



Practice Greenhealth Eco-Checklist™ for Operations

How Green is your Healthcare Organization?

Healthcare ranks among the largest users of energy, highest producers of waste and is a major consumer of paper, water, food, and other resources, resulting in an industry with a huge environmental footprint. In an effort to reduce the impact on the environment, healthcare organizations are asking for information on best practices, guidance in establishing green practices, and ways to measure success. This Eco-Checklist has been designed to provide a quick snapshot of where an organization sits on the green spectrum and highlights the range of environmental programs being implemented in healthcare. Whether your organization is just beginning its sustainability journey or is looking for ways to assess and measure progress, this tool was designed for you.

Measuring Environmental Awareness, Progress and Success

Achieving environmental sustainability or “green” in an organization is a long-term commitment, involving a culture shift that supports a new way of operating. Environmental sustainability is about taking responsibility for the by-products of healing and doing everything possible to demonstrate a commitment to a safe and healthy environment for patients, staff, the community and the planet. This Eco-Checklist is designed to help guide environmental initiatives by identifying programs to implement, suggesting potential goals and priorities, and tracking progress over time. It can also be used to educate the leadership to gain full support and resources for your environmental programs by providing valuable information on the full landscape of healthcare sustainable operations.

Using This Checklist

The activities in the checklist are organized by program area and are not necessarily in hierarchical order, but rather are meant to highlight the range of environmental programs being implemented in healthcare facilities. The activities in the Eco-Checklist are abbreviated for ease of use, and are focused on operational strategies for environmental improvement. This document does not specifically address environmentally sound strategies for design, construction and major renovations. Additional information and background on each initiative is available in greater detail from both Practice Greenhealth and the Green Guide for Health Care. A brief glossary of acronyms and terms used in this checklist (denoted by an *) is available in the appendix. Each organization will need to review the feasibility, available resources, local, state and federal

regulations, and community-specific initiatives, as factors in selecting and prioritizing their programs. A key success factor will be the interest and availability of champions to lead each program. It is important to solicit input and gain commitment from key stakeholders and experts within the organization for each initiative, such as utilization of the Infection Prevention & Control, Safety, Risk Management and Clinical Practice committees to ensure appropriate input for decisions affecting clinical standards.

Additional Resources

Green Guide for Health Care – The Eco-Checklist was adapted from the Version 2.2 of the *Green Guide for Health Care's Operations Section*, a self-certifying toolkit for greening healthcare operations. The program section titles and activities in the Eco-Checklist are similar to the *Green Guide*, although not identical. The *Green Guide* provides more comprehensive information on each program area and can be used as a valuable companion reference for additional information, including: rationale, health statements, measurement tools, technologies, and related regulations and reference standards. The *Green Guide for Health Care* can be found at www.gghc.org.

Practice Greenhealth – Additional information about the activities in the Eco-Checklist, such as sample policies, case studies, tools, resources and webinars, are available from Practice Greenhealth and can be found at www.practicegreenhealth.org. The *Green Guide* credits are also referenced on different pages across the website. Practice Greenhealth is a learning community for facilities and organizations to share successes, strategies and practical solutions to healthcare environmental challenges.



