



March 2009

## Green Guide for Health Care™: Versions and Vision, Tools and Transition

Welcome to the first bi-monthly edition of our newsletter of 2009, designed to keep you updated about the new and current versions of the *Green Guide for Health Care* (GGHC), our shared vision moving forward, the tools we are developing, and the transition necessary to accomplish our goals of advancing the greening of healthcare.

The *Green Guide for Health Care*, a project of Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) and the Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems, is the first voluntary, best practices green building toolkit customized for the health care sector, using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED® credit framework, with permission. To date, the *Green Guide* has attracted more than 25,000 website registrants, and 189 registered projects. The *Green Guide's* international reach has expanded to 113 countries and includes every state and province in the US and Canada.

The *Green Guide for Health Care* closed out 2008 with the release of the substantially revised Version 2.2 Operations section. Implementation of this tool is coordinated with our strategic partner Practice Greenhealth ([www.practicegreenhealth.org](http://www.practicegreenhealth.org)). A pilot project for participating hospitals is being planned for 2009. Details to follow.

Concurrent with v2.2 Operations revisions, the GGHC Steering Committee conducted a strategic visioning process for the next generation version of GGHC, grounded by an aspirational vision of a "regenerative, restorative, and resilient (R3) hospital." The first phase of this process was completed in February 2009. We now are transitioning into a post-visioning phase that will take the conceptual elements of an "aspirational hospital" and move them towards the development of a decision-making continuous improvement tool.

Elements of the *Green Guide's* team transition in 2009 included the departure of Adele Houghton, GGHC Coordinator, and the arrival of Kumkum M. Dilwali, Senior Director. We all are thankful to Adele for her efforts and accomplishments at GGHC, and we welcome Kumkum into this newly defined role. GGHC will continue to work collaboratively and cooperatively as the developer of innovative tools for market transformation, in alliance with our sister organizations: Practice Greenhealth, Health Care Without Harm, and the Global Health and Safety Initiative.

In the spirit of continuous improvement, the GGHC website is scheduled for redesign this year. Providing ease of access to resources, compiling metrics, and sharing best practices will be our priority. We welcome your constructive comments at [info@gghc.org](mailto:info@gghc.org).

A new feature of this newsletter is to pose a key question designed for your reflection, discussion, and action. Selected reference links are provided here to initiate the conversation.

### **Given this economic climate, what is driving healthcare organizations to adopt, maintain or accelerate high performance healing environments?**

- Thomas Friedman: Green: The New Red White and Blue (NY Times Magazine) [http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/15/magazine/15green.t.html?\\_r=1&ref=magazine&pagewanted=all](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/15/magazine/15green.t.html?_r=1&ref=magazine&pagewanted=all)
- <http://www.aha.org/aha/resource-center/bibliography/green.html>. For example, Boulder Community Hospital reportedly saves \$560,000 per year on a combination of lighting efficiency, water reduction and green operation strategies. (*Frontiers of Health Services Management*, Fall 2008 Vol 25, No 1)
- The Economic Benefits of Sustainable Design [http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/pdfs/buscase\\_section2.pdf](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/pdfs/buscase_section2.pdf).

Perhaps the question remains, can healthcare afford *not* to participate in greening design and operations at this time, in light of near-term savings and long-term benefits? Send your comments to [info@gghc.org](mailto:info@gghc.org).

## Announcing a CleanMed2009 Pre-Conference Workshop: Monday, May 18, 2009

*Green Guide for Health Care* Presents *Designing the Regenerative Hospital: An Imperative for the 21st Century*

Can we transform today's healing environments into living or 'regenerative' buildings? Can we move from 'doing less harm' to 'restoring what has been lost'? Can we heal the earth as we heal ourselves? How will we bring this future into being? These are some of the questions framing the development of the next generation of the *Green Guide for Health Care*. Workshop participants will help to shape a strategic vision of the 21<sup>st</sup> century hospital as a "regenerative building". Using the framework of Regenerative Design defined by the GGHC steering committee as a starting point, the workshop will postulate how hospital design can be re-imagined to meet this emerging imperative. Workshop participants will explore scenarios for several key elements of regenerative buildings. The findings will be conveyed to the developers of the next generation *Green Guide*. Creative thought leaders, prepared to envision the hospital of the future, are urged to sign up for this workshop ([www.cleanmed.org](http://www.cleanmed.org))

### Events and Resources...

**1. Webinars:** Join us for our monthly Design and Construction webinars! These 90-minute sessions are conducted on Fridays at 1pm Eastern time. Links to upcoming topics are provided below:

**Friday, April 24 (1-2:30 ET)** [Pioneering the Platinum Path for Healthcare: Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas](#)

**Friday, May 8 (1-2:30 ET)** [The Human Side of Sustainability: A Focus on Experience.](#)

**Friday, June 12 (1-2:30 ET)** [Innovations in Energy Demand Reduction](#)

Note: American Institute of Architects (AIA) continuing education credits are available. There is a fee to participate in webinars. Visit [www.practicegreenhealth.org/webinars](http://www.practicegreenhealth.org/webinars) for more information and complete calendar for 2009.

**2. Register to attend CleanMed 2009 –** The sixth annual CleanMed event is scheduled for May 18-20, 2009 in Chicago, IL. [www.cleanmed.org](http://www.cleanmed.org)

**3. Download the Green Guide for Health Care's report "A Prescriptive Path to Energy Efficiency Improvements for Hospitals":** visit [www.gghc.org](http://www.gghc.org), log in, and go to the Downloads section.

**4. Sustainable Healthcare Architecture, co-authored by Robin Guenther, FAIA, and Gail Vittori,** LEED-AP can be purchased at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). This 429-page book on green building in health care, published in 2008, provides valuable guidance and case studies.

**5. Download FREE, digital copies of GGHC Version 2.2 and the Revised Operations section** at [www.gghc.org](http://www.gghc.org)

**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. Support the Green Guide for Health Care.** Visit the [Supporters](#) section of the *Green Guide* website to find out if you can be a Sponsor, Partner, or Endorser. All donations to the *Green Guide* are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

**8. The 2009 GGHC core project team includes the Co-Coordinators Robin Guenther, Gail Vittori, and Walt Vernon, and Senior Director Kumkum M. Dilwali.**

Please direct all GGHC inquiries to [info@gghc.org](mailto:info@gghc.org).

