

Best Practices for Creating High Performance Healing Environments™

Green Guide for Health Care Newsletter

November 2007

USGBC-GGHC Announce Partnership

In a move that underscores the importance of greening our healthcare industry, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and the *Green Guide for Health Care* (GGHC) have entered into an agreement to foster best practices and ensure the health care industry has the tools and resources it needs to build green. Green hospital buildings are healthier for patients, doctors and nurses, use less energy and water and enhance environmental quality.

"The healthcare industry is by far one of the more important sectors that can benefit from the practice of green building design and construction," said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO & Founding Chair, U.S. Green Building Council. "Patients in green hospitals have greater emotional well-being, require less pain medication and other drugs, and have shorter hospital stays."

Following four years of close collaboration, USGBC and GGHC signed a memorandum of understanding in September 2007 agreeing to work together on the development of tools, educational programs, and other activities to support green health care building. USGBC and GGHC will: a) jointly develop health care-related resource materials, education and training events; b) jointly identify a prioritized research agenda; and, c) continue to collaborate on developing future health care-related green building tools. USGBC will administer the LEED for Healthcare certification process. The *Green Guide for Health Care* will continue to act as a change agent and tool developer dedicated to empowering the health delivery industry to take a leadership position in green building and operations. As such, the *Green Guide* will continue to develop the next generation of GGHC tools.

Visit www.gghc.org or www.usgbc.org for more information.

LEED for Healthcare Released for Public Comment

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is pleased to announce the release of the draft LEED for Healthcare Rating System for public comment. LEED for Healthcare was developed to meet the unique needs of the healthcare market including inpatient care facilities, licensed outpatient care facilities and licensed long term care facilities. LEED for Healthcare may also be used for medical offices, assisted living facilities and medical education & research centers. LEED for Healthcare addresses such issues as increased sensitivity to chemicals and pollutants, traveling distances from parking facilities, and access to natural spaces. LEED for Healthcare was developed based on LEED for New Construction Version 2.2 and the *Green Guide for Health Care* Version 2.2.

The release represents a culmination of four years of close collaboration between the GGHC and USGBC with the ultimate goal of developing a third party certifiable rating system designed to create high performance healing environments in the health care sector. The *Green Guide for Health Care* streamlined LEED for Healthcare's development schedule by aligning with LEED for New Construction's organizational structure and by conducting public comment periods and a robust pilot program, including more than 100 healthcare facilities. These steps fulfilled the pilot phase of LEED for Healthcare, further expediting the product development cycle. The GGHC v2.1 pilot project input was integral to the LEED for Healthcare development process and informed revisions to existing LEED for New Construction credits and the creation of new healthcare specific credits not currently addressed in LEED.

LEED for Healthcare's launch, anticipated for first quarter 2008, will coincide with the launch of the GGHC's revised Operations section. USGBC and GGHC will jointly encourage LEED for Healthcare registered and certified projects to participate in the GGHC's project registration process for the Operations section. Furthermore, GGHC and USGBC will collaborate on informing the operations' related credits in the new LEED bookshelf system, as they specifically relate to the healthcare market sector.

Health Based Credits

The public comment draft of LEED for Healthcare reflects the health care community's mission to enhance the environmental and health outcomes associated with health care facility design and construction on the health of occupants, local communities and global ecology and to create healing environments to benefit patients, staff, and visitors.

LEED for Healthcare introduces Integrative Design into the Innovation category and adds four new Prerequisites to the LEED rating system:

Integrative Design & Innovation (ID): This expanded section acknowledges the pivotal role that the integrative design process plays in health care – a complex project type characterized by an extended development schedule.

ID Prerequisite 1: Integrative Design Process establishes a framework for the key components of a successful integrative design process: preliminary rating goals, assembly of an integrative project team, a design charrette, and an owner's project requirement document incorporating a health mission statement.

WE Prerequisite 1: No Potable Water Use for Medical Equipment prohibits potable water use for once through cooling for heat rejecting medical equipment.

