



Green Guide for Health Care Newsletter

February 2008

Green Guide for Health Care™ Operations Section Update

The *Green Guide for Health Care* (GGHC) is concluding a review and update of the *Operations* Section. Over the past six months, a committee of professionals representing a broad spectrum of health care sector perspectives has collaborated with technical experts and representatives from membership organizations such as the American Society for Healthcare Environmental Services (ASHES) and the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) to conduct a major overhaul of the tool.

The *Green Guide for Health Care*, a project of the Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems and Practice Greenhealth established in 2002, is the first voluntary, best practices green building toolkit customized for the health care sector, using the U.S. Green Building's LEED® credit framework, with permission. To date, the *Green Guide* has attracted more than 17,000 website registrants, and 150 registered projects representing more than 34 million square feet of green health care facilities in the U.S. and abroad.

The *Green Guide Operations* section's updated mandatory prerequisites and voluntary credits emphasize continuous improvement and frame best practices in operations and maintenance protocols, keeping abreast of the momentum in policy and practice towards green building methods and materials. These strategies yield measurable improvements in enhancing the facilities' health and environmental performance. Roughly 60% of GGHC registered projects have pursued or are pursuing the *Operations* section in tandem with new construction, additions and renovation projects. However, the *Operations* section can also stand on its own as an independent tool.

The GGHC *Operations* review committee has set the following goals for the updated *Operations* toolkit:

- **More user friendly** – Reorganize the tool to group strategies by facility department.
- **Up to date** – Update regulatory standards, best practices, and resources to the most current available information. Align with the 2007 revision of LEED® for Existing Buildings-Operations and Maintenance, where applicable.
- **Expanded scope** – Reflect emerging priorities in health care operations and maintenance, such as emissions reporting, low-impact grounds maintenance, sustainable food service, and multi-attribute environmentally preferable purchasing policies.
- **Emphasize continuous improvement** – The self-certifying nature of the GGHC lends itself to continuous improvement. The revised *Operations* section emphasizes goal setting and establishing ongoing environmental programs by requiring periodic performance evaluations and outlining aspirational innovation points for industry leaders.
- **Emphasis on Integrated Operations and Education** – Strengthen requirements focused on establishing a cross-departmental structure governing environmental programs and emphasizing ongoing education of staff, patients and visitors, and the general public on the connection between greening a facility's operations and human health.

Due to the extensive nature of the GGHC *Operations* review process, the revised toolkit will be released for a 30-day public comment period prior to its official launch. Check the GGHC website and newsletter in April for more information regarding the schedule for the public comment review and information on how to submit comments.

For more information about the GGHC *Operations* section review, please contact Adele Houghton, AIA, GGHC Project Manager at adeleh@gghc.org. A preview of the revised *Operations* section is available on the Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E) website: <http://www.h2e-online.org/teleconferences/ConferenceDetails.cfm?Date=2008-02-15&teleconfid=392>.

Registration Now Open for CleanMed 2008

CleanMed 2008, scheduled for May 20-22, 2008, in Pittsburgh, PA, will bring together health care leaders from across the country to learn about the latest trends in green building; energy efficiency and carbon neutrality; nutritious, sustainable foods and food systems; environmentally preferable purchasing; safer materials and healthy

News

1. Join us for the March GGHC/Hosp for a Healthy Environment (H2E) webinars: **Friday, March 14 (1-2:30 ET) Practice Greenhealth Design Construction webinar: [Lessons Learned: GGHC and Kaiser Permanente's High Performance Building Committee](#)**. **Friday, Mar 28 (1-2:30 ET) Operations webinar [Pharmaceutical Waste Prevention](#)**. 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 Prescription Path to Energy Efficiency Improvements for Hospitals:** visit www.gghc.org, log in, and go to the Downloads section.
3. **Purchase *Sustainable Healthcare Architecture*, co-authored by Ro Guenther, FAIA, and Gail Vittori, LEED AP** at Amazon.com. *AIArchitect* describes this newly released monograph on green built in health care as "a very important book."
4. **Register to attend CleanMed 2008** the Global Conference on Environmentally Sustainable Health Care. May 20-22, 2008 at the Hilton Pittsburgh. Click [here](#) for more information.
5. **Healthcare Design Call for Submissions for the 2008 Architectural Showcase issues** is open! Deadline March 14. Click [here](#) for more information.
6. **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.
7. **Register your project with the *Green Guide for Health Care!*** *Green Guide* website registrants can register projects at no charge by logging on 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.
8. **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