



## Green Guide for Health Care Newsletter

May 2007

### Green Guide for Health Care Technical Briefs

On June 15, the *Green Guide* will upload a set of technical briefing papers to our website (<http://www.gghc.org>). The Tech Briefs, written by practitioners with diverse expertise, provide in-depth information related to credits unique to the *Green Guide*, along with strategies and case studies. They are tailored to assist in achieving *Green Guide* Version 2.2 Prerequisites and Credits.

To access the *Green Guide for Health Care* Technical Briefs:

1. Go to <http://www.gghc.org>.
2. Click on the "Login" link in the black banner at the top of the page.
3. Enter your user name and password and click "Login". (Note: If you have not previously registered on the website, you will be required to click on "If you have not previously registered yourself on this site, Click here." and fill out a short form.)
4. Click on the "Downloads" button.
5. Open the "Technical Briefs" folder to access the documents.

The *Green Guide for Health Care* gratefully acknowledges the Merck Family Fund and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), whose generous support through grants to the Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems made the tech briefs possible.

The list below summarizes several tech briefs in the set.

**Brownfield Redevelopment (GGHC v2.2 Sustainable Sites Credit 3)** – Definition of brownfields, paying particular attention to their health impact. Outline of best practices involving site evaluation, levels of remediation, and low-impact remediation strategies.

**Places of Respite (GGHC v2.2 Sustainable Sites Credit 9)** – Definition of a place of respite, its benefit to the health and wellbeing of patients and staff, and design suggestions for both indoor and outdoor places of respite.

**Reducing Potable Water Use (GGHC v2.2 Water Efficiency Prerequisite 1 and Credit 2, Water Conservation Credits 2 & 3)** – Overview of typical water use in health care facilities and a template water management plan. Review of water efficiency strategies for both domestic and process uses.

**Low-Impact Construction Practices (GGHC v2.2 Materials & Resources Credit 2)** – Review of the negative impact of construction on human health. Review of low-impact construction practices that minimize environmental burdens and are protective of human health on the construction site.

**PBT Elimination (GGHC v2.2 Materials & Resources Credit 4)** – Overview of the health concerns associated with persistent bioaccumulative toxic chemicals and a review of typical medical products, equipment and building materials that can contain them. Listing of alternative products and materials and strategies for PBT avoidance.

**Furniture & Medical Furnishings (GGHC v2.2 Materials & Resources Credit 5 and Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Credit 5)** – Overview of the environmental and health concerns associated with medical furniture and furnishings. An array of best practices covers product specification, packaging, and "end of life" criteria.

**Low-Emitting Materials (GGHC v2.2 Environmental Quality Credit 4)** – Review of the sources of exposure and health outcomes from volatile organic compounds (VOCs) commonly introduced to the health care environment through building materials. Best practices for VOC avoidance cover interior adhesives & sealants, paints & other coatings, flooring, wall covering, trim, ceiling materials, composite wood & insulation, furniture & medical furnishings, and exterior applied products.

**Indoor/Outdoor Chemical & Pollutant Source Control (GGHC v2.2 Environmental Quality Credit 5)** – Overview of on-site pollution sources produced inside and outside of health care facilities and an array of best practices for eliminating or mitigating them.

**Acoustic Environment (GGHC v2.2 Environmental Quality Credit 9)** – Review of the health benefits associated with well-designed acoustic environments in the health care setting. Best practices for mitigating acoustic disturbances through facility design and finish selection.

**Pharmaceutical Management (GGHC v2.2 Chemical Management Credit 3)** – Overview of the significant health risk posed by improperly disposed pharmaceuticals. A dual approach to pharmaceutical management: pollution prevention and waste management.

**Food Purchasing Policy (GGHC v2.2 Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Credit 1)** – Review of various methods to leverage health care's purchasing power to improve the quality, nutrition and ecological impact of food production and distribution. Best practices cover organic or sustainable food, antibiotic-free meat, local food production, farmer-consumer links, and community gardens.

**Toxic Reduction through Environmentally Preferable Purchasing: Mercury, DEHP, Latex (GGHC v2.2 Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Credit 4)** – Overview of the health concerns associated with mercury, DEHP and latex and best practice strategies for developing environmentally preferable purchasing protocols that mitigate or eliminate use of these products in the health care setting.

### News

1. **Join us on Friday, June 1 from 1-2:30 ET for the next GGHC/H2E (Hospitals for a Healthy Environment) Green Building teleconference: "How To" Achieve Energy & Atmosphere Credits.** 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. **Printed copies of GGHC Version 2.2 available June 2007!** Visit our website in June to learn how to purchase a paper copy of the *Green Guide for Health Care* Version 2.2. The document is also available as a free downloadable PDF. Visit <http://www.gghc.org> to access the *Green Guide's* online store or to download a copy.
3. **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 [Project](#) web page. Project registration is fast and easy and grants project team members access to online tools such as checklists and a list-serve open only to *Green Guide* registered projects.
4. Register now for **Food Med 2007**, June 28 & 29 in Boston, MA. This one and a half day conference is designed to help participants incorporate sustainable and nutritious food purchasing at their facilities, and to learn cost effective strategies emphasizing health concerns to meet the unique needs of health care and promote healthy communities. For more information, click [here](#).
5. Don't miss the **ASHE PDC 2008 "Call for Abstracts" deadline on June 15!** For more information, visit <http://www.ashe.org>.
6. ***Green Guide* listed on Greener Buildings.com!** For more information, click [here](#).
7. **Download a copy of the GGHC 2006 Annual Report!** Log in to our website (<http://www.gghc.org>) to access a free, downloadable PDF of the document.
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.