



## Green Guide for Health Care Newsletter

January 2008

### **Green Guide for Health Care™ Joins Practice Greenhealth**

The *Green Guide for Health Care* (GGHC) and longtime collaborator Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (also known as H2E) are joining forces with Healthcare Clean Energy Exchange, a new program aimed at reducing both energy costs and a facility's carbon footprint, to create a new nonprofit member-based organization, **Practice Greenhealth**.

**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, effective energy and water strategies, safer materials and responsible materials management.

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

**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.

Practice Greenhealth will offer a full range of tools, resources, and strategies for achieving environmental excellence in health care. The new organization – based on the understanding that protecting the environment is a health imperative – has been formed in recognition of the huge strides made by the health care industry toward establishing a sustainable health care sector.

The new organization will build on the successes of joint GGHC and H2E programs integrating green building and green operations into a comprehensive approach to environmental excellence. GGHC and H2E will combine our constituency populations – inclusive of the full spectrum of professions connected to health care construction and operations – into a single source, comprehensive learning community to distill and disseminate news, knowledge, and emerging trends.

- The Healthcare Clean Energy Exchange program exclusive to Practice Greenhealth members will help facilities cut energy costs between 6-12%, while reducing its carbon footprint.
- Strategies and services will assist project teams and health care facilities achieve the design, construction, and operation of high-performance healing environments, as defined by the *Green Guide for Health Care*. The *Green Guide* is a foundational document for the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED for Healthcare third party certification rating system, due to launch this year.
- Tools and resources including a subscription-based Webinar series focused on both Design & Construction and Operations, peer networking events, a Waste Data Tracking Tool, national Environmental Excellence Awards, a Business Alliance, and much more.

As more programs, initiatives and standards unfold, Practice Greenhealth will act as a catalyst to accelerate the health care sector's transformation into a leader in environmental excellence. We invite you to be part of this journey.

For more information about Practice Greenhealth services and membership and to get involved, download [membership details](#) or contact Mark Tecca (603 795 9966, [mark.tecca@h2e-online.org](mailto:mark.tecca@h2e-online.org)). The launch of the website, [www.PracticeGreenhealth.org](http://www.PracticeGreenhealth.org) will be announced to GGHC website registrants.

### News

1. Join us for the January GGHC/Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E) webinars: **Friday, February 8 (1-2:30 ET) Practice Greenhealth Design & Construction webinar: [Sustainable Healthcare Architecture](#)**, Friday, February 22 (1-2:30 ET) **Operations webinar: [Preview of GGHC Operations Section](#)**. A subscription is required to access the webinar series. Visit <http://cms.h2e-online.org/teleconferences> for more information.
2. **Download the *Green Guide for Health Care's* report “A Prescriptive Path to Energy Efficiency Improvements for Hospitals”** as follows: visit [www.gghc.org](http://www.gghc.org), log in, and go to the Downloads section of the website.
3. **Purchase *Sustainable Healthcare Architecture***, co-authored by Robin Gunther, FAIA, and Gail Vittori, LEED AP at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). *AIArchitect* describes this newly released monograph on green building in health care as “a very important book.”
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](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.
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.