



Tools & Resources for Healthcare: How EPA Can Help with Sustainability

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EPA's Interests



EPA's Mission:

- Protect environment & human health
- How do we do this?
 - Laws to ensure clean air, clean & safe water, and clean land
 - Tools include permitting, BMPs, and enforcement when necessary
 - Partnership programs



Selected Environmental Impacts of the Healthcare Sector (Footprint)

- Hospitals: 16% of economy, operate 24/7, provide variety of services
- 7,000 tons per day of waste
- Use toxic materials (mercury, PVC, DEHP, cleaners, heavy metals in electronics, pesticides, batteries)
- Consume energy: heating, cooling, car fleets
- Consume water: domestic, HVAC, landscaping
- Purchase equipment, electronics, supplies
- Construct & renovate buildings



Energy Use in Healthcare



- Healthcare spends over \$8.3 billion on energy each year.
- Every dollar a nonprofit hospital saves on energy is equivalent to generating new revenues of \$20 for hospitals or \$10 for medical offices.
- 5% reduction in energy costs can boost earnings a penny per share.
- www.energystar.gov/healthcare



Water Use in Healthcare



- Commercial buildings use 20% of US drinking water supplies.
- Reducing total commercial building water use by 10% saves over 2 trillion gallons of water each year.
- Also save energy through improved efficiency in use of heated water.
- www.epa.gov/watersense



We All Want to....GO GREEN!!

- Reduce carbon footprint
- Reduce greenhouse gases
- Reduce use of energy
- Reduce use of toxic materials
- Reduce use of raw materials
- Involve the community (patients & workers too)
- Use sustainable practices in construction



How Can EPA Help?

- A gatekeeper to an agency of many different programs, tools, & employees with significant knowledge about many of these topics



EPA Can Help....

- Or: your Golden Gate BRIDGE—to EPA tools & resources



- Also as a bridge to other resources—DOE, Practice Greenhealth, Business Cases, Hospitals & Health Networks magazine, etc.

EPA Can Help.....



- Find the right program or contact to address questions or issues
- Partnership programs & specific measurement tools to track your progress in reducing GHG, energy consumption, & waste generation

Tools



- Outreach: organizations such as ASHES, Nurses' Assns., Hospital Assns., etc.
- Technical assistance
- Sponsor workshops (what topics would be helpful?)
- Networking, connecting successful programs & approaches
- Provide recognition & awards (Trailblazer Awards annually) & recognition through many programs

More Tools



- Provide Information:
 - Legislation & regulatory actions (e.g., survey of healthcare sector—including hospitals—on disposal of pharmaceuticals; universal waste)
 - Regular e-mail newsletter—upcoming workshops, news articles, regulations, tools & resources on various web sites
 - Share YOUR successes
 - What other tools or info would be useful?

Other Tools



- EPA Regional Office focusing on climate change & energy conservation
 - Presentations, tracking tools, expertise
 - Greenhouse gas equivalencies calculator (to present to senior managers)
 - Energy conservation tools & calculators
 - Portfolio Manager: tracks performance, changes in energy use, cost savings, CO2 emissions, water use, apply for Energy Star recognition



EPA Sustainable Partnerships: Performance Areas



- Energy conservation
- Water conservation
- Renewable energy
- Solid Waste
- Climate Change
- Green Procurement
- Reduced Use of Toxics
- Sustainable Food
- Energy Star
- WaterSense, GreenScapes
- Green Power Partnership
- WasteWise
- Climate Leaders
- EPEAT
- NPEP
- Organic, local food



The Smart Way to Save Fuel,
Money, and the Environment



EPA Sustainable Partnerships: Performance Areas (cont.)

- Professional Recognition



- WasteWise
- Performance Track (EMS required)
- Green Power Partnership
- Climate Leaders
- NPEP
- WaterSense
- Region 3's Trailblazer Awards



Show Me the Money!



- Not much federal funding available
- Check www.grants.gov frequently!
- CARE grants for community partnerships to reduce toxics (deadline: March)
- Occasional Source Reduction Assistance funds solicitation



Show Me More Money!



■ National Clean Diesel Program

- Diesel retrofits for any vehicles (construction vehicles, fleets, etc.)
- Solicitation to be announced Spring 2009
- Hospitals can partner with construction companies doing work on premises
- \$3.8 million (approx.) available for Region 3



The Smart Way to Save Fuel,
Money, and the Environment

We All Want Measurable Success

- EPA finds data useful:
 - Pounds of waste reduced or recycled
 - Amounts of toxic chemicals eliminated
 - New programs that a health system has implemented
- Sharing data with EPA is helpful:
 - Prioritize assistance efforts
 - Policy focus
 - Target available grant funds



EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Sustainability Challenge



- Health systems (& others) can pledge to reduce environmental footprint in at least one area
- Can receive technical assistance from EPA
- “Bundling” of partnership programs
- In exchange, provide data to EPA
- Early adopters can develop case studies & be mentors for others
- You can sign up TODAY!



Useful Web Sites



- www.energystar.gov
- www.energystar.gov/buildings
- www.epa.gov/ecycling
- www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/office.html
- www.epa.gov/greenpower
- <http://www.epa.gov/smartway/>
- www.epa.gov/epawaste/partnerships/wastewise/index.htm
- www.epa.gov/epawaste/partnerships/npep/index.htm
- www.epa.gov/epawaste/partnerships/greenscapes/index.htm
- www.grants.gov



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