Practice Greenhealth Eco-Checklist™ for Operations

Facility Name _____

Contact Name _____ Title _____

Phone _____ Email _____ Date _____

	Fully In Place	In Progress	Aware of Program – But Not Yet Underway	Not Aware of Program – Need More Info to Evaluate
Environmental Stewardship Structure				
Establish organizational Environmental Mission Statement or overarching environmental policy including values and goals for greening construction and operations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Establish Green Team or “environmental committee” to design, implement and manage environmental sustainability initiatives.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop Green Team identity (e.g., logo/branding) for facility’s sustainability initiatives.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identify Sustainability Director or designate other specific individual or champion to lead environmental sustainability programs throughout organization.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seek sources of funding for green projects and incentive opportunities, (e.g., philanthropic resources).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education and Communication				
Utilize the Green Guide for Health Care’s Operations Toolkit to comprehensively track environmental achievements in operations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recognize environmental successes through participation in Practice Greenhealth Awards or other state/local recognition programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communicate recognition to staff and community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop a poster campaign, educational brochure and/or integrate information into patient orientation materials communicating organization’s environmental goals and programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educate staff and management on organization’s sustainability initiatives, their connection to human health, and their role in achieving sustainability goals as a component of new hire and annual training programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implement regular (e.g., quarterly) sustainability reporting to update senior management, staff and Board of Trustees.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report sustainability performance to community and/or IRS (for non-profit organizations) annually through an Annual Report and IRS Schedule H, Form 990*.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Fully In Place	In Progress	Aware of Program – But Not Yet Underway	Not Aware of Program – Need More Info to Evaluate
Environmentally Preferable Purchasing				
Develop list of targeted materials of concern (such as mercury, PVC*, DEHP*, BFRs*, urea formaldehyde, VOCs* or BPA*) for new product purchases.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Formally integrate and utilize environmental criteria in organization's internal value analysis or product selection process.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop a formal organizational policy to guide the selection and purchase of environmentally preferable products and services, including a preference for those that meet certain environmental criteria.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educate suppliers about organization's environmental purchasing goals and policy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Modify contract language to state preference for or requirement to avoid materials of concern or inclusion of other environmental criteria (e.g., recyclability, recycled content, take-back, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Notify group purchasing organization (GPO) about preferences for environmentally preferable products.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transition 100% of PVC/DEHP-containing devices in neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) to DEHP-free alternatives.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work with GPO to integrate environmental criteria into upcoming contract negotiations, including participation in GPO product evaluation/steering committees where possible.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Purchase PVC-free and DEHP-free intravenous (IV) administration sets.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Purchase paper and paper products that are processed chlorine-free (PCF) where possible, and meet the recommended recycled content requirements from the US EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines and/or are Green Seal-certified.*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Purchase EPEAT-registered* computers, monitors, and laptops.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluate energy efficiency of products and equipment before purchase.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluate water efficiency of products and equipment before purchase.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluate opportunities to consolidate purchase orders and frequency of deliveries as means to reduce packaging waste and transportation impact.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluate recyclability, reusability, recycled content, packaging and end of life disposal requirements for new products and equipment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluate purchasing/leasing opportunities for document management equipment (e.g., printers, copiers, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waste Management and Reduction				
Develop/implement a comprehensive waste management plan for all materials and waste streams.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Establish baseline generation rates and cost of all waste categories (at a minimum: RMW*, solid waste, recycling, universal and hazardous waste) to enhance environmental goal setting and performance tracking.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implement ongoing process for tracking waste data volume and cost for all waste streams.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implement cardboard recycling.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implement paper recycling for all paper generated at facility (including HIPAA* paper).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implement IT solutions that reduce paper usage (e.g., default duplex printing).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Implement beverage container recycling throughout organization (cafeteria and patient areas).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implement construction and demolition (C&D) debris recycling for all building and renovation projects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Achieve and maintain a minimum recycling rate of > 10% of total waste stream using Practice Greenhealth's <i>Recyclable Materials in Healthcare</i> checklist*.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Achieve and maintain a recycling rate of > 25% of total waste stream using Practice Greenhealth's <i>Recyclable Materials in Healthcare</i> checklist*.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop a facility policy in collaboration with infection control committee that <u>defines</u> RMW* and states minimization goals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Achieve and maintain RMW* generation rate of <15% of total waste stream.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implement a reusable sharps container program.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implement a blue wrap recycling program when vendor/hauler is available in your area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduce blue wrap waste by switching to reusable hard cases for sterilization of medical devices.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utilize fluid management system for suction canister waste.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Institute a single-use device reprocessing initiative as a mechanism to reduce waste and cost, in compliance with FDA and other regulatory and guidance requirements, and with input from organizational ICRA* process.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Demonstrate that incineration is used <u>only</u> to dispose of the fraction of RMW* <u>required</u> by regulation to be incinerated. (Not all states require incineration - check regulations!)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mercury Elimination				
