



Green Guide for Health Care Newsletter

December 2006

Highlights from: 2006 Green Guide Annual Report

The full report will be available on the Green Guide for Health Care [website](#) in mid-January 2007.

2006 In Review

In the midst of the largest construction boom in decades, the health care market in 2006 visibly embraced green design, construction and operations. According to a poll of 250 hospitals around the U.S. published in the November 2006 edition of *FacilityCare* magazine, 82% of the polled facilities are already in the process of planning or researching a construction project, indicating robust activity in the sector. Of particular note, of these 250 hospitals, 81% are actively implementing or are researching green building considerations. This is one of many indicators that have emerged over the past year marking broad-based adoption of high performance healing environments.

Barriers to green design that appeared impossible to overcome just a year ago have been substantially reduced or eliminated through enhanced awareness and education in green building practices sponsored by the *Green Guide for Health Care*, the U.S. Green Building Council, Hospitals for a Healthy Environment, American Society for Healthcare Engineering, and the Center for Health Design, among others. Since then, several articles published in 2006 including in *Environmental Design + Construction*, *Clean Design*, *Building Design + Construction* and *FacilityCare* have reported on the health care industry's rapid transformation, highlighting the *Green Guide for Health Care* Pilot program launch and the LEED® certification of health care projects across the country. These articles reflect the turning point in the health care industry's uptake of green building principles and practices and their embrace of an overarching emphasis on enhanced human health outcomes on the building, community and global scales. While these projects confronted many of the barriers that challenged health care projects in the past, they also revealed a series of factors that, together, helped tip the balance in favor of greening health care facilities across the country and internationally. Factors contributing to these successes include soaring energy costs and a sensitivity to global climate change, reduced cost and improved availability and performance of green building materials, a general recognition that patient and staff surroundings can be designed to benefit clinical outcomes, and the *Green Guide's* effectiveness in raising awareness of the pragmatic and common sense efficacy of values-driven design, construction and operations.

Green Guide for Health Care Website Registrants

As a testament to the internet's effectiveness as a fundamental communications medium, the *Green Guide* has built a global online community over 10,000 strong and growing. Over the past three months, the pace of website registration has quickened from 220 per month to close to 400. The *Green Guide's* international reach has expanded to 83 countries, and includes every state in the U.S. and every province in Canada.

The strength of this community is its diversity. While design professions dominate, health care providers represent almost 20% of the group. The *Green Guide's* engagement in research initiatives and innovative technologies has prompted the educational and product manufacturing sectors to take notice and share their knowledge and experience through public comments and email correspondence.

Aggregate Pilot Data

The *Green Guide for Health Care* Pilot program has grown to 112 projects, representing over 29 million square feet of construction, in the U.S. and abroad -- an increase of 45% over the past year. Pilot projects range in size, building type, building phase, and region demonstrating the *Green Guide's* versatility to be an effective tool for many building types and project phases.

The *Green Guide* Pilot program is dominated by new construction (50% based on construction type) and Acute Care facilities (60% based on facility type). In spite of the large number of new, Acute Care facilities registered with the *Green Guide* Pilot, this grouping of facility and construction type does not ensure attaining the highest point totals. On average, Combination projects have been the most successful construction type using the *Green Guide's* Construction section, while Additions have fallen slightly behind the others (New, Renovation, and Combination). In spite of the fact that the *Green Guide* is tailored for Acute Care facilities, Medical Office Buildings, Retirement facilities, and Specialty hospitals have reached equivalent levels of achievement using the Construction section. For the Operations section, the best performing projects are Renovations and Specialty hospitals. In many cases, Renovation projects have been registered with the *Green Guide* at the instigation of the health care institution, rather than the design team, reflecting an established awareness of the facility operations' ecological footprint. Indeed, hospitals familiar with Hospital for a Healthy Environment's pollution prevention and waste reduction programs will find many familiar criteria in the *Green Guide's* Operations section credits.

Looking Forward

With the imminent release of *Green Guide for Health Care* Version 2.2 in January 2007, the *Green Guide* has begun to lay a foundation for the next steps in the evolution of the health care industry emphasizing a comprehensive ecological approach. 2007 promises to be a year of transitions and advancement. The *Green Guide* and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) have committed to formalizing a partnership to support the organizations' continued provision of complementary services to the health care market. Additionally, the USGBC has announced that LEED® for Healthcare will be released in Fall 2007, representing the first third-party certification green building tool tailored to health care construction and building on the body of work pioneered by the *Green Guide*.

In addition to its ongoing collaboration with the USGBC, the *Green Guide* will continue to work closely with Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E) to encourage integration of green construction practices with operational pollution prevention and green programs. Already, almost 70% of *Green Guide* Pilot projects are pursuing both the Construction and Operations sections of the *Green Guide* simultaneously. Embarking on its second year, the Green Building teleconference series sponsored by H2E and hosted by the *Green Guide* has created a framework for sharing knowledge across design & construction teams and facilities management.

Accelerated market transformation evident over the past twelve months promises to continue into 2007. Together, we have reached the tipping point towards high performance healing environments!

News

- Join us on Friday, January 5 from 1-2:30 ET for the next H2E (Hospitals for a Healthy Environment) Green Building teleconference: [Introduction to the Green Guide for Health Care](#). 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.**
- DEADLINE EXTENDED - Call for Submissions!** The *Green Guide for Health Care* and Hospitals for a Healthy Environment are seeking project teams to share short "How To" case studies for the 2007 H2E Green Building teleconference series. Case study presentations will run 10 to 15 minutes each and will describe the process of achieving a single *Green Guide* credit, including lessons learned. Please submit a 500-word proposal on a topic covered in one of the following *Green Guide* sections: Water Efficiency, Energy & Atmosphere, Materials & Resources, or Environmental Quality. **Deadline January 15, 2007.** Email submissions to info@gghc.org.
- 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>.
- CLEARANCE SALE!** Purchase a paper copy of the *Green Guide for Health Care* Version 2.1 while you still can at the discounted price of \$50 (40% off regular price). *Green Guide* Version 2.2 will be released as a downloadable PDF in January 2007. Visit <http://www.gghc.org> to access the *Green Guide's* online store.
- 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.aiatopten.org/>.
- Submit a session proposal for Greenbuild 2007.** Deadline January 12, 2007. Visit <http://www.greenbuildexpo.org/> for more information.
- 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. 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* registered projects. Current pilot projects will be automatically re-registered as *Green Guide* v2.2 projects in January 2007.
- 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.
- The *Green Guide* welcomes our new Endorsers:** The Green House® Replication Initiative and The Sheward Partnership, LLC.