

Swedish Medical Center Signs 20-Year Energy Agreement with Seattle Steam

(SEATTLE) May 7, 2013 — Swedish has signed a 20-year agreement with district heating utility Seattle Steam to continue to supply most of its thermal energy needs for the First Hill campus through the year 2033. Seattle Steam provides the hospital with high-pressure steam for heating and hot water, as well as sterilization of medical equipment. Swedish has been a Seattle Steam customer for 49 years.

Swedish recently completed an analysis, during which it evaluated various long-term high-pressure thermal energy options to identify the most cost-effective solution. For example, the organization considered installing an on-site natural gas-fueled plant, but the capital investment — and cost of maintenance and fuel — proved to be cost-prohibitive.

“Swedish decided to continue receiving its heat from Seattle Steam because it has continuously provided the First Hill campus with a reliable, environmentally friendly and cost-effective heating solution,” said Lee Brei, Director of Facility Services for Swedish Health Services. “The steam we receive will continue to be an important part of our non-profit health system’s efforts to be stewards of the resources that we use to maintain the service that Swedish has provided to this community.”

Swedish is also working with Seattle Steam to explore future opportunities to capture on-site waste heat and re-use it to partially meet its energy demands. Combined with its current use of steam from Seattle Steam, waste heat recovery would dramatically reduce Swedish’s carbon emissions to a fraction of its original levels. Seattle Steam currently sources clean urban waste wood from the Puget Sound area as fuel for its biomass boiler, which reduces the carbon footprint of the company and its customers by up to 60-percent.

“We value working with a customer like Swedish which takes the time to compare its options, and we’re delighted that Seattle Steam is part of the sustainable energy solution,” said Stan Gent, President and CEO of Seattle Steam. “This agreement forges a new path forward to seek out common solutions to lower-cost, low-carbon energy supply and use.”

Swedish is one of three medical centers that Seattle Steam serves via its 18-mile steam pipe network throughout the downtown and First Hill neighborhoods. In addition to its agreement with Swedish, Seattle Steam recently renewed its service contract with Virginia Mason Medical Center.

Seattle Steam continues to grow with the addition of eight new long-term customers in the last five years, including Olive 8, the Four Seasons, and the Russell Investment tower. The utility renewed contracts with more than 40 of its customers within the last year.

About Seattle Steam

Seattle Steam is a privately owned district heating utility that provides renewable thermal energy to nearly 200 buildings in Seattle’s central business district and First Hill neighborhood.

The thermal energy is produced by a mix of biomass (clean urban waste wood) and natural gas. Seattle Steam is a founding member of the [Seattle 2030 District](#) and facilitates energy efficiency retrofits for the buildings on its system. For more information, visit www.seattlesteam.com.

About Swedish Medical Center

Swedish has grown over the last 103 years to become the largest non-profit health provider in the Greater Seattle area. It is comprised of five hospital campuses (First Hill, Cherry Hill, Ballard, Edmonds and Issaquah); ambulatory care centers in Redmond and Mill Creek; and Swedish Medical Group, a network of more than 100 primary-care and specialty clinics located throughout the Greater Puget Sound area. In addition to general medical and surgical care including robotic-assisted surgery, Swedish is known as a regional referral center, providing specialized treatment in areas such as cardiovascular care, cancer care, neuroscience, orthopedics, high-risk obstetrics, pediatric specialties, organ transplantation and clinical research. For more information, visit www.swedish.org, www.swedishcares.org, www.facebook.com/swedishmedicalcenter, or www.twitter.com/swedish.

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