



Green Guide for Health Care Newsletter

November 2006

Rolling Out the Green Guide for Health Care Version 2.2

A Preview

Scheduled Roll Out

The *Green Guide for Health Care* is pleased to announce that the roll out of Version 2.2 is scheduled for January 2007. The new document will be uploaded on the *Green Guide's* website (www.gghc.org).

Over the last year, the *Green Guide for Health Care* Steering Committee has focused on updating the GGHC Version 2.1 *Construction* section, responding to the Pilot program's experiences and advances in market conditions, and aligning with LEED® for New Construction Version 2.2. The *Green Guide* gathered comments and suggestions from Pilot projects through its online project management tools, the *Green Guide* Forum (a dedicated list-serve for Pilot project teams), individual interviews and collective conference calls with Pilot projects, and written comments from the Pilots and other interested members of the community. All credit changes have been peer reviewed for accuracy and consistency with best practice.

As part of the GGHC v2.2 revision, the *Operations* section, significantly revised in GGHC v2.1, has been updated to align with the *Construction* section revisions. The *Operations* section will undergo a substantive, thorough review and revision in 2007.

Substantial Changes

The development of the *Green Guide for Health Care* best practices toolkit has relied heavily on public input and comment. In December 2003, Version 1.0 was released in draft form for public comment, generating about 1,200 public comments. The *Green Guide* Steering Committee followed with the release of Version 2.0 Pilot in November 2004, with substantial modifications. The Pilot has provided the opportunity for the *Green Guide* to collaborate with a cross-section of leading health care institutions in an active development process. The Pilot's internal list-serve, online project management tools, and personal contact with the Pilot coordinator generated sustained communications between the Pilot projects and the *Green Guide*, resulting in several revised credits in the *Construction* section of *Green Guide for Health Care* Version 2.1, released in 2005.

Now approaching its two-year anniversary, the *Green Guide* Pilot program has generated a wide-ranging set of comments and suggestions to improve and enhance the *Green Guide* toolkit. The program has grown to over 100 pilot projects representing 28 million square feet of construction, in the U.S. and abroad, representing a range of building types, building phases, and both large and small health care markets.

In response to the depth of feedback accrued from the Pilot program, the *Green Guide* Steering Committee has drafted and approved several significant changes to *Green Guide* credit language, with some of the most significant changes listed below. A full description of credit-by-credit changes will be released with *Green Guide for Health Care* Version 2.2 in January 2007.

- **Outdoor Places of Respite (GGHC v2.2 SS c9):** The GGHC v2.1 Places of Respite credit was divided into two points: an outdoor credit (GGHC SS c9.1) and an indoor credit (GGHC EQ c8.2). The calculation remained unchanged, as did the requirement that staff be provided a designated place of respite not accessible to non-staff building occupants. In response to Pilot requests, GGHC v2.2 SS c9 provides clear parameters for the type of exterior space that can be included in the credit calculation. An additional point, GGHC SS c9.2: Connection to the Natural World: Exterior Access for Patients has also been included in GGHC v2.2 to reward projects that provide accessible balconies and patios in inpatient units for use by patients and visitors.
- **Water Efficiency (GGHC v2.2 WE P1, c1, c2):** The overwhelming response to the *Green Guide* Version 2.0 & 2.1 Water Efficiency credits was their inappropriateness for health care facilities. The complexity of domestic water use in functional areas in licensed health care facilities, coupled with the overwhelming use of process water rendered GGHC v2.1 Water Efficiency credits 2 (Innovative Wastewater Technologies), 3 (Domestic Potable Water Use), and 4 (Process Water Use Reduction) virtually impossible to achieve for all but the smallest facilities. In response to Pilot comments, the *Green Guide* Version 2.2 has restructured the Water Efficiency section. Recognizing the small percentage of water use represented by irrigation in most health care facilities and the high percentage of process water use, WE c1: Water Efficient Landscaping has been reduced to one point, rewarding facilities that use no potable water for irrigation. GGHC v2.1 WE c2: Innovative Wastewater Technologies has been withdrawn, as it was not considered applicable to acute care health care settings. The remaining five points in the section have been consolidated into a single credit: GGHC v2.2 WE c2: Potable Water Use Reduction. The new credit combines Measurement & Verification (GGHC v2.1 WE c4.1) with two points each for potable water use reduction on the domestic side (GGHC v2.2 WE c2.2 & c2.3) and on the process side (GGHC v2.2 WE c2.4 & c2.5). All of the calculations in the GGHC v2.1 Water Efficiency section have been replaced with prescriptive paths in recognition of the lack of accessible data on sub-metering water usage in health care facilities and the difficulty of comparing one health care facility's water usage to another's.
- **Optimize Energy Performance (GGHC v2.2 EA c1):** The revised credit acknowledges the guidance published by the U.S. Green Building Council in 2006 that allows Combined Heat and Power (CHP) efficiencies to be a factor in the project's energy model (applicable to GGHC EA P2: Minimum Energy Performance and GGHC EA c1: Optimize Energy Performance). The new credit will also offer a prescriptive path approach that can contribute to up to four of the ten possible points available through EA c1 *without* requiring an energy model.
- **Sustainably Sourced Materials (GGHC v2.2 MR c3):** Recognizing the multi-attribute considerations that guide materials' decisions, the *Green Guide* Version 2.2 bundles the materials credits in the Materials & Resources section (Resource Reuse, Recycled Content, Regional Materials, Rapidly Renewable Materials, and Certified Wood) into a single, new credit: GGHC v2.2 MR c3: Sustainably Sourced Materials. The new credit is modeled on the LEED for Existing Buildings MR Credit 2: Optimize Use of Alternative Materials, which aggregates the total percentage contribution represented by specific environmental criteria (e.g., recycled content). The *Green Guide* credit further requires that materials in the calculation comply with the applicable air quality standards represented in GGHC v2.2 EQ c4: Low Emitting Materials.
- **Daylighting & Views (GGHC v2.2 EQ c8):** The Daylight & Views credit in *Green Guide* Versions 2.0 & 2.1 rewards designs that provide daylight and views to staff in inpatient units and diagnostic and treatment areas. While Pilot feedback on this change was overwhelmingly positive, the *Green Guide* thresholds were proven to be too challenging. *Green Guide* Version 2.2 revises the calculation for EQ c8.1a-c8.1c: Diagnostic & Treatment Areas and reduces the thresholds for EA c8.1d-c8.1e: Inpatient Units. GGHC v2.1 EQ c8.2: Building Orientation was removed and GGHC v2.1 EQ c8.3: Views from Occupied Spaces was converted to the Indoor Places of Respite credit (GGHC v2.2 EQ c8.2).

