



Green Guide for Health Care Newsletter

March 2006

Green Guide at CleanMed 2006

CleanMed (<http://www.cleanmed.org>) is the United States' largest environmental conference for the health care industry. Leaders along the entire health care supply chain will attend CleanMed, April 18-20 in Seattle, to learn the latest trends in safe products, green buildings, healthy food service, waste prevention and other health care industry efforts to protect the health of people and the environment. Outside of North America, visit www.cleanmed.org for more information about CleanMed Europe, May 29-31 in Stockholm, Sweden.

Green Guide for Health Care Events

1. Feedback on the upcoming Green Guide Version 2.2 at CleanMed

The advanced Green Guide education session at the CleanMed Green Building Pre-conference (April 18) will cover the proposed revisions to the upcoming Green Guide Version 2.2. It will also feature a facilitated conversation with representatives from the Green Guide Steering Committee to field questions and feedback on the proposed changes.

2. Green Building Poster Session

While poster sessions are a central component to every conference, CleanMed 2006 will highlight the successes of Green Guide Pilots and other health care projects pursuing green strategies by setting aside a session for poster presentations and dialogue. The CleanMed Poster Session is open to all health care projects that feature green strategies. Journalists across the country have used previous CleanMed posters as case study material for articles on the latest trends in green health care design, construction, and operations. In appreciation for providing a poster case study to the event, CleanMed offers one free conference registration for a company's first poster submission.

3. Green Building Pre-Conference

The CleanMed Green Building Pre-conference (April 18) offers two-tiered education sessions in the morning on the Green Guide: Introductory and Advanced. The afternoon will focus on the importance of integrating green strategies into both capital improvements and facilities operations. Central to the pre-conference events will be a series of exemplary case studies from Hospitals for a Healthy Environment, Health Care Without Harm, and Green Guide for Health Care.

4. Benefits and Business Case for Green Hospitals

The green building track at CleanMed will feature cutting-edge research into the benefits and cost savings associated with green building in health care by experts such as Judith Heerwagen and Lisa Fay Mattheissen. Construction first costs will be covered within a larger framework of benefits such as those demonstrated by the success of the 2004 Design for Health summit in Boston, Kaiser Permanente's internal studies on building materials, and research into evidence-based design.

Green Guide Spotlight

Success stories from Green Guide Pilots and Registrants

Environmental Quality: Patrick H. Dollard Discovery Health Center, Harris, NY

The Center for Discovery is a 350-acre residential school campus, an environmental oasis for children, their parents, adult residents, and the community at large. The new Health Center provides for basic medical necessities and routine medical care, including dental work, for everyone on campus. The residents are an environmentally sensitive clientele, often having multiple and profound neurological and developmental impairments. These can be quickly exacerbated, in part, if the condition of their physical environment produces chemical off-gassing.

The stated goal of the project for materials selection was to specify products with lower toxicity in more than one phase of their life cycle such that humans, mammals, or aquatic life would no longer become recipients of the toxic burden produced by manufacturers. Chemicals of concern that were avoided include formaldehyde and vinyl. Others were screened through a selection process for known or suspected levels of toxicity, and known or suspected asthma triggers. Low or no-VOC off gassing materials were chosen in all instances, especially for core wall, floor, and ceiling treatments.

The Discovery Health Center has applied similar criteria for governing its cleaning products and maintenance protocols, in an effort to ensure that the building design's vision of a healthier indoor environment is carried through into the building's useful life.

For more information on this project, contact Cynthia Atwood, ca@g5arch.com.

News

1. **April Green Guide for Health Care teleconference: Water Conservation in Health Care Facilities.** The Green Guide offers teleconferences through the Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E) website every first Friday of the month. Register for this FREE educational opportunity at www.h2e-online.org/events/teleconf/index.cfm

2. **Register for the 2006 CleanMed conference, April 18-20 in Seattle, and submit a poster FREE!** The poster session is open to health care projects that feature green strategies, including Green Guide pilot participants. Visit the Green Guide [Download](#) page for more information.

3. **The Connecticut Hospital Environmental Roundtable (CHER) presents "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About "Green" Construction and Demolition"** in Farmington, CT, on Tuesday, April 4. For more information, visit the Green Guide [Events](#) page.

4. **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 to the fullest extent of the law.

5. **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.

6. **Need help implementing the Green Guide on your project?** Join the growing number of health care facilities taking advantage of the complimentary resources provided by the Green Guide framework for facility planning, design, construction and operations, including a peer-to-peer web-based information exchange. Sign up your project as a Pilot at no charge at www.gghc.org/participate.cfm.

6. **The Green Guide welcomes our new Endorsers:** GREENGUARD Environmental Institute and Prime Building Company.