



Green Guide for Health Care Newsletter

December 2005

Green Guide Tips

Simple How-To's for using the Guide

How To Design for Flexibility (MR Credit 11)

(Adapted from the "Design for Flexibility" GGHC Tech Brief written by Ray Pradinuk, Stantec Architects, Vancouver, BC.)

1. Identify what kind of flexibility is required.

Flexible Design in the health care setting falls into three major categories: adaptable layouts, flexible buildings, and expandable buildings. Adaptable layouts accommodate changes in function with minimal facility change. Flexible buildings utilize building systems and components that facilitate changes in configuration and servicing. Expandable buildings allow the expansion or contraction of departments and allow horizontal and vertical building expansions with minimal disruption or impact on existing building layout.

2. Locate permanent building elements to minimize constraints on future reconfiguration.

Key building elements to consider include: stairs, elevators and duct shafts, and primary circulation corridors.

3. Provide a simple building perimeter and non-restrictive fenestration pattern.

Align flexible elements, such as moveable wall systems, with curtainwall mullions and structural elements to allow for changes in configuration without affecting the building exterior. Consider providing plan-enclosed courtyards rather than dead-end wings as a strategy to introduce natural daylighting into both clinical and research areas.

4. Provide servicing systems that can be modified with minimal disruption to operations.

Consider installing zonal distribution systems for electrical, data and telephone, medical gases, and sprinklers.

5. Create open blocks of space with a structural grid not less than 30 feet (9.1 metres).

6. Minimize the number of internal columns.

7. Design standardized rooms that are adaptable to a variety of uses.

Examples of rooms that can be standardized for various uses include: exam rooms, consultation rooms, and offices.

Green Guide Spotlight

Success stories from *Green Guide* Pilots and Registrants

Energy Conservation: Dell Children's Hospital of Central Texas

Seton Healthcare Network partnered with Austin Energy to construct a Combined Cooling, Heating, and Power plant (CCHP) to service the new 470,000 sf replacement Children's Hospital in Austin, Texas. The CCHP plant will produce energy, chilled water for air conditioning, and steam for the hospital. It will serve the surrounding development with chilled water for commercial air conditioning needs.

The CCHP will be 70% efficient at primary fuel conversion to useful energy. This equates to an approximate 50% savings in primary energy utilization compared to the traditional power service model.

From the Hospital's perspective, the CCHP will provide more reliable power and more backup power than a traditional energy source. The CCHP also saves the hospital several million dollars of capital expense that would have been required to construct a central plant. A considerable percentage of the savings are being reinvested in energy conservation measures for the new hospital.

For more information on this project, contact Phil Risner, PRisner@seton.org.

News

- 1. Help the *Green Guide* revise credit language in preparation for version 2.2**, scheduled to be released in late 2006. All Pilot projects are encouraged to post comments on the *Green Guide* Forum. Comments may address *Green Guide* content in general or specific credits. Consider registering your project as a *Green Guide* Pilot to inform the v2.2 development process.
- 2. January *Green Guide* for Health Care teleconference: Introduction to the GGHC.** The *Green Guide* is partnering with Hospitals for a Healthy Environment to offer teleconferences on specific *Green Guide* topics every first Friday of the month in 2006. Register for this **FREE** educational opportunity at www.h2e-online.org/events/teleconf/index.cfm.
- 3. *Green Guide* version 2.1 has been released in print and on our website.** Visit the *Green Guide* [Download](#) page to purchase printed copies through our Online Store or to download the electronic PDF version for free.
- 4. Need help implementing the *Green Guide* on your project?** Join the growing number of health care projects taking advantage of the community of professionals accessible through the *Green Guide* Forum. Sign up your project as a Pilot at www.gghc.org/participate.cfm.
- 5. Hospitals for a Healthy Environment awards deadline is February 10, 2006.** Visit <http://www.h2e-online.org/programs/award/appls/awards.htm> for more information.
- 6. The AIA/COTE Top Ten Green Projects Award deadline is January 31, 2006.** Winners will be presented and celebrated at the AIA 2006 National Convention in Los Angeles. Visit www.aia.org for more information.
- 7. Join us at CleanMed 2006**, the premiere environmental conference for health care leaders and staff. The conference will also feature a day-long seminar on green building, and the annual awards luncheon for Hospitals for a Healthy Environment CleanMed US: April 18-20, Seattle, WA; CleanMed Europe: May 29-31, Stockholm, Sweden. Register today at www.cleanmed.org
- 8. Visit the [Supporters](#) section of the *Green Guide* website for information on how to support our work.** All donations to the *Green Guide* are tax deductible.