



## Green Guide for Health Care Newsletter

July 2007

### Guidelines and Sustainability

*Public proposal period open through September 30, 2007 for the 2010 edition of the Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities.*

The Health Guidelines Revision Committee (HGRC), with the support of the Facility Guidelines Institute (FGI) and the American Institute of Architects (AIA), is seeking proposals from the public for the development of the 2010 edition of the *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities*. For the first time, the Facility Guidelines Institute has launched a user-friendly web site for the submission of comments on any and all aspects of the 2006 Edition – either revisions or additions of new material.

The *Guidelines* recommend minimum program, space, and mechanical standards for clinical and support areas of hospitals, long term care, rehabilitation and ambulatory care settings. In addition, the document recognizes “beyond minimum” best practices in Appendix language referenced to specific paragraphs in the document. The 2006 Edition introduced the topic of sustainable design, through a succinct set of minimum standards and best practice items in Chapter 2. The *Green Guide* is encouraging all registrants interested in sustainability to submit proposals that will both extend and strengthen sustainable design in health care through this public comment process.

This is the only opportunity to propose changes to any portion of the text. The public proposal period extends to September 30, 2007. Following this, the HGRC will consider all the proposed revisions and additions for inclusion, and issue a draft edition for a second round of comments. However, this later comment period will be limited to comments on the proposed language – not the addition of new text.

Any member of the public may propose changes on these topics, or any others, by visiting the FGI Web site at [www.fgi-guidelines.org](http://www.fgi-guidelines.org). The “Changes to Guidelines” link leads to the “Proposals and Comments” page. Each proposal must be accompanied by a justification or rationale explaining why it should be considered. Registered users of the proposal site will be able to view proposals made by others, as well.

Be bold – we encourage you to consider submitting both suggestions for minimum requirements and best practices throughout the 2006 edition – don’t just limit yourself to the current Chapter 2 text. Remember, the 2010 edition will still be in active use in 2015, the first benchmark year for the 2030 Challenge. We need to accelerate the adoption of sustainable design principles in health care, and we encourage you to actively participate with us in building momentum for change. As HGRC Chairman Doug Erickson, FASHE observes: “The *Guidelines* belong to everyone working in health care. Everyone needs to be involved in writing proposals to improve the quality of the built environment” (AIA Press Release, May 30, 2007).

GO TO [www.fgi-guidelines.org](http://www.fgi-guidelines.org). Thank you for adding your voice for sustainable building in health care.

By: Robin Guenther, FAIA, *Green Guide* Co-Coordinator and member, Health Guidelines Revision Committee

### Green Guide for Health Care Releases Pilot Report

*Review of GGHC Pilot program identifies key green building strategies for market transformation.*

The *Green Guide for Health Care* Pilot Report presents a groundbreaking, comprehensive portrait of the health care industry’s approach to green building and operations. Pilot projects are analyzed “At a Glance” by building type and construction type, offering a quick, graphic guide to average credit achievement levels.

The Report identifies the most significant lessons learned and key strategies for success, as well as highlighting case studies of selected *Green Guide* Pilot projects. Data gathered from the Pilots demonstrates the efficacy of integrated design, the importance of using safer, non-toxic building materials on health care projects and the availability of cost-effective energy and water efficiency strategies.

Between November 2004 and January 2007, the *Green Guide for Health Care’s* Pilot program grew to include **119 projects** representing more than **30 million square feet of health care facility construction** – with a **45% increase** from 2005 to 2006. Based on our estimates, the Pilot touched 2.7% of all U.S. health care construction completed in 2006 and 4.8% of health care construction completed in 2007.

The *Green Guide for Health Care*, the first and only sustainable design toolkit tailored to the health care industry, offers a “one stop shop” for implementing healing design features, high performance energy and water strategies, and safer materials in the health care setting. The launch of *Green Guide* Version 2.2 in January 2007 marked the end of the Pilot and the *Green Guide’s* transition into a full-fledged registration and self-certification program. The *Green Guide* welcomes Registered Projects to join as a free service. Registration includes web access to online project management tools for up to fourteen project team members, as well as to the online Forum, a peer-to-peer list-serve designed to allow participants to share implementation strategies, ask questions, and build knowledge about credit strategies.

To download the *Green Guide for Health Care* Pilot Report, learn how to support the *Green Guide*, purchase a printed copy or download *Green Guide* Version 2.2, or to register a project, visit [www.gghc.org](http://www.gghc.org).

### News

1. **Join us on Friday, August 3 from 1-2:30 ET for the next GGHC/H2E (Hospitals for a Healthy Environment) Green Building teleconference: [Toxic Chemical Avoidance in Health Care Construction and Facilities](#). 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. **Purchase a printed copy of GGHC Version 2.2 at the GGHC Online Store!** Visit <http://www.gghc.org> to access the *Green Guide’s* online store or to download a free, PDF digital copy.
3. **Download the newly released GGHC Pilot Report!** Visit <http://www.gghc.org> to access this groundbreaking, comprehensive portrait of the health care industry’s approach to green building and operations. The Pilot Report is a valuable tool for project teams interested in targeting the most effective green strategies for the health care industry.
4. **Register your project with the *Green Guide for Health Care!*** *Green Guide* registrants can register projects at no charge by logging onto [www.gghc.org](http://www.gghc.org) and following the prompts on the [Project](#) web page. Project registration is fast and easy and grants up to 14 project team members access to GGHC online tools such as checklists and a peer-to-peer Forum open only to *Green Guide* registered project teams.
5. **Public comment period open for the 2010 edition of the *AIA Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities*.** Visit the [FGI website](#) before September 30, 2007, to propose changes – both revisions and additional material.
6. **Download the newly released GGHC technical briefs!** Visit <http://www.gghc.org> to access 14 tech briefs covering green building topics of particular interest to the health care community. This project was generously funded by the Merck Family Fund and NYSERDA.
7. **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.
8. **The *Green Guide for Health Care* welcomes our new Endorsers:** Dwyer, KI, and The RMH Group.