Establish a corporate or facility policy stating organization's commitment to the reduction and virtual elimination of mercury.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Establish protocols and written procedures for safe handling of any mercury remaining on-site.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Institute recycling or regulated safe disposal procedures to ensure mercury-containing waste (including dental amalgam) is managed as universal or hazardous waste.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educate and train all employees about facility mercury protocols, including information about mercury and its effects on human health and the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inventory all mercury devices/sources within the organization and have a plan in place to substitute non-mercury devices.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Replace all patient mercury thermometers with non-mercury alternatives.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Replace all or majority (75% +) of blood pressure devices (sphygmomanometers) with non-mercury alternative and have a replacement plan in place for total elimination.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Replace majority (75% +) of clinical devices (e.g., bougies, miller-abbott tubes, cantor tubes, dilators) that contain mercury and have plan in place for total elimination.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implement program to recycle all fluorescent lamps (including green tips).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Phase out use of mercury-containing fixatives, stains and laboratory equipment where safe and effective alternatives exist.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implement program for battery collection and recycling.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Contract with electronics waste/recycling vendor for legal and environmentally responsible electronics (or e-waste) management.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Characterize and properly manage and minimize use of all mercury-containing pharmaceuticals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Install mercury amalgam separators in all dental chairs onsite.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy, Water and Climate				
Become an Energy Star Partner.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Benchmark energy usage with Energy Star's Portfolio Manager*.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Undertake retro-commissioning for building systems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct an energy audit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Achieve 10% reduction in energy use from baseline over past 12 months with goal of achieving Top 25 th percentile nationally (or score of ≥75 on Energy Star Performance Rating System).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Achieve Top 25 th percentile (score of ≥75 on Energy Star Performance Rating System).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transition to electronic ballast and energy-efficient lamps (T8 or T5).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transition to LED* exit signs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Install occupancy sensors or timers to reduce use of lighting in unoccupied and appropriate areas (e.g., public restrooms).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assess and adjust current lighting levels against recommended illuminance levels, based on IESNA's <i>Lighting Handbook</i> * and other state requirements.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identify and increase efficiencies in building envelope (cool roofs, window coatings, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In collaboration with IT, install software to reduce energy use from computers and monitors.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assess and upgrade to achieve efficiencies in air distribution systems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Optimize (and right-size) cooling system performance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Generate renewable energy on-site (e.g., PVs, CHP)*.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Purchase off-site renewable energy sources (wind, hydropower, solar, bio-fuel).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Achieve at least 5% renewable energy from either on-site or off-site generation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Track facility's water usage/costs using the water tracking feature of Energy Star's Portfolio Manager*.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct a water use audit in collaboration with a repair initiative that fixes leaks, drips and unnecessary flows.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduce water usage on faucets with devices that reduce flow (e.g., motion sensors and aerators), in appropriate areas as informed by the ICRA* process.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utilize low-flow fixtures for toilets, faucets and urinals in appropriate areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utilize closed system for cooling as means of reducing process water.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employ condensate recovery systems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Install or maintain a conductivity meter or automatic controls for cooling tower management.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Achieve use of at least 50% non-potable water for make-up water in cooling towers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implement water conservation initiative in kitchen and cafeteria.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utilize rainwater or grey water for landscape irrigation or utilize xeriscaping or native vegetation to reduce watering requirements.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quantify and track total GHG* emissions for the organization using the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard*, the EPA Climate Leaders Calculator™, or other method.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Purchase carbon offsets.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Services				
Conduct an Infection Control Risk Assessment (ICRA) that identifies appropriate level of cleaning and disinfection for defined surfaces and areas (e.g., use of detergents in corridors or cleaner disinfectants in patient rooms).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In collaboration with Infection Prevention & Control Committee, develop and maintain an environmentally preferable cleaning policy for the facility that addresses all cleaning/ disinfection of major surfaces.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utilize GreenSeal™ or EcoLogo™-certified* cleaning products for available product categories.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Purchase disposable paper products (bath & facial tissue, paper towels) and trash liners that meet US EPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines or are Green Seal™-certified where applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utilize antimicrobial hand soaps only in areas defined by Infection Prevention & Control Committee and ICRA* process.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utilize microfiber mops and cleaning cloths as mechanism to reduce water and chemical use, reduce cross contamination and ergonomic stress.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program that only uses least toxic pesticides and then <u>only</u> as a last resort.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