After the Pilot

The roll out of *Green Guide for Health Care* Version 2.2 will mark the end of the Pilot program and the next step in the *Green Guide's* development. Projects currently enrolled in the Pilot are encouraged to remain active participants in the *Green Guide* community. They will be automatically re-registered as *Green Guide* Version 2.2 projects. Registration for *Green Guide* Version 2.2 projects will open to the general public in January 2007. All projects using the *Green Guide* are welcome to register and to participate in building a body of knowledge on current best practices in the green health care design, construction and operations industry.

News

1. Join us on Friday, December 1 from 1-2:30 ET for the next H2E (Hospitals for a Healthy Environment) Green Building teleconference: [Healing Gardens and Places of Respite](#). Effective November 2006, all H2E teleconferences will become an H2E Subscriber Benefit. For an annual \$199 subscription fee, H2E Subscribers will have access to 26 teleconferences (including green building topics), the ability to apply for H2E awards, and staff technical assistance. Visit <http://h2e-online.org/subscribe/index.htm> for more information.
2. "Greening Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities," a half-day seminar in Seattle, WA, on Thursday, December 7, sponsored by the City of Seattle and Better Bricks, will feature health care executives who are proving that high-performance green buildings are a wise business investment and support strategic building goals. For more information, visit <http://www.betterbricks.com>.
3. Download the groundbreaking white papers, "Designing the 21st Century Hospital: Environmental Leadership for Healthier Patients and Facilities," prepared by Health Care Without Harm and sponsored by the Center for Health Design with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Available as a free download at <http://www.gghc.org>.
4. *Building Design + Construction Magazine* featured the *Green Guide for Health Care* in the health care section of *White Paper 2006: Green Buildings and the Bottom Line*. For more information, visit <http://www.bdcnetwork.com>.
5. *Journal of Architectural Coatings* featured the *Green Guide for Health Care* in its August/September 2006 article "Second Opinions." For more information, visit http://www.paintsquare.com/jac/jac_home.cfm.
6. Register your project with the AIA Committee on the Environment (COTE) Top Ten Green Projects awards program. Registration deadline: January 17, 2007. For more information, visit: <http://www.ajatopten.org/>.
7. Register a project with the *Green Guide for Health Care!* *Green Guide* website registrants can register projects at no charge by logging into the website and following the prompts on the [Pilot](#) web page. Pilot projects will be automatically re-registered as *Green Guide* v2.2 projects in January 2007. Project registration is fast and easy and grants the project coordinator access to online tools such as checklists and a list-serve open only to *Green Guide* projects.
8. Support the *Green Guide for Health Care!* 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.
9. The *Green Guide* welcomes our new Sponsor: Southern California Edison.
10. The *Green Guide* welcomes our new Endorser: Anshen + Allen, Architects.