



## ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP FOR HEALTHCARE

# GreenHealthy®

Committed to protecting the environment and maintaining a safe and healthy climate for our patients, workers and communities.

Serving more than 3,400 U.S. hospitals and 110,000 other sites, the Premier healthcare alliance is working to transform healthcare and improve the health of communities.

The Premier Safety Institute® ([www.premiersafetyinstitute.org](http://www.premiersafetyinstitute.org)) provides resources and tools to promote a healthy, safe and sustainable healthcare delivery environment for patients, workers and their communities.

Premier continues to lead the industry, being named a “Champion for Change” award recipient by Practice Greenhealth twelve years in a row – firmly establishing Premier and its members as leaders in healthcare and setting the bar in the industry for commitment to environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP) and healthcare practices.

Premier’s award-winning environmental leadership platform – GreenHealthy® – includes our EPP (Environmentally Preferable Purchasing) program; our internal corporate-wide Yes to Green program; and our healthcare energy reduction initiative.

### **ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING**

**Partnerships** – Premier’s Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) program is a partnership between the Premier Safety Institute and Premier’s group purchasing program to identify environmentally friendly products, packaging and services. In collaboration with our contracted suppliers and group purchasing contracting teams and committees, Premier helps to ensure the availability of those products and services for our members.



**Product characteristics** – EPP encompasses products and packaging that are less toxic, prevent pollution, are more energy efficient, and are safer and healthier for patients, workers and the environment when compared to competing products and services. These include products that can be recycled or are biodegradable, contain less toxic and less hazardous chemicals and additives, do not contain mercury, promote good indoor air quality, can be reused or recycled to minimize waste, and reduce risks for patients, workers and the community.

**EPP guidelines** – Premier incorporates EPP guidelines in its group purchasing contract portfolio and collaborates with companies seeking to provide EPP products.

Premier gives special consideration to suppliers that support environmentally friendly products and packaging, and works actively to identify companies that can provide EPP solutions. Premier also has incorporated environmental criteria in its contract sourcing process, including all requests for proposal and requests for information.

## **SUPPLY CHAIN**

### **Supplier review**

Premier collects and reviews our suppliers' corporate environmental programs, and also reviews the environmental friendliness of their products and packaging as part of the sourcing process. Information on Premier's EPP program is available on our supplier website. A checklist of EPP considerations is also available on the Premier Safety Institute's public website for any company interested in conducting a self-assessment.

### **Mercury-free pledge**

Premier has pledged to eliminate mercury-containing products from its group purchasing contract portfolio and provides a list of contracted products that do not contain mercury.

### **Product information**

Premier provides lists of suppliers and contracted products that are environmentally preferable on its Safety Institute website at [www.premiersafetyinstitute.org/greenhealthy](http://www.premiersafetyinstitute.org/greenhealthy) and in the electronic Supply Chain Advisor® member catalog. Premier also offers a latex-free product list with 50,000 items. In addition, Premier has standardized the nomenclature of key environmental attributes to enhance search capability in Supply Chain Advisor for specific products that are latex-free, PVC-free, DEHP-free and mercury-free.

## **TOOLS AND RESOURCES**

The Premier Safety Institute website offers a wide array of resources for environmentally preferable purchasing and green healthcare practices, including:

- Comprehensive articles on green and safety topics, A to Z.
- CEO self-assessment tool – for CEOs to rate their organizations' pollution prevention, purchasing and waste management/reduction programs.
- Green Corner® website featuring more than 90 case studies from members and suppliers on green purchasing, products and healthcare practices.
- Safety Share® – Premier provides a free e-newsletter with news about patient, worker and environmental safety to > 40,000 subscribers.
- Energy reduction website featuring educational resources; tools to measure and benchmark energy utilization; case studies; energy management plans and energy efficient products; equipment; and designs from Premier contracted suppliers.

## ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION

- Premier provides testimony and communications with federal agencies and Congress on key issues, such as the need for DEHP labeling of products, advocating a science-based approach for federal guidance on reuse of single-use devices, and more oversight of industrial chemicals with increased disclosure and promotion of safer alternatives.
- Premier has established partnerships with the CDC/NIOSH, AHA, Health Care Without Harm, and Practice Greenhealth (the successor organization to Hospitals for a Healthy Environment and Green Guide for Health Care), and other organizations that share our concern for a safer healthcare environment.
- Premier led the industry as one of the first organizations to use the Green Electronics Council's Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) as part of its evaluation criteria in awarding new computer and electronics contracts. Premier also served on the committee that developed EPEAT standards for televisions and imaging products.
- Premier offers a comprehensive series of ongoing education programs, including various educational tracks at our annual Breakthroughs Conference, Governance Conference, and our Advisor Live® series. Free CDs, MP3 recordings, slides and resources from these programs are available in Premier's Safety Store.