With Facilities, Engineering and Food Services, ensure structural measures are taken to prevent pest harborage and food and water sources for pests.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educate staff about proper management and disposal of food as it relates to pest control.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utilize walk-off mats at major entryways and in areas under construction and renovation as defined by the project ICRA*.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prohibit smoking from the campus.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Food Services				
Commit to and sign the Health Care Without Harm <i>Healthy Food in Healthcare Pledge*</i> for practical sustainable food purchasing policies and strategies.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Purchase food service paper products that contain recycled and processed chlorine-free (PCF) content where applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utilize reusable dishware and utensils in cafeteria.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure energy and water-efficient dishwashing and food disposal equipment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Purchase bio-based or compostable food serviceware where reusable dishware cannot be used (take-out containers, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Purchase at least 10% local/regional, seasonal and/or organic foods for patient meals and cafeteria.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Purchase rBGH-free* milk and dairy products for patient meals, cafeteria and on-site convenience stores.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Purchase meat and poultry that do not contain non-therapeutic antibiotics.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Purchase coffee and tea that have been certified by one or more of the following eco-labels: Fair Trade Certified*, Certified Organic*, Bird-Friendly* or Rainforest Alliance Certified*.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Create set of health and nutrition criteria for food offered in hospital vending machines, on-site convenience stores and on-site food service providers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Establish on-site organic garden for use in cafeteria, patient meals or on-site farm stand.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Establish Farmer's Market or farm stand on-site.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implement recycling for recyclable Food Service materials including glass, metal cans, cardboard, plastic bottles, shrink wrap and wooden pallets.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implement food composting program in food preparation areas, cafeteria and for patient food waste.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Establish food donation program with local charities for usable food, while meeting health codes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implement Room Service program for patient meals as mechanism to reduce food waste and increase patient satisfaction.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustainable Sites Management				
Provide outdoor places of respite on the healthcare campus to connect healthcare patients, staff and visitors to the health benefits of the natural environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implement an environmentally sensitive landscape and building exterior management plan which reduces the use of harmful chemicals, energy, water, air pollution, solid waste and/or chemical runoff (e.g., gasoline, oil, antifreeze, window cleaner, snow removal, salts).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Create a conservation plan for existing natural site areas and restore damaged site areas to provide habitat and promote biodiversity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implement strategies (e.g., landscaping, vegetative or 'green' roofing, canopies, underground parking) to reduce heat island effect. Utilize ICRA* process for decisions on 'green roofing' when affecting patient care areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation Operations				
Provide incentives to employees for using alternative modes of transportation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide and maintain a shuttle service to commuter transit and subway stations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide preferred parking for carpool participants and low-emission, fuel-efficient vehicles.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transition fleet to low-sulfur diesel fuels and/or biodiesel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Chemical Management				
Develop a comprehensive chemical management policy (TJC Environment of Care Standard 3.10.1*).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Perform a hazardous chemical/material audit by hospital department and update at least annually.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Train staff to respond to and be prepared for hazardous spills, with clearly labeled spill supplies and signage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eliminate use of the sterilant ethylene oxide (EtO)* for minimum 90% of equipment requiring sterilization while maintaining compliance with regulatory requirements.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transition away from the high level disinfectant glutaraldehyde to safer alternatives (as defined by the ICRA* process involving Infection Prevention & Control, Employee Health and Central Supply) while maintaining compliance with regulatory requirements and patient, employee and equipment safety.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In facilities where glutaraldehyde and EtO* have not yet been phased out, verify compliance with the regulatory standards for safeguarding staff from exposure during high-level disinfection or sterilization procedures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Replace manual high-level disinfection with automatic machine washers/disinfectors to minimize staff exposure to liquid high-level disinfectants.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop and implement a laboratory solvent reprocessing program for alcohols, xylene, and formalin—where applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Characterize and properly manage all wastes generated in the laboratory (ensure compliance with RCRA and OSHA)*.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utilize microscale chemistry as a strategy to reduce chemical wastes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recycle silver (from x-ray films) in Radiology—where applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recycle used lead aprons from Radiology.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utilize a formulary review process to identify and characterize which pharmaceuticals may become RCRA* hazardous waste or pose an environmental risk at end of life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop and implement a policy for the receipt, handling, storage, labeling, transport, and end disposal of all pharmaceuticals, including staff training and education.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Establish a policy and process for safe handling and disposal of all cytotoxic drugs/ chemotherapy waste as <i>hazardous</i> waste (with emphasis on clarification between trace vs. bulk chemo waste).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minimize pharmaceutical waste through combination of inventory control, stock rotation, reduced packaging, and minimization of personal protective equipment waste.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implement pharmaceutical sample policy that requires all samples to be logged in to the facility and prohibits pharmaceutical samples that expire within six months.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Practice Greenhealth Eco-Checklist™ for Operations

