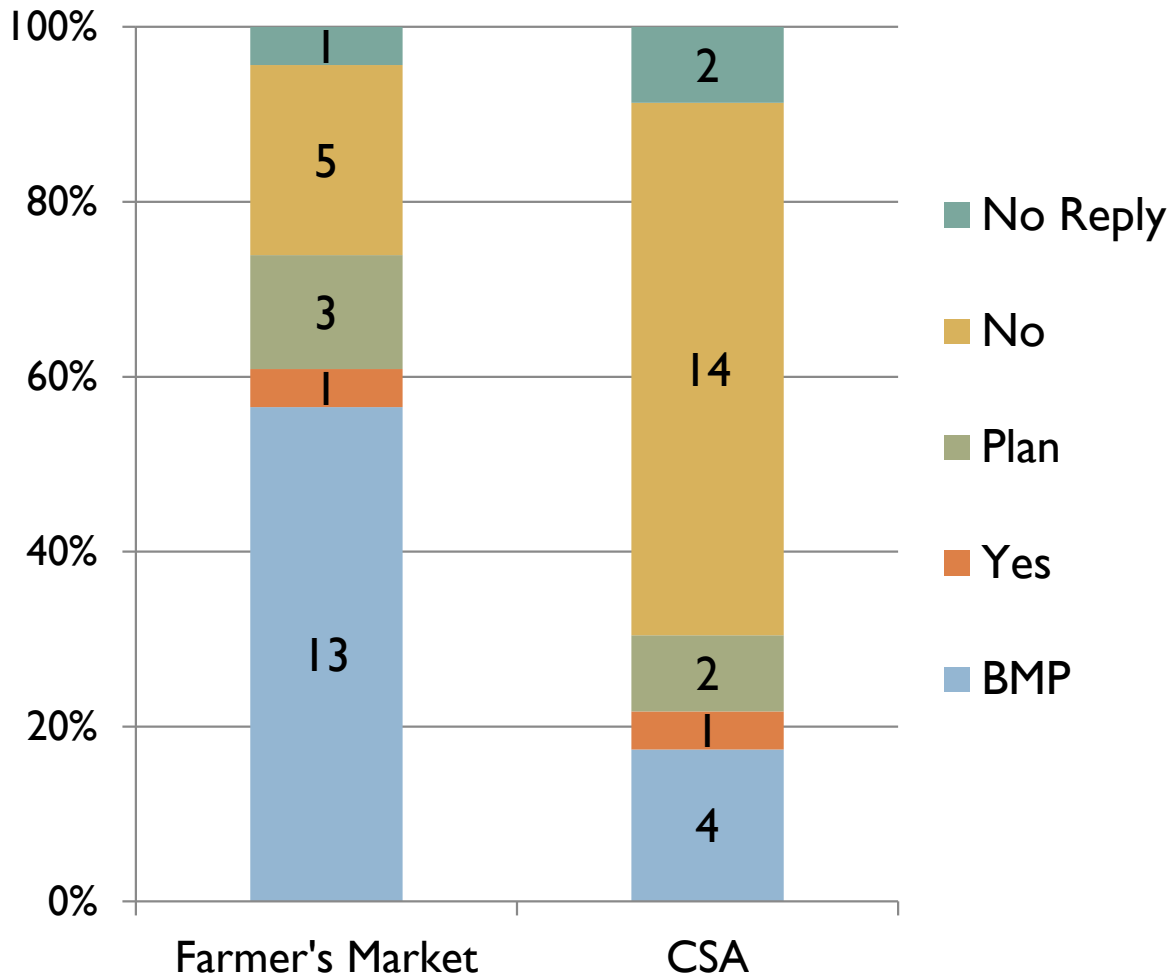
# Sustainable Foods

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A greater proportion responded “Yes” or “BMP” in adopting a healthy foods policy and the balanced menus challenge versus 2013. Local food procurement was down.

# Sustainable Foods



**61%** offer farmers markets, compared to 51% in 2013.

**22%** offer Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

# Sustainable Foods: Sugar Sweetened Beverages

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- ❑ 78% are in the planning stages or more of **decreasing sugar sweetened beverage offerings**. This compares to 62% last year.
- ❑ In absolute numbers more hospitals called **reducing sugar sweetened beverage** a BMP in 2014 v. 2013

# Summary

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- This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year MD H2E has deployed an environmental sustainability initiatives survey.
- Complete (blind) survey results/raw data will be available on the MD H2E website. Stay tuned for updates.
- The waste data will be parsed into a separate questionnaire to be completed in spring 2015.
- Questions? Comments? Suggestions for next year?

THANK YOU!!!