MR Prerequisite 2: Toxic Material Source Reduction: Mercury targets mercury reduction and elimination in the facility's waste management plan, dental areas, building systems equipment, and fluorescent lamps.

EQ Prerequisite 3: Hazardous Material Removal or Encapsulation ensures that demolition practices in major renovations implement a hazardous material management program covering, at a minimum, asbestos, mercury, lead, and mold.

Several health based credits new to the LEED rating system are represented in the LEED for Healthcare draft rating system (subject to public comment and final ballot), for example:

SS Credit 9: Connection to the Natural World encompasses both outdoor places of respite and access to outdoor areas from inpatient units. The credit's intent is to connect health care patients, visitors, and staff to the health benefits of the natural environment.

Water Efficiency – The water efficiency section has been extensively modified to reflect the preponderance of potable water used in health care facilities for mechanical systems and medical equipment processes. The number of points awarded by the section has not altered from LEED NC. Instead, points have been reallocated across two new credits and two modified credits.

EA Credit 1: Optimize Energy Performance debuts a prescriptive path tailored to health care facilities over 70,000 square feet and valued at two points. The prescriptive path was developed jointly by the GGHC Steering Committee and the LEED for Healthcare core committee through a research project funded by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison, Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, USGBC, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

MR Credit 3: Sustainably Sourced Materials & Products consolidates LEED NC Materials & Resources Credits 3-7 into a single, four point credit, recognizing the need to consider multiple criteria when specifying building materials for the health care setting. Products are also required to meet the relevant EQ Credit 4: Low Emitting Materials requirements to contribute toward the credit.

EQ Credit 8: Views and Daylight revises the LEED NC methodology to favor daylighting strategies designed for diagnostic and treatment areas. In inpatient units, a views credit encourages designers to provide exterior views to all occupied areas, not patient rooms exclusively. A final point designates an optimal range of illumination in daylight spaces.

Participate in the Public Comment Period

Any member of the public can comment on the draft rating system. The public comment period will be open for 30 days, from Friday, November 16 through Saturday, December 15, 2007, 5 P.M. Pacific Standard Time. USGBC will respond to all comments, and post the comments and responses (without commenter names or organizations) to the USGBC Web site. If changes are made to the draft, a second public comment period will be conducted on those changes. The resulting draft will then be sent to the USGBC membership primary contacts for ballot.

Visit the [public drafts page](#) for more information and to participate. Please contact leedinfo@usgbc.org with any questions.

News

1. Join us for the December Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E) webinars: **Friday, December 7 (1-2:30 ET) GGHC/H2E Green Building webinar: "How To" Achieve Environmental Quality Credits, Friday, December 14 (1-2:30 ET) H2E webinar: Greening your CFO.** A subscription is required to access H2E webinars. Visit <http://h2e-online.org/subscribe/index.htm> for more information.
2. Participate in the **public comment period for LEED for Healthcare! Deadline December 15.** Visit the [public drafts page](#) for more information and to participate. Please contact leedinfo@usgbc.org with any questions.
3. **CleanMed 2008 announces a call for presenters and posters! Deadline December 15.** CleanMed is the Global Conference on Environmentally Sustainable Health Care. May 20-22, 2008 at the Hilton Pittsburgh. For more information, visit <http://www.cleanmed.org>.
4. USGBC is now accepting **proposals for educational sessions at Greenbuild 2008.** Sessions should reflect the program theme of Revolutionary Green: Innovations for Global Sustainability. **Deadline January 11, 2008.** Click [here](#) for more information.
5. **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.
6. **Register your project with the Green Guide for Health Care!** *Green Guide* website registrants can register projects at no charge by logging onto 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.
7. **Share your vision for the critical issues affecting health care environments in the future!** Click [here](#) to participate in a national survey hosted by The Center for Health Design's Coalition for Health Environments Research (CHER).
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.