Glossary of Terms

BFR: Brominated Flame Retardants or BFRs are halogenated flame retardants containing bromine, and are used in products ranging from mattresses and cubicle curtains to pulse oximeters and foam packaging. Concerns relate to potential for BFRs to accumulate in fatty tissue and pose a risk to human health. BFRs are associated with several health effects in animal studies, including neurobehavioral toxicity and thyroid hormone disruption, for example. More information available at: <http://www.noharm.org/us/bfr/issue>

Bird-Friendly®: The Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center (SMBC) encourages the production of shade grown coffee, and the conservation of migratory birds, through its Bird-Friendly® seal of approval. More information available at: <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/MigratoryBirds/Coffee/lover.cfm>

BPA: Bisphenol A or BPA is a chemical produced in large quantities for use primarily in the production of polycarbonate plastics and epoxy resins. Bisphenol A can leach into food from the protective internal epoxy resin coatings of canned foods and from consumer products such as polycarbonate tableware, food storage containers, water bottles, and baby bottles according to the National Toxicology Program.

Certified Organic®: US Department of Agriculture's National Organic Program (NOP) develops, implements, and administers national production, handling, and labeling standards for organic agricultural products. More information available at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateA&navID=NationalOrganicProgram&leftNav=NationalOrganicProgram&page=NOPNationalOrganicProgramHome&acct=AMSPW>

CHP: Combined Heat and Power or CHP is an approach to generating power and thermal energy from a single fuel source. Learn more at EPA's Combined Heat and Power Partnership. Available at: <http://www.epa.gov/chp/>

Climate Leaders Calculator: EPA's Inventory Calculator for Low Emitters (MS Excel) is a multi-page spreadsheet to record inventory data for each emissions source type. Available at: <http://www.epa.gov/stateply/resources/lowemitters.html>

DEHP: Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate or DEHP is a plasticizer used to make PVC medical devices soft and flexible. Concerns relate to its ability to leach out of PVC medical devices and potentially impact vulnerable patient populations, particularly male neonates in a neonatal intensive care setting, according to a Public Health Notification from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). More information available at: <http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/safety/dehp.html>

EcoLogo™: Third party certification program based in Canada that certifies cleaning products (among other product categories). Available at: <http://www.ecologo.org/en/certifiedgreenproducts/>

Energy Star's Portfolio Manager: An interactive energy management tool that allows one to track and assess energy and water consumption across an entire portfolio of buildings in a secure online environment. Available at: http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=evaluate_performance.bus_portfolio/manager

EPEAT: The Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool or EPEAT is a system to help purchasers in the public and private sectors evaluate, compare and select desktop computers, notebooks and monitors based on their environmental attributes. More information available at: <http://www.epeat.net/>

EtO: Ethylene Oxide or EtO is used as a sterilant for certain medical equipment and supplies. According to OSHA, EtO is both flammable and highly reactive. Acute exposures to EtO gas may result in respiratory irritation and lung injury, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, shortness of breath, and cyanosis. Chronic exposure has been associated with the occurrence of cancer, reproductive effects, mutagenic changes, neurotoxicity, and sensitization.

Fair Trade Certified®: The Fair Trade Certified™ label guarantees consumers that strict economic, social and environmental criteria were met in the production and trade of an agricultural product. Available at: <http://www.transfairusa.org/content/certification/overview.php>

GHG: Greenhouse Gases or GHGs are gases in the atmosphere that absorb and emit radiation and contribute to global warming. The six GHGs covered by the Kyoto Protocol are: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆).

GHG Protocol Corporate Standard: The GHG Protocol Corporate Standard provides standards and guidance for companies and other organizations preparing a GHG emissions inventory. It covers the accounting and reporting of the six greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol, and is designed to simplify and reduce the costs of compiling a GHG inventory while increasing consistency and transparency in GHG accounting and reporting. Available at: <http://www.ghgprotocol.org/standards/corporate-standard>

GreenSeal: Third party certification program that certifies cleaning and paper products (among other product categories). Available at: <http://www.green-seal.org/findaproduct/index.cfm>

