

Green Guide for Health Care Newsletter

December 2007

Green Guide for Health Care™ Releases Prescriptive Path to Energy Efficiency

The *Green Guide for Health Care's* report, "A Prescriptive Path to Energy Efficiency Improvements for Hospitals," is a peer-reviewed methodology for hospitals greater than 70,000 square feet to achieve a 14% energy efficiency improvement over ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2004 in all U.S. climate zones. Compliance with this methodology is designed to qualify projects to earn 2 points through Energy & Atmosphere Credit 1: Optimize Energy Performance. The report's methodology has been adopted in *Green Guide for Health Care v2.2*, and is being considered for adoption in LEED® for Healthcare through the public comment process.

This Prescriptive Path offers, for the first time to hospitals, a set of energy efficiency criteria tailored to the health care sector. According to the 2003 Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS) published by the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), **inpatient health care facilities average 2.7 times the gross energy use intensity of office buildings.** However, hospitals' exemption from compliance with state and local energy codes in most municipalities across the country has reduced energy efficiency in hospital design and construction to a secondary consideration for owners and design teams.

Promoting the design of energy efficient hospitals and health care facilities is a core component of the *Green Guide for Health Care*. The Prescriptive Path report identifies **cost-effective strategies** to reduce energy consumption in a single set of **eleven Energy Efficiency Measures (EEMs) that can be applied across US climate zones** with a high level of confidence and without the expense and technical resources and capacity need to develop an energy model. All EEMs were evaluated for climate dependency, return on investment (ROI), practicality, reliability of savings, maintenance requirements and predictability of savings.

The Prescriptive Path report was developed by a joint research committee representing both the *Green Guide for Health Care* Steering Committee and the LEED for Healthcare core committee. Steven Winter Associates and Viridian Energy and Environmental, LLC provided energy modeling services. The report was funded by New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) and two California utilities - Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) and Southern California Edison (SCE). Through generous support from the US EPA, ICF International performed a sensitivity analysis to verify the Prescriptive Path's applicability to all U.S. climate zones.

To download the *Green Guide for Health Care's* report "A Prescriptive Path to Energy Efficiency Improvements for Hospitals," visit www.gghc.org, log in, and go to the Downloads section of the website.

COMING SOON: Join the Power of Three

You may already have heard the exciting news: We are launching a new non-profit member based organization that combines and builds upon three powerful initiatives to improve the environmental performance of the health care sector. The *Green Guide for Health Care* is joining forces with Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E), a non-profit dedicated to creating a national movement for environmental sustainability in health care, and the Healthcare Clean Energy Exchange, a program to save energy costs and reduce health care's climate footprint. This new combined organization will offer its members a full range of tools, resources, technical assistance and networking opportunities to engage all sectors within the health care industry in creating safe, healthy healthcare environments.

The Power of Three

Hospitals for a Healthy Environment™ (H2E) – a national, not-for-profit knowledge organization with 10 years experience providing tools and resources to support environmentally sustainable health care facilities.

Green Guide for Health Care™ (GGHC) – the first and only voluntary best practices toolkit for the design, construction and operation of health care facilities, offering a "one stop shop" for implementing healing design features, smart energy and water strategies, safer materials and responsible materials management.

Healthcare Clean Energy Exchange™ (HCEE) – a reverse auction program (currently in the pilot stage) to assist healthcare providers in lowering energy bills while increasing the percentage of clean energy in their energy procurement portfolio.

We are poised to launch in mid-January 2008 – keep an eye out for details about membership dues (and accompanying early bird discounts), the new programs, the 2008 Environmental Excellence Awards and the exciting new Webinar series. Be the first to get all the details! Contact Julie Taylor (julie.taylor@h2e-online.org, 603-795-9966) to get on our early-adopter email list and we'll make sure you get all the information about the new organization as soon as it is ready. Here's to a safe, healthy and exciting New Year...

News

1. Join us for the January Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E) webinars: **Friday, January 11 (1-2:30 ET) GGHC/H2E Green Building webinar: [Introduction to the Green Guide for Health Care and Emerging Tools](#). Friday, January 25 (1-2:30 ET) H2E webinar: [Introduction to H2E and Data Collection](#).** A subscription is required to access H2E webinars. Visit <http://h2e-online.org/subscribe/index.htm> for more information.
2. 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.
3. **Healthcare Design 08 is now accepting proposals for educational sessions.** Healthcare Design is the industry's best-attended and most well-respected conference on evidence-based design for healthcare. Deadline January 18, 2008. Click [here](#) for more information.
4. **Save the Date for CleanMed 2008** – the Global Conference on Environmentally Sustainable Health Care. May 20-22, 2008 at the Hilton Pittsburgh. 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.
9. **The Green Guide for Health Care welcomes our new Endorser:** Victor Insulation.