## HEALTHCARE ENERGY REDUCTION

The Premier healthcare alliance is committed to helping hospitals and their communities build and sustain a healthy environment and reduce their carbon footprint, including becoming energy efficient and increasing the use of renewable energy sources.

Healthcare ranks as the country's second most energy intensive industry, spending more than \$8 billion each year and volatile energy prices are squeezing operating margins and diverting money needed for critical healthcare quality and safety improvements. The healthcare industry's reliance on conventional, non-renewable energy sources contributes disproportionately to the emission of greenhouse gases, driving climate change and impacting public health from air pollution.

Premier provides leadership, resources and tools to assist alliance members working to:

- Reduce energy cost;
- Reduce overall energy usage, greenhouse gas emissions, and public health impact; and
- Increase use of cleaner, renewable energy.

**White paper on energy efficiency** – Because energy costs consume up to 3 percent of a hospital's total operating budget, and up to 15 percent of its annual profits, investment in energy efficiency lowers cost, increases profitability and improves the environment by reducing our carbon footprint. This is the focus of a white paper released by the Premier healthcare alliance in January 2011 titled *Leading your healthcare organization toward energy efficiency: A call to action*. The white paper urges healthcare executives to take a leadership role in investing in energy efficient solutions proven to positively and quickly impact the hospital's bottom line. Through a series of cases studies, the white paper describes how Geisinger Health System saves \$6.3 million annually with its successful energy reduction program.

**Energy leadership forum** – The forum is a series of programs and teleconferences designed to educate healthcare leaders on all levels about the need to provide support for energy conservation and renewable energy solutions. Programs are available online and topics include:

- Improving operation margins and revenues;
- The business case;
- Cost-effective solutions;
- Financing and funding options;
- Reverse auctions for low cost and green energy; and
- Benchmarking, recognition and awards.

**Resources** for Premier's energy reduction initiative are available on Premier's publicly accessible energy website – [www.premierinc.com/energy](http://www.premierinc.com/energy) – with best practices, tools, programs, management plans and a portfolio of energy efficient products, equipment and designs from Premier contracted suppliers promoting energy conservation, energy management and renewable energy solutions.





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## IMPLEMENTING GREEN PRACTICES ACROSS PREMIER

### Corporate initiatives

Premier's Yes to Green initiative supports and promotes environmentally preferable and green practices in purchasing, operations and maintenance throughout the Premier organization. Green and environmentally preferable considerations guide the acquisition, use, maintenance, reuse, recycling and disposal of all products and services throughout Premier corporate offices and business operations. Led by our internal "green team," Premier is committed to reducing the amount of waste from its own offices and currently has a recycling program for paper, plastic, bottles, cans, fax toner, ink/printer cartridges, office supplies and electronics. With electronics recycling as an ongoing process, Premier has thus far recycled more than 25 tons of IT equipment and is a member of the e-Stewards® Enterprises, committed to using electronics recyclers that meet the world's highest standards for responsible recycling.

### LEED certified office space

In January 2011, Premier relocated its corporate headquarters to a new LEED-CS gold certified building and used LEED-CI principles in designing the build-out of the interior space. LEED-CI specifies the use of sustainable materials that significantly reduce water and energy consumption, as well as reduce construction waste and provide for a healthier indoor environment. Our green practices extend beyond our corporate offices to our conference services and individual employees. When scheduling external meetings and conferences, we pursue contracts with hotels with green offerings, such as recycling, water and energy conservation or other green initiatives. Our employee-led green team provides staff education, special parking for fuel-efficient cars and car pooling, and maintains an internal "Yes to Green" website.



### Yes to Green employee pledge

Premier launched an employee Yes to Green pledge program, asking employees to make a personal commitment to reduce their carbon footprint, including use of reusable shopping bags, turning off water while brushing teeth, replacing four light bulbs with CFL bulbs and planting or caring for one tree. If all employees take the pledge, we will eliminate about 1,190 tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere; keep 176,000 plastic bags out of our landfills; and save nearly 1.2 million gallons of water. To date, more than 950 employees, representing 95 percent of Premier's staff, have taken the pledge.