



For Immediate Release

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Revised *Green Guide for Health Care*™ Operations Section Released

Updated section of the best practices toolkit focuses on continuous improvement in facility operations.

(Arlington, VA) The most significant revision to the *Green Guide for Health Care Version 2.2 Operations* section to date has been released, marking the completion of a rigorous development process including two public comment periods. The *Green Guide for Health Care*, a project of the Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems and Health Care Without Harm, is the first voluntary, best practices green building and operations toolkit customized for the health care sector.

“The revised *Operations* section heralds a new era in sustainable facility operations in health care,” said Janet Brown, director of Sustainable Operations at Practice Greenhealth who, along with Cecilia DeLoach Lynn, Lorissa MacAllister, and Adele Houghton, led the revision of the Operations Section of the *Green Guide for Health Care*. “The expanded scope and revised organization around departmental work will appeal to operational facilities eager to establish their leadership in environmental excellence.”

Practice Greenhealth is the principal implementation vehicle for the *Green Guide for Health Care* and had a leadership role in the revision process for the Operations Section.

The *Green Guide for Health Care*, initiated in 2002, spans the continuum of health care design, construction and operations, offering tips and tools for adding healing design and facilities operations features, energy and water efficiency strategies, and safer materials to the health care setting. To date, the *Green Guide* has attracted more than **160 registered projects** representing close to **40 million square feet** of green health care facilities in the U.S. and abroad. Sixty percent of these are pursuing or have pursued the *Operations* section in tandem with new construction, additions and renovation projects. These facilities are integrating the *Green Guide's* enhanced environmental and health principles and practices into their planning, design, construction, operations and maintenance. More than **22,000 individuals have registered on the GGHC** website to obtain updates and guidance on green health building and operations. Building on the experience of the *Green Guide's* roster of registered projects, a volunteer committee of professionals representing a broad spectrum of health care sector perspectives, and technical experts, the update **emphasizes continuous improvement and frames best practices in operations and maintenance protocols**, keeping abreast of the momentum in policy and practice towards green building and operations methods and materials. These strategies yield measurable improvements to enhancing a facility's health and environmental performance.

Highlights include:

- **A more user-friendly tool** – Strategies are now grouped by facility department.
- **Up to date** – Updated regulatory standards, best practices, and resources reflecting the most current available information, including alignment with the 2008 revision of LEED® for Existing Buildings-Operations and Maintenance rating system, with permission, where applicable.

- **Expanded scope** – Emerging priorities in health care operations and maintenance are reflected in the update, including emissions reporting, low-impact grounds maintenance, sustainable food service, and multi-attribute environmentally preferable purchasing policies.
- **Emphasis on 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** – Strategies focus 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.

The *Green Guide for Health Care* is available as a free download from the GGHC website: www.gghc.org.

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