



Green Guide for Health Care Newsletter

March/April 2008

CleanMed 2008 Early Registration Closes May 1. Save \$100.

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 chemical policies; green electronics; environmentally preferable medical waste treatment and disposal; and, waste reduction and recycling. CleanMed is more than a conference and exhibition—it is sharing of best practices, lively discussion on industry trends, and a social forum for networking. The conference brings together suppliers with the healthcare leaders and purchasers at the forefront of implementing environmentally preferable products and services in their facilities Visit <http://www.cleanmed.org/2008/> for more information and to register to attend the conference.

A full day **LEED for Healthcare training** is scheduled as a pre-conference offering on Tuesday, May 20. Visit <http://www.usgbc.org> for more information.

Highlights from: 2007 Green Guide for Health Care Annual Report

The full report will be available on the Green Guide for Health Care [website](#) in late May 2008.

2007 In Review

2007 proved another banner year for the *Green Guide for Health Care* and for green health care more generally. The year began with the release of *Green Guide for Health Care* Version 2.2, a major revision to the toolkit's *Construction* section, and concluded with the release of LEED® for Healthcare for public comment in November and a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the GGHC and the U.S. Green Building Council. The MOU reaffirms the commitment to complementary efforts towards realizing high performance, healing environments.

Organizationally, the *Green Guide for Health Care* joined forces with Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E) and the new Healthcare Clean Energy Exchange (HCEE) program to create a new, member-based organization, Practice Greenhealth. With the creation of Practice Greenhealth, the *Green Guide* is now a joint project of the Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems and Practice Greenhealth (www.practicegreenhealth.org).

With such marked activity apparent throughout the health care sector, both the trade and the mainstream press cast health care in a leadership role as it emphasizes the human health dimension of sustainable building practices. The March 2007 edition of *Time* magazine featured GGHC co-coordinator Gail Vittori as an Innovator, citing her work with the *Green Guide* and its goal to transform the health care sector as a key area of her influence. Likewise, the June 2007 edition of *Metropolis* magazine featured GGHC co-coordinator Robin Guenther, FAIA, applauding an architect specializing in health care who prioritizes human health and the environment in her award-winning designs. Health care-specific publications also approached green building in health care from the standpoint of improving human health and healing rates in the health care environment. The October 2007 edition of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* highlighted the focus on human health in "Hospitals and Clinics Go Green for Health of Patients and Environment."

Two white papers making the business case for green design and construction of health care facilities were also released in 2007. McGraw-Hill Construction released the *Health Care Green Building SmartMarket Report*, a survey of health care facilities across the country. The report emphasizes the role that health care's unique mission to heal plays in the decision to pursue a green building project. Improved patient outcomes surfaces as one of the top three triggers to building green health care facilities, along with improved operational cost savings and energy cost increases. Responses to the survey of health care facilities outlined in the 2007 *Building Design & Construction Green Buildings Research White Paper* indicate the rise in green building in health care. While the largest obstacle to pursuing green design principles is concern about increased construction costs, the benefits to community outreach, improved patient and staff wellbeing, and reduced operations costs has convinced many facilities to commit to greening both their designs for new facilities and existing facilities operations.

Educational Outreach

The *Green Guide* ramped up its educational outreach in 2007 to meet demand for more in-depth technical information on strategies and goals outlined in the toolkit.

- **GGHC Version 2.2** greatly expanded the Potential Technologies & Strategies and Resources sections in the *Construction* section credits. This added information points project teams to valuable resources providing background information and technical advice.
- **GGHC Pilot Report** was released in August 2007. The Pilot Report presents a groundbreaking, comprehensive portrait of the health care industry's approach to green building and operations. GGHC 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 significant lessons learned and key strategies for success, as well as highlights case studies of selected *Green Guide* Pilot projects.
- **Technical Briefs** – The *Green Guide* released a series of 14 technical briefs in June 2007. These topics provide in-depth discussions of green building topics of particular interest to the health care industry, and are aligned with GGHC Version 2.2. The technical brief project was generously funded by the Merck Family Fund and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.
- **Webinar Series** – The *Green Guide* continued to organize a Green Building webinar series in partnership with Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E). In late 2007, the old teleconference format was upgraded to an online webinar format, improving the quality of the learning experience.

Green Guide for Health Care Website Registrants

The *Green Guide's* online community continued to grow apace in 2007 – increasing by more than 500 new website registrants per month throughout the year. The *Green Guide's* international reach expanded to over 100 countries, and includes every state in the U.S. and every province in Canada. The *Green Guide's* appeal has strengthened in the U.S., as evidenced by the growth of website registrants across the country. In December 2006, 9 U.S. states claimed 300 or more GGHC website registrants. By December 2007, that number had increased to 15 states, a 67% increase over the previous year.

Green Guide for Health Care Registered Projects

The *Green Guide for Health Care* Pilot program grew from 112 projects in 2006 to 138 projects in 2007, representing 33.5 million square feet of construction, in the U.S. and abroad – an increase of 23% over the past year. Registered projects range in size, building type, building phase, and region demonstrating the *Green Guide's* versatility to be an effective tool for many building types and project phases.

News

1. Join us for the May Practice Greenhealth webinars:
Friday, May 9 (1-2:30 ET) Practice Greenhealth Design & Construction webinar: [Lessons Learned from LEED Certified Health Care Projects](#). Friday, May 16 (1-2:30 ET) Operations webinar: [Environmental Excellence Awards 2008: Case Studies](#). A subscription is required to access the webinar series. Click [here](#) for more information.
2. Submit **public comments** on the **2008 Revision to the GGHC Operations Section! Deadline: May 16, 2008.** The 2008 Revision represents the most significant update to the *Green Guide for Health Care Version 2.2 Operations* section to date. Log in to <http://www.gghc.org> to download the revised tool and submit comments.
3. **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.
4. **Purchase Sustainable Healthcare Architecture, co-authored by Robin Guenther, FAIA, and Gail Vittori, LEED AP at Amazon.com.** *AIArchitect* describes this newly released monograph on green building in health care as "a very important book."
5. **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.
6. **Register your project with the *Green Guide for Health Care!*** 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. **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.