Health Care Without Harm's Healthy Food in Healthcare Pledge: By signing the pledge, facilities are demonstrating leadership by sending an important signal to the marketplace and policy makers about their interest in local, nutritious, sustainable food and by beginning to model healthy food practices. Available at: <http://www.noharm.org/us/food/pledge>

HIPAA: The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act or HIPAA regulates the protection of personal health information such as paper documents that contain protected patient information. More information available at: <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/>

ICRA: Infection Control Risk Assessment or ICRA is a multidisciplinary, organizational, documented process that, after considering the facility's patient population and program, focuses on reduction of risk from infection, acts through phases of facility planning, design, construction, renovation, facility maintenance, and coordinates and weighs knowledge about infection, infectious agents, and care environment, permitting the organization to anticipate potential impact. More information available at: <http://www.premierinc.com/quality-safety/tools-services/safety/topics/construction/icra.jsp>

IESNA's Lighting Handbook: The Illuminating Engineering Society of North America or IESNA has produced a Lighting Handbook used as reference standard by the 2008 Professional Engineer's Guide to the ENERGY STAR® Label for Commercial Buildings. Appropriate illumination of interior occupied spaces and the generally unoccupied exterior spaces (e.g., parking garages and parking lots) associated with the building must be verified as part of review for the ENERGY STAR label. Appropriate illumination is defined by current industry standards for commercial illumination.

IRS Schedule H, Form 990: In December of 2007, the IRS released its final Form 990 and new schedule H, which tax-exempt hospitals must use to demonstrate compliance with the community benefit standard. Available at: <http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=176613,00.html>

LED: Light-Emitting-Diode or LEDs are an energy-efficient lighting technology.

OSHA: The Occupational Safety and Health Administration or OSHA has promulgated regulations that oversee the management of hazardous materials in commercial entities.

Practice Greenhealth's Recyclable Materials in Healthcare: Available at: www.practicegreenhealth.org and typing title in search box.

PV: Photo Voltaic or PV technology is related to the application of solar cells for energy by converting sunlight directly into electricity.

PVC: Polyvinyl Chloride or PVC is a plastic commonly used in IV bags and tubing, other medical devices and construction applications such as flooring, wall coverings and pipes. Concerns relate to the potential for the creation of dioxin, a known human carcinogen and endocrine disruptor, during the manufacture and disposal of PVC plastic materials.

Rainforest Alliance Certified: Products are produced using farm and forestry methods that are derived from farms and forests where water, soil and wildlife habitat are conserved, where workers are treated well, where families have access to education and healthcare, and where communities benefit. More information available at: http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/marketplace.cfm?id=why_buy

rBGH-free: Recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone or rBGH (also known as rBST or recombinant bovine somatotropin) is a synthetic hormone used to increase milk production in cattle. There are concerns around the use of this substance in milk and dairy production due to its adverse impacts on animals and potential harm to humans. More information available at: <http://www.noharm.org/details.cfm?ID=1104&type=document>

RCRA: The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act or RCRA is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's statute on identifying, managing, storing, handling, transporting and disposing of hazardous waste from commercial entities.

RMW: Regulated Medical Waste or RMW connotes healthcare-generated waste that may pose an infectious risk to human health. RMW is defined at the state level, typically by the state health or environmental agency. RMW is also typically called infectious medical waste or biohazardous waste. Find state regulations for RMW at: <http://www.envcap.org/statetools/rmw/rmwlocator.html>

TJC: The Joint Commission Environment of Care Standard 3.10.1: The Joint Commission standard covering the development of a management plan for hazardous materials and waste.

US EPA's Comprehensive Purchasing Guidelines: The guidelines are part of EPA's continuing effort to promote the use of materials recovered from solid waste. Buying recycled-content products ensures that the materials collected in recycling programs will be used again in the manufacture of new products. Available at: <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/consERVE/tools/cpg/products/index.htm>

VOC: Volatile Organic Compounds or VOCs are emitted as gases from certain solids or liquids. VOCs include a variety of chemicals, some of which may have short- and long-term adverse health effects. Concentrations of many VOCs are consistently higher indoors (up to 10 times higher) than outdoors, and are emitted by a wide array of products, e.g., paints and lacquers, paint strippers, cleaning supplies, pesticides, building materials and furnishings, and office equipment such as copiers and printers. Learn more at: <http://www.pharosproject.net/wiki/index.php?title